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the Montrose Mirror

'THE DEMAND IS BEING MET JUST FINE'

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-With a packed house in attendance, Mayor J. David Reed called the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council to order on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Mayor Reed thanked those in attendance as well as those watching on the livestream, before leading with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda.

All City Councilors were present for the meeting, which stretched until almost



As they have in other recent City Council meetings, members of the public showed up to comment on issues of importance to constituents at the regular Council meeting of Tuesday, Dec. 3. Meeting screenshot.

10pm due to a controversial liquor license application that could impact lives and livelihoods in Montrose as well as amendments to the City Land use Code.

Council also took time to recognize some local heroes.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS FOOTBALL DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Reed said that the Montrose High School Red Hawks Football Team would be going to the state finals to play [Broomfield in Fort Collins](#) on Saturday. "As a community we should all be

[Continued pg 34](#)

SPECTACULAR RED HAWKS FALTER IN TITLE GAME



By Cliff Dodge

FORT COLLINS-The Montrose Red Hawks football season came to an end on the turf of the Canvas Stadium on the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins on a sunny Saturday afternoon, as the Broomfield Eagles walked off with the 4A state championship by a score of 35 to 28.

This was a game of two distinct halves with the Red Hawks dominating the first half and being dominated throughout the second half by a Broomfield team that found a rhythm on both offense and defense and rode to victory over a Red Hawks team that made a great effort but fell short down the stretch.

The first quarter of action was under the complete control and command of the Red Hawks. The Red Hawks took the opening kick-off and marched 65 yards in 12 plays with Aiden

[Continued pg 15](#)

Montrose High School played a hard-fought battle Saturday against Broomfield High school for the Colorado 4A championship title but fell short by a touchdown 35-28. Hundreds of fans turned out in a crowd that rivaled local Broomfield's, including the MHS band and cheerleaders. It was a happy time at halftime, then turned to a few tears but reflection on an amazing season. Photo by CB Williams

[West Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Vidlock: Why Tradition, Ritual and Ceremony?](#)

[Red Hawks Sports Coverage By Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Editorial cartoon by Jim Cox!](#)

[Carole Ann McKelvey: Rocky Mt. Cravings!](#)

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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

DAHLIA ROAD CLOSED BEGINNING DEC. 9 FOR CULVERT INSTALLATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County is announcing a temporary road closure beginning Dec. 9 on Dahlia Road between 5600 Road and 5700 Road for a culvert installation. The closure is expected to last three days depending on conditions. Motorists are asked to use an alternate route.

For more information, please contact: Montrose County Superintendent Brandon Wallace at 970-252-7003.

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CHILI POTLUCK AND GIFT EXCHANGE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Montrose Republican Women's Annual Christmas Chili Potluck and Gift Exchange is Friday, Dec. 13 at Hampton Inn Montrose from Noon to 1:30pm. Doors open at 11:30a. Please bring a side dish or dessert and a gift to exchange. Contact Kerri at 970-209-5170 for information.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COMMUNITY BAND TO PLAY FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT DEC. 22

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join the Montrose Community Band at the Montrose Pavilion, on Dec 22 at 3 pm for a Free Holiday Concert: Winter Wonderland. Christmas is time for joy and memories. Let us entertain you with fond memories, musical pictures, and old favorites.

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All contents of Unit A3

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

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

Unit A1- Denise Fierro
1601 Locust Rd #219, Montrose, CO
81401
All contents of Unit A1

FACTS & FICTION



Is it true that the City of Montrose does not collect a property tax?

Yes...the City of Montrose does not collect a property tax. In fact, we are one of the only communities of our size that does not have one. We rely primarily on sales tax with almost 90% of our general fund revenues coming from retail sales. This is the money we use to maintain our streets, parks, trails, and sidewalks, as well as a large portion of our public safety expenses.

Is it true that the City of Montrose won't pass a formal Resolution or Ordinance declaring itself a "Non-Sanctuary City"?

Yes...although we have had a group of residents come forward insisting that we pass some type of formal legislation that labels our community, we have not done so for several important reasons. The idea of sanctuary versus non-sanctuary has no official legitimacy or legal standing. It is a political construct that was created to describe a set of policies in some communities whereby the local government publicly states that they will either purposely grant certain privileges and accommodations to immigrants, or that they will not. As the City of Montrose, we are required to abide by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which: "prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin" in the provision of law enforcement and public safety services. Therefore, adopting some type of formal legislation stating that we will not provide these types of services to a certain group of people based upon their national origin, would put us in violation of the law.

Questions? Call Bill Bell, City Manager at 970-901-8580

NEW HORIZONS BAND OF MONTROSE TO PLAY AT LIBRARY ENTRY AREA DEC. 11

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The New Horizons Band of Montrose will present an informal performance at the Montrose Public Library entry area, Wednesday, Dec 11, 2024 from 10:15 — 10:45 am, 320 South 2nd Street, 81401

This FREE performance allows the concert band to share holiday music with the community, and also promote the next session, which begins on Jan 22, 2025. Complete information is in the current Montrose Recreation Activity Winter/Spring Guide.

This concert band program is organized in partnership with the New Horizons International Music Association, founded in 1991 to encourage music making for those 50+. According to NHIMA founder Roy Ernst, "Playing music in groups supports good mental and physical health, besides being an unending source of joy."



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FRUITA PARADE OF LIGHTS TO CELEBRATE "THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS" ON SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA – The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the *Fruita Parade of Lights*, taking place on Saturday, December 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the heart of downtown Fruita. This year’s parade, presented by Grand Valley Power and supported by Western Colorado Pediatrics, promises to be a dazzling celebration of the holiday season with the theme “The Sounds of the Season!”

The Parade of Lights will feature an array of beautifully decorated floats, vehicles, and performers, all creatively inspired by the music and melodies that define the holidays. From the jingling of bells to the familiar tunes of holiday classics, this festive event will showcase the magic of the holidays through lights, sounds, and community spirit.

"We are thrilled to unveil this year's theme, 'Sounds of the Season,' as it truly captures the heart of the holiday season," said Kayla Bowers, Executive Director at the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce. "Whether it's the carolers singing, the sound of sleigh bells ringing, or the iconic holiday music filling the air, this year's parade will be an incredible opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the true meaning of the holidays!"

The parade will travel through downtown Fruita, illuminating the streets with sparkling lights and enchanting holiday sounds. Families, friends, and visitors of all ages are encouraged to gather along the parade route, which will be filled with festive cheer and a sense of community. To view the parade route please visit our website at fruitachamber.org/fruita-parade-of-lights

Hot Cocoa & Baked Goods

Before the parade, stop by Circle Park starting at 4:30 p.m., where the FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) Club from Fruita Monument

High School will be selling hot cocoa and a variety of baked goodies. It's the perfect way to warm up and fuel up before the parade begins!

We encourage parade-goers to dress warmly and bring their holiday cheer, as the community comes together to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

FATAL SHOOTING AT WOODLAND PARK GROCERY STORE UNDER INVESTIGATION

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
CBI – WOODLAND PARK – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is investigating a fatal shooting at a City Market grocery store parking lot. Woodland Park Police responded to the 700 block of Gold Hill

Place South on Friday November 29, 2024 at approximately 5:30 PM after receiving a 911 call.

The investigation revealed there was a physical altercation in the parking lot during a child custody exchange. Witnesses

say 28-year old Luis Morales (the biological father of the child) threatened the mother's boyfriend. The boyfriend pulled a gun and fired a single shot striking Morales

First aid was immediately rendered to Morales but he died from his injuries at a local hospital in Colorado Springs.

The 29-year old suspect stayed at the scene and is cooperating with investigators. He has been released pending the outcome of the investigation.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is leading the case with assistance from the Woodland Park Police Department and the 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office. Additional information will be released as updates warrant.

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2024 ELEVATE BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



SPRINGS 31

The Red Hawks, fresh from an easy win on Thursday evening, stretched their win streak to two games with a 16 point victory over the Sailors of Steamboat Springs. The Hawks ran smoothly out of the starting blocks and led 22-6 after the first half of play. The second half was played to a virtual tie that saw the Red Hawks cruise to victory by the final score of 47-31.

Leading all Red Hawk scorers was Senior Caleb Ferguson who poured in 18 points, many from slippery moves in the low post. Junior Lane Pressler added 11 points to the total while senior Brekin Hutto chipped in with 8 points. The Red Hawks rebounded well as a team and played a stout defense that kept the Sailors offense off balance. The Red Hawks went to the free throw line 10 times in the contest and made eight of the ten attempts.

MONTROSE BOYS 44, EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS 40

The Montrose Red Hawks also remained undefeated as the Elevate Internet Classic ended on Saturday afternoon with the Red Hawks eaking out a close win over the Eagle Valley Devils 44-40. The first quarter was a dead even 6-6, but the Red Hawks scored 10 points in the second quarter to lead at halftime 16-10. The Red Hawks scored 17 points in the third quarter and then held on in the final period to secure the 4-point victory.

Next action for the Red Hawks will be a trip to Glenwood Springs to participate in the Demon Invitational next Thursday through Saturday.

The Red Hawks played a stout defense. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks boys basketball team welcomed the introduction of the Elevate Internet Classic hosted by Montrose High School. The Red Hawks have played three pre-season tournaments in prior years, all on the road-- which unbalanced the home/away games decidedly in favor of playing more away games than in the friendly confines of the McMillan Gymnasium. All of that has changed with the advent of the Elevate tournament here at home. The participants this year include Eagle Valley B/G, Coal Ridge G, Steamboat Springs B/G, Weld Central B/G, and Montrose B/G.

MONTROSE BOYS 53, WELD CENTRAL REBELS 19

The 2024 edition of Montrose Basketball roared out of the starting gate by outscoring

ing the Weld Central Rebels 15-0 in the first quarter of the game and added another 15 points in the second quarter as they outscored the visitors 30 - 2. The rout didn't get much better as the Red Hawks outscored the Rebels 23-17 to make the final score 53-19 in favor of the Red Hawks.

Eight Red Hawks put their names in the scorebook. Leading the pack was Junior Otto Sandeno with 10 points. Senior Caleb Ferguson added 9 points while Junior Jonathon Rytlewski and Sophomore Josh Hawks each added 8 points to the mix. Sandeno also led the Red Hawks in the rebounding department with 7 caroms. The Red Hawks passed out 10 assists, had 20 steals and only turned the basketball over eight times.

MONTROSE BOYS 47, STEAMBOAT

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING ON VETERANS GRAVES SET FOR DEC. 14



Courtesy photo

MONTROSE -- Local veteran organizations and other volunteers will prepare for the laying of Christmas wreaths on Dec 14 at Camelot Gardens at 9 a.m. The American Legion, American Legion Riders, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and members of the general public annually join in and start tying bows around pine boughs before loading them into pickups and delivering them to cemeteries.

Veterans, active-duty military and other volunteers then solemnly place the wreaths on veterans' graves at Valley Lawn, Grand View and Cedar Creek cemeteries.

The general public is invited to help with wreath-making and placement. For more information call John Boughton at (970) 725-1032.

At left, Hundreds of volunteers have helped over the years preparing the wreaths for veterans' graves at space generously provided by Camelot Gardens.

MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDS FIVE NEW OFFICERS

Montrose Police Department

MONTROSE— The Montrose Police Department welcomed five new officers to its ranks Tuesday, filling several vacant positions within the agency. Officers Christian Cardenas, Ryan Hess, Scott Joy, Clint Swope, and Scott Walker were officially sworn in during a ceremony held prior to the City Council's regular meeting Tuesday evening, December 3.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall along with Deputy Chief Tim Cox and Commanders Larry Witte and Chris Velasquez, welcomed the officers before an audience of friends, family, City Councilors, city staff, and fellow Police Department officers in the City Council Chambers located at 107 South Cascade Avenue.

Hall said the swearing-in process for new police officers is one of his favorite responsibilities as chief of police. The five officers come to the Montrose Police Department as experienced police officers from other agencies across Colorado. These officers have law enforcement experience ranging from five years to more than 25 years.

Before officially swearing each officer in, Hall pointed out that they begin their tenures with the department with a high level of support from city administrators, staff, City Councilors, and Montrose residents.

To maintain that support, Hall said, requires local police officers to hold themselves to the highest personal standards, both on and off duty.

"The Montrose Police Department and I are proud to welcome these officers into our department and community," Hall said. "The officers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our agency."

Hall also thanked the community for their



Montrose Police Department Courtesy Photo.

support of the Police Department and its officers stating Montrose's high level of community support does not exist everywhere. "The hiring of these officers is a great example of our commitment to improving overall public safety within the Montrose community," Hall said. "Please take a moment to say hello if you see them out working."

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.

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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!

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SPECTACULAR RED HAWKS FALTER IN TITLE GAME From pg 1

Grijalva scoring the game's first touchdown from 13-yards out to lead 6-0.

The Red Hawks defense then rose up and forced the Eagles to punt after three offensive plays. The punt was fielded at the Broomfield 44- yard line and the Red Hawks offense shifted into high gear. It took only five plays for the Red Hawks to score their second touchdown, this one a 29-yard touchdown pass from sophomore Cade Saunders to junior Chase Mehan to increase the score to 12-0 as the first quarter came to a close.

The second quarter saw the Eagles move the ball from their own 433-yard line to score via a 15-yard pass completion for the first score for the Eagles, cutting the Red Hawks lead to 12-7. The Red Hawks then found their rhythm and put together two long scoring drives. The first drive covered 75 yards in 12 plays as senior Aiden Grijalva scored his second touchdown from one yard out, increasing the Red Hawks lead to 20-7.

The Red Hawks defense forced another 3 and out and the offense then drove 67-yards for a touchdown as Cade Saunders threw an 11-yard pass to Wyatt Berry, increasing the Red Hawk's lead to 28-7.

With only 40 seconds remaining in the quarter, the Eagles ripped off 80 yards in 37 seconds as they scored on a 10-yard pass with but three seconds on the scoreboard clock, to narrow the margin to 28-14 at the half.

The Eagles came roaring out in the third quarter, moving 62 yards in just over three minutes to score from 18-yards out to close the scoring game to just 7 points, 28-21.

The Red Hawks scored four times that they possessed the football during the first half of action. The second half would be totally different. The Red Hawks held the football for almost five minutes before being forced to punt.

The Eagles cranked up their offense once again and drove 78 -yards for the tying touchdown. The Red Hawks defense and the Eagles were in a 2nd and 9 situation when the defense was called for a costly pass interference call that gave the Eagles new life and a 3-yard touchdown scamper to tie the score 28-28.

The Fourth Quarter then became critical. The Eagles continued their offensive onslaught as they drove to the Red Hawks 7-yard line. Divine providence intervened at that point when the Eagles fumbled and the Red Hawks recovered the football in the end zone and took over possession at their own 20 -yard line. Unfortunately, disaster struck on the Red Hawks very first play as they fumbled the football right back to the Eagles who promptly ran the ball into the end zone from 2-yards out to take their first lead of the game 35-28.

The Red Hawks started on their own 20-yard line with four minutes and 30 seconds left on the scoreboard clock. The offense moved the football out from under the shadow of their own goal posts and into Eagle's territory. With just over two minutes left the Red Hawks saw their pass intercepted at the 12-yard line, thus ending the Red Hawks hope for their first state championship in 75 years.

The Red Hawks ended their season with a 13-1 record. Head coach Brett Mertens, his coaching staff and his young charges coached and played their hearts out only to fall one touchdown short of the promised land. No one knew what this season would hold, and the results were spectacular. Next season? We will not know the answer until the 2025 edition of this team takes the field in August.

Stay tuned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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GARDEN OF LIGHTS RETURNS TO BOTANIC GARDENS

Special to the Mirror

The Montrose Botanic Gardens are decked out for the holidays and ready to welcome the community to the Garden of Lights on the nights of Dec. 14, 15, 21, 22 and 26.

The entrance fee for the event will be \$8 for adults, \$4 for youth ages 4 to 17, and free to kids ages 3 and under. Cash, check and credit cards will be accepted. The front gates will open at 5:30 pm with the fun continuing until 8:30 pm. Admissions, however, will close at 8 pm.

In addition to hundreds of strings of lights along garden paths and displays, other highlights of the event will include horse-drawn wagon rides, a close-up photo opportunity at the new horse shed, Santa in his 20-foot tipi, a warming fire pit and hot cocoa.

Returning after a two-year break, this year's event will mark the 7th Garden of Lights. First hosted by the Montrose Botanical Society (MBS) in 2014, the event was originally created as a way to increase community awareness of the Botanic Gardens. In past years, 2,500 to 3,500 people have flocked to the Gardens over the course of this multi-night event.

"It truly takes a village to pull the Garden of Lights together," noted event team leader Sara Ungrodt. "We've had dozens of volunteers working in our Gardens since the end of October; local businesses like SavATree and Secret Creek offering free or discount services; and the support of local draft horse owners Matt and Marci Miles, Jim Rock, and Syneva Blatchford."

"And then there's the financial support from our sponsors," Ungrodt added. "DMEA / ELEVATE and Alpine Bank are leading the way as our Bristlecone Sponsors, with additional support from Juniper Sponsors CAM Electric, Misty Mountain Landscape & Irrigation, Pat and Bob Brown, and Mike and Suzi King. Our Piñon Sponsors include Anne and John Britton, Mary Coluccy, England Fence, Jon and Beth Gordon, Hairlines and Nail Designs, Montrose Forest Products and the Rotary Club of Montrose."

The Montrose Botanic Gardens are an inspirational place located just south of the Montrose Pavilion at 1800 Pavilion Drive. The Gardens are cultivated by volunteers and funded by donations, special events and grants. With community support, MBS can continue nurturing this public space that celebrates horticulture, education and community. Learn more at www.MontroseGardens.org.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WESTERN COLORADO ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ACTION COMMENTS ON MONTROSE COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES CODE

By Jennifer Jones, for
Western Colorado Alliance

According to the draft Renewable Energy Facilities Code for Montrose County's Power Generation Regulations, renewable energy facilities are allowed in the General Agricultural District and the General Industrial District by special use only.

While all power generation facilities are allowed by special use in the General Agricultural District, renewable energy facilities are the only power generation facilities subjected to special use in the General Industrial District. The categories of "Power Generation" and "Manufacturing & Production" in the General Industrial District are usually allowed by right (29). The General Industrial District is meant "to accommodate manufacturing, processing, fabrication, assembly, and storage of material and products, and most commercial, or similar compatible uses, and industrial enterprises, as well as allowing service facilities for industries . . . including those which produce hazardous, dangerous or combustible material and/or conditions before, during and/or after any processing" (28-29). Renewable energy facilities are power generation facilities and projects such as solar are less intensive than manufacturing and production enterprises, which invalidates the need to distinguish solar facilities for special use only in the General Industrial District. According to Montrose County Zoning Regulations, "Special use permits are required for land uses that have the potential for causing adverse impacts on other uses because of such factors as location, method of operation, scale or intensity of activity, or traffic generated (69). The State of Colorado and its counties are set to rely predominately on solar for renewable energy, which is low-impact in method, activity and traffic generation in comparison to projects already allowed by right in the Industrial District. Of note, San Miguel County allows for large and medium-scale solar in Forestry, Agricultural and Open;

Heavy Commercial; Low Intensity Industrial; Public and the West End Districts (10). It was mentioned during the November 20th, 2024 Board of County Commissioners' Public Hearing that maintaining view sheds are justifiably of particular concern, yet maintaining solar as a right like any other power generation facility within the Industrial District ensures larger scale projects are relegated to already degraded scenic and environmental land bases. The public pushback and potential for the colloquial "Not In My Backyard" stance toward degrading already degraded territory will likely be slim. The General Industrial District has existing boundaries, which will serve as a ready cap on solar sprawl, in addition to any site permitting processes.

The renewable energy land use codes for San Miguel and Mesa Counties, of which Montrose County uses as models, had relied on special use permits for renewable energy projects larger than small-scale before the development of renewable-specific land use codes. San Miguel and Mesa Counties no longer utilize special use permits given the approval of renewable-specific codes. The development of specified land codes is meant to negate the reliance on special use permits, not reinforce them, which makes continued reliance on special use permits for renewables an unusual maneuver. As well, Montrose County Zoning Regulations typically designate Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as public utility facilities and are allowed by right in the General Agricultural, Industrial, Commercial and Business Districts. Utility transmission, distribution, and/or service lines are also by right in the same districts. However, under the proposed Renewable Energy Facilities Code, BESS are changed to special use for all districts. BESS are essential to the reliability of many power generation facilities, solar in particular, and the re-designation of BESS to special use for renewables will diminish the facilitation

and viability of the projects. According to the COSSA Institute, "Solar battery energy storage systems are relatively unobtrusive and non-impactful to the overall character or view of the area" and written consultations with Black Mountain Energy Storage reiterate this point, as BESS are unobtrusive to the extent as to simply exist as part of the overall energy grid rather than as a separate public utility facility. Given this, Black Mountain Energy Storage states BESS should be by right in the General Agricultural District. Subjecting a renewable project to special use requires review by at least four oversight bodies under Montrose Regulations, including evaluation by Staff and Referral Agencies, a Staff Review Letter, Notice Requirements, Public Hearings, a Planning Commission Hearing and a Board of County Commissioners' Hearing. The comparative unnecessary rigor will disincentivize competitive renewable projects.

Critically, according to Montrose Regulations, "A special use that has been approved must be in operation within twenty-four (24) months from the date of the approval by the Board of County Commissioners or the special use approval becomes null and void and must be resubmitted for review and approval" (70). Two twelve (12) month extensions can be granted after the initial approval, and only if a written request is submitted to the Planning and Development Director thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the special use permit. Building a utility-scale solar project usually takes three to five years from start to finish, with the majority of time spent on permitting and interconnection processes, depending on the location and regulatory environment (Berkley Lab Energy I-SPARK). The timeline for a special use permit does not match the timeline required for most renewable projects given contracts between essential partners and developers will likely have difficulty being secured before deadlines. The timeline is also prohibitive to

WESTERN COLORADO ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ACTION COMMENTS ON MONTROSE COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES CODE From previous pg

the feasible securing of a bond. It is doubtful the COSSA Institute was able to review the regulations and timelines specific to special use permits within Montrose County Zoning Regulations, and only reviewed the draft Renewable Energy Facilities Code, thereby creating an unintentional major proscription to the facilitation of renewables in the land use code. To compare, San Miguel allows “the permit [to] be used for an indefinite term, or for a specified period, depending on the size and complexity of the project . . . If construction of a permitted Project *has not been initiated within three (3) years of permit issuance* or if construction . . . does not satisfy the time benchmarks identified in the permit . . . [the] Board may grant extension(s) of the approval for good cause shown” (11, emphasis added).

The Montrose County Renewable Energy Facilities Code *retains* the definition of a Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facility as a facility that “has the capacity to produce in excess of one (1) megawatt”. The COSA Institute flagged this, as “the proposed threshold of one megawatt for utility-scale solar energy systems is much lower than what [is] commonly seen in other Colorado communities using a similar definition. [The] standard is around 100 acres (or about 20 megawatts) to correspond with the federal PURPA law”. This is significant, as “treating all systems above one megawatt as the same through the permitting . . . process may disincentivize projects at a smaller scale” especially those that typically would “not be categorized as large per industry and State standards” but instead would be subjected to utility-scale regulations, that of which are already inhibitive and unusual by way of special use permitting. “To align more closely with industry practices, [COSSA] recommend[s] “revisiting the thresholds and considering a five (5) megawatts/50+ acres threshold to differentiate between [medium] and utility-scale facilities, allowing for less stringent requirements for smaller facilities that would inherently have less land use considerations”. This point was re-emphasized a second time in the final November 8th, 2024 communication from

COSAA.

San Miguel and Mesa Counties delineate between small, medium and large-scale solar facilities and have specified codes for each. San Miguel and other counties allow for smaller-scale solar generation in residential, commercial and business districts, which helps to incentivize commercial enterprise that may favor diversified energy. Smaller-scale renewable projects also allow for reduced energy costs as part of affordable housing initiatives in residential and planned development districts, and State law requires counties allow for community solar less than five (5) megawatts in all zones (House Bill 19-1003).

While agricultural heritage was once primary to San Miguel and Mesa Counties, Montrose County is distinguished in its particular continuity of the tradition, as agriculture remains a contemporary economic and cultural standard. The October 2024 Montrose County Master Plan is responsive to our agricultural centrality, noting the primary intent of the Agricultural District is “to provide for the conduct of agricultural activities related to ranching, farming, and forestry production; including activities that support, maintain, and promote agriculture *as an essential economic factor in the county*. Land uses in the General Agricultural District are encouraged to provide for the maintenance of agricultural production and preservation of the associated lifestyles” (10, emphasis added). This supports the “General Provisions” statement within Montrose County Zoning Regulations, as “[I]t is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to foster, protect, and encourage the continuation of this rich [agricultural] history *through the application of land use standards and regulations*” (1, emphasis added). It is notable such a statement is included within the opening “General Provisions” section of the Regulations, as such a section is meant to set the tone and frame the entirety of the document.

To remain competitive, individuals pursuing agricultural enterprise should be able to access the full gamut of subsidizing options available, including agrivoltaics.

Relegating Battery Energy Storage Systems to special use permitting, rather than by right like all other public utility facilities within the General Agricultural District, subjects local agricultural producers to the same prohibitive regulatory process outlined above. Further, it is unadvisable to incorporate the 30-50% split of farm land use for renewables, given the primacy of agricultural economies in Montrose. Farmers and ranchers should be able to choose the proportionality of agrivoltaics on their own land. COSSA underscores the private property rights of landowners, agricultural operators and developers a second time in its final recommendations letter, dedicating a breakout paragraph to the issue: “It is essential to allow landowners the flexibility to determine the highest and best use for their land . . . [especially] for additional income or to help with their own operations . . . The proportional split would ban them from doing so, as they can’t meet this requirement.” COSSA instead recommends “adding language to include agrivoltaics ‘to the extent practicable’ . . . rather than a blanket requirement.”

To conclude, exclusively relegating renewable energy facilities of all sizes and their dependent BESS to special use permitting and utility-scale standards effectively nullifies such projects at the point of application. Larger-scale solar projects should be allowed by right in the General Industrial and Agricultural Districts; however, limiting projects to these districts is also untenable. Smaller-scale projects should be allowed in other districts, either by right or special use. Written communication from the San Miguel Power Association emphasizes comprehensive community stakeholder engagement to meet community-specific needs and preferences to ensure the overall longevity of the solar project. Special use permitting requires public hearings on all projects, but public hearings can be built into use by right codes for all districts. This may not be necessary, however, given private property rights are given primacy in the General Agricultural District, as advocated by COSSA, and again, the Industrial District constitutes already degraded view

WESTERN COLORADO ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ACTION COMMENTS ON MONTROSE COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES CODE From previous pg

sheds and land bases zoned away from residential districts. Conceptualizing renewable energy purely as an encroachment of liberalism and a constriction of the energy grid to the invalidity of climate change arguments is one-dimensional and lacks foresight. Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has been able to stabilize consumer costs and stay competitive by virtue of its diversified energy portfolio that it employed years ago, which is to compare to the ever-increasing Grand Valley Power consumer costs in Mesa County. DMEA has been able to more or less stabilize their budget, thereby planning with greater precision for future costs. Montrose County has lost at least \$13 million in tax revenue to Delta County by virtue of Delta accepting the

Garnet Mesa Agrivoltaics Project, which is significant. As well, the City of Delta has planned for a microgrid that will allow energy continuance in the event of wild-fire and other emergencies for grocery stores, gas stations and hotels—services of which are relied upon by the general constituency. Energy diversification allows for greater local control of energy, as well as greater U.S. energy independence, especially through contracts with U.S.-based facilities producers. Renewables are burgeoning mainstay industries typical of diversification processes within competitive economies and careful planning for their incorporation creates a 21st century energy grid worthy of future generations within Montrose.

From November 2023 to November 20th, 2024, there has not been an opportunity for a public hearing with the Montrose Board of County Commissioners for the proposed amendments to the zoning regulations for renewable energy facilities. This allows for about a month of public comment before the Montrose County renewables moratorium expires in January 2025, thereby expediting the approval of the current proposed regulations. Energy is an essential municipal service, and public input with the sufficient time required for the compromises and revisions inherent to the democratic process is as ethical as it is critical. The time allotment so far has been rushed and insufficient. We look forward to future dialogue and the consideration of our comments.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS & CARTOON

PLEASE BACK GOVERNMENT MONEY FOR CELLULAR-AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

To the editor,

Any state or federal politician who claims to care about animal welfare should support public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. There is nothing elected officials could do that has the potential reduce more nonhuman suffering and premature death than accelerating development of this technology.

While the new protein has been approved for sale in the United States by the relevant authorities, it is currently too expensive to mass produce. Achieving price parity with incumbent options will be crucial for the success of cultivated meat. Compassionate leaders can and should play an important role in pursuing this goal, by backing government money for cellular-agricultural development.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT



the montrose mirror

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WORST AND MOST CORRUPT PRESIDENT IN U.S. HISTORY

Editor:

I appreciate it when Sue Schmidt (MM 12/2) challenges one of my letters (MM 11/25) because, unlike most Democrat letter writers, she is willing to mostly stick to the issues. In my letter, I used Trump's "landslide" election victory to make a number of points, one being that Democrats are out-of-touch with the American people. I used Biden's "garbage" comments and Sunny Hostin's "uneducated white women" comments as examples of the disdain Democrats have for over half the country. With a careful reading of both letters, I trust readers can make their own conclusions as to how effectively Schmidt challenged my opinions. I will agree with Schmidt that my use of the term "landslide" is subject to debate. Perhaps "resounding" or "devastating" are more descriptive. I also agree with Schmidt that people should stop the mudslinging and "focus on Trump's achievements." Democrats still totally refuse to acknowledge how highly successful Trump's first term was or how destructive Biden's one and only term was. I don't expect the extreme leftists controlling today's Democrat party will ever vary from their "Trump is a Nazi, racist, threat to democracy" rhetoric (mudslinging), but perhaps informed Democrats like Schmidt will come to realize what a sorry state their Democrat party is in – as did the multitude of voters who abandoned the Democrat party in this election.

Hopefully the election results will force thinking Democrats like Schmidt to regain some control of their once-great party. The survival of their party depends on doing so. They must reject their party's anti-Americanism and the lie that our country's history is shameful. They have to recognize that some of the loudest voices in their party – the pro-Hamas protesters on college campuses, the openly anti-Semitic Democrat members of Congress, the zealots who want to destroy women's sports, the overtly racist media personalities, etc. – are as much their enemies as they are enemies of our republic. They have to abandon the socialist agenda of Bernie Sanders and accept the fact that the well-being of our citizens cannot exist without the economic

prosperity that pays for it. Most significantly, they will have to abandon their pseudo-intellectual attitude that their political opponents are ignorant, racist, red-necks and Democrats are the anointed ones. Not that the Republican party doesn't have its share of haters and dummies – the difference is, the Republican racists and crazies are not calling the shots in the Republican party. The success of our republic depends on a two-party system that includes the Democrat party of old whose goal was to work for the common good rather than remain in power at all cost.

Joe Biden's pardon of Hunter's crimes this week solidly confirmed the sorry state of the Democrat party. While always laughable, Democrat claims for respect for the rule of law have been shredded. Biden didn't pardon his drug addict son because he is a loving father who thinks his son was treated unfairly by the DOJ. He pardoned Hunter to continue covering up his own crimes. President Biden is the one at the center of the influence-peddling and bribery schemes that Hunter ran. Focusing on Hunter's crimes is a distraction from the far more serious crimes his father committed. House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer's response was appropriate: "Joe Biden has lied from start to finish about his family's corrupt influence-peddling activities. Not only has he falsely claimed that he never met with his son's foreign business associates and that his son did nothing wrong, but he also lied when he said he would not pardon Hunter Biden. The charges Hunter faced were just the tip of the iceberg in the blatant corruption that President Biden and the Biden Crime Family have lied about to the American people." President Biden's claim that Hunter was "selectively and unfairly prosecuted" is laughable. Hunter was convicted of gun crimes in the U.S. District Court of Delaware and pleaded guilty of tax evasion in the U.S. District Court of D.C. In fact, Hunter received highly preferential treatment from Biden's DOJ. He would have escaped any charges if IRS whistleblowers hadn't come forward. Special Counsel David Weiss never indicted Hunter for failing to register as a foreign agent, allowing the statute of limi-

tations to expire on that and other serious crimes, and then tried to engineer a sweetheart deal that would have granted him blanket immunity --- immunity that he has now received from his father in a pardon that covers a jaw-dropping eleven years.

Special Council Weiss' response to Joe Biden's claim of unfair prosecution was appropriate: "The Executive Branch that charged Defendant is headed by that sitting President – Defendant's father. The Attorney General heading the DOJ was appointed by and reports to Defendant's father. And that AG appointed the Special Counsel who made the challenged charging decision in this case Defendant's claim is effectively that his own father targeted him for being his son, a claim that is nonsensical under the facts here." Weiss pointed out that when Hunter made the same claims to appeals, they were soundly rejected: "In total, eleven different judges appointed by six different presidents, including his father, rejected the defendant's claims, including the claims for selective and vindictive prosecution."

Here's this week's chuckle. Our illustrious media, which is still trusted by a whopping 25% of the country, is now acting shocked that Biden pardoned his son and is concerned that this might tarnish his image. Here's a news flash: Joe's totally predictable pardon didn't threaten his reputation – it cemented an already corrupt legacy. It was clear to anyone with a brain that Biden was always going to pardon his son to protect himself. As for his "legacy?" The Afghanistan disaster? Open borders that let in criminals and terrorists? Out-of-control inflation that severely penalized the poor and middle class? Billions wasted on a proxy war with Russia that could turn into a nuclear WWII? Billions sent to Iran so they can continue funding terrorists around the world? Unconstitutionally shifting billions in student loans to taxpayers that didn't incur the debt? I can't think of a single domestic or foreign "accomplishment" that would contribute to a positive Biden legacy. Everything I see supports Biden's nomination for the worst and most corrupt president in U.S. history.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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CITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO PRESERVE MORADA SITE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Mayor J. David Reed welcomed everyone to the City Council Work Session of Monday, Dec. 2. Councilor Ed Ulibarri was absent; all other councilors were present.

The first order of business was to interview applicants for the City's Planning Commission.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Applicants included current Planning Commission members [Phoebe Benziger](#), [Ronald Cairns](#) and [Steve Ball](#), all of whom were present to answer questions and share their reasons for seeking an additional term on the Planning Commission.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Acquisition of a Conservation Easement Within Colorado Outdoors

Council will consider approving \$150,000 in expenditures for the purchase of a conservation easement within Colorado Outdoors to preserve the Morada site, which has been a longtime goal of the surrounding community.

City manager Bill Bell said, "...We want to get this done by the end of the year...we had it in the budget for this year actually to build some historic interpretive signage as well as a bench and maybe a gazebo...if we can at least get the land piece done by the end of this year that allows the Dragoos to take advantage of any tax credits that they might want to use, it gets it off our plate as far as staff and we can move forward with fulfilling our promise to the community of preserving the site, and then getting some improvements on the site that people can actually connect to from their neighborhood...they can go and reflect and think of the community there and have a nice little area...we'll move forward with the improvements, probably early Spring..."

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said that a map would be helpful for the public. "It's nice to see this coming to fruition..."

Background-A memo from City Manager Bill Bell and City Attorney Chris Dowsey to Council states: "The City has been working with the owners of a parcel within Colorado Outdoors to secure rights to preserve the Morada site. Over the years the Mora-



Montrose City Council gathered for a work session on Monday, Dec. 2. Screenshot.

da site has remained an important cultural and historical site to the adjacent La Raza neighborhood. The site housed a Morada prayer house for a local order of the Penitente Brotherhood between 1940 and the mid 1970's. The Penitente Brotherhood is a religious organization related to the Roman Catholic Church whose main population is found in the southwestern United States. As part of design studies for the Colorado Outdoors development, the city hired Alpine Archaeology (Montrose, CO) in 2017 to delineate the site and confirm its historical significance. These investigations served as the basis for the location of the proposed historical easement. Because no development was proposed in the area in the foreseeable future, the site has remained in its untouched state since the 2017 historical investigation was performed. As development continues to occur in Colorado Outdoors, the adjacent neighborhood has requested the site be formally preserved to ensure no development can occur at the location of the historic Morada.

There are two easements the city would be preserving with this purchase, the conservation easement for the Morada and an access easement. The access easement is subject to relocation pending the needs for development on the parcel. The conservation easement allows the city to construct improvements that add to the his-

torical and cultural significance of the site. The cost to purchase these easements is \$150,000."

Intergovernmental Agreement with Montrose Recreation District

Council spent time considering the [Intergovernmental Agreement](#) between the City of Montrose and the Montrose Recreation District, which is updated annually. [A redlined version of the IGA](#) is included in the Work Session packet,

Police Department Server Purchase

Police Chief Blaine Hall presented a [staff recommendation](#) for Council to approve the expenditure of \$295,198.21 for the replacement and upgrade of the Montrose Police Department's existing Motorola Flex server hardware and software. This upgrade includes the addition of a Disaster Recovery (DR) server, which will be located at the WestCo Dispatch Center. The DR server is a critical addition for ensuring backup capabilities and enhancing system reliability in the event of a system failure. Also included is a [sole source waiver request](#) and [Motorola documentation](#).

Supplemental Budget Ordinance

Council considered a [Supplemental Budget Ordinance](#) for 2024.

San-Miami Sewer Improvements Contract Award

Council discussed the award of a construction contract to Haynes Excavation in the

CITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENT From Previous pg

amount of \$86,877.22 for construction of the San-Miami Sewer Improvement Project. City Engineer Scott Murphy discussed the project.

Background- A memo to Council from City Engineer Scott Murphy states, "As development of several residential houses and an apartment complex occurred starting in the 1960's near the intersection of San Juan Avenue and Miami Road (San-Miami), the parcels utilized a sewerline located in the rear of the lots as shown in Figure 1. This sewerline is generally inaccessible, accepts stormwater flows, and is undersized for the flow it receives.

As a remedy to these issues, the City initially envisioned construction of a new sanitary sewer line out in Miami Road and reconfiguration of the building sewer services out to the front."

Full details on project specifics and the contract award can be found in the packet.

6600 Road Sidewalk Extension Design Contract Award

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on the 6600 Road Sidewalk Extension Design. The sidewalks are intended to create pedestrian connectivity to what will become higher density residential development, Murphy said.

A memo from Murphy to Council states, "In cooperation with adjacent developers of a proposed multi-family affordable housing project, the City of Montrose was recently awarded a \$2,000,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) through their Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund More Housing Now Initiative..."

Council will consider the award of a professional services contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$47,200 for completion of survey and civil design associated with the 6600 Road Sidewalk Extension Project. The project was not budgeted as it was dependent on receipt of a DOLA grant.

Murphy said, "...The general vision here is, we already have some existing sidewalks there...we want to kind of fill in the missing links to connect up to the housing and get down to Main Street, which also includes connections to the Boys & Girls Club..."

Public Works Facility Project Funding Reimbursement Resolution

Council considered the authorization of Resolution No. 2024-22 (attached) to allow the future borrowing of funding for the Public Works Facility Project to reimburse City General Funds.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid discussed the next steps for the project. The resolution is required by funders DA Davidson to allow the COP borrowing to be used to reimburse the General Fund. The City is now under contract with Blythe Group to complete design, which is at about 30 percent, Scheid said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said, "...There is a misconception by the public that we're getting some platinum coated luxury facility, and that is most definitely not true."

The existing structure was a patchwork quilt starting in the 1940's and has been patchworked the entire time, Frank said. "We're actually spending more money not building this...it's pretty bad."

Scheid said that the design for the new facility is based on the cost per square foot.

Mayor J. David Reed said, "We anticipate this facility being built to serve our city and the citizens for the next 50 years...I think that it's an exercise in foresight and forethought for our staff and the council to seriously consider this for the future of this community."

Frank said that there is deliberate miscommunication and misinformation being spread in the community that the new facility somehow raises taxes, "...First off, Montrose does not get property tax, never has...There is no such thing as raising our taxes to pay for this, this is just a borrowing mechanism that we utilize in a number of different venues to make sure that we are funding the project...like a construction bridge loan...we are being conservative and very careful with the money...this is well thought, well designed. The sequencing has been very carefully thought out to make that we are utilizing our money in the best possible way..."

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that the City was fortunate to find property in the heart of the city, as the location will help to save on fuel costs.

Scheid said that the property is a huge win.

"We got an excellent purchase price on it, all in all it was a very good deal."

The project ties in with the extension of Rio Grande Avenue, City Engineer Scott Murphy said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank called the property acquisition a "win-win-win."

Lease Renewal with Cimarron Canal Reservoir Company

Information on the lease renewal is included in the packet. City Attorney Chris Dowsey presented information on the lease.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Frank said that the annual tree lighting took place at the Visitor Center, the people who attended laughed, sang, and drank cocoa. The Parade of Lights was scheduled for Dec. 7.

STAFF COMMENTS

There were no comments from staff. "We will stand adjourned," Mayor Reed said.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRANSPARENCY MATTERS: THE DOLORES RIVER NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA CONTROVERSY

Editor:

In recent proceedings, Mesa County Commissioner Cody Davis made a bold claim before Colorado's County Commissioners, asserting that there is unified support for a proposed National Conservation Area (NCA) along the Dolores River. However, this statement fundamentally misrepresents the complex reality facing local communities and stakeholders.

The communities of Gateway, Nucla, Naturita, Bedrock, Paradox, and surrounding areas stand in stark opposition to the proposed NCA. Their voices—the voices of those who live, work, and deeply understand the local landscape—have been conspicuously absent from the decision-making process.

Critical questions demand answers: How can commissioners claim widespread support when they have systematically avoided engaging with the very communities most directly impacted? The working

group behind this proposal appears to have deliberately distanced itself from local residents who oppose the NCA, seemingly prioritizing predetermined outcomes over genuine community dialogue. Transparency in local governance is not optional—it is essential.

Commissioners Cody Davis and Sue Hansen have a fundamental responsibility to represent their constituents, not to negotiate behind closed doors with external interest groups. Their current approach undermines the democratic principles of local representation and community input.

The proposed NCA is not merely a line on a map. It represents potential fundamental changes to land use, economic opportunities, and the way of life for rural communities. Any such significant proposal must be developed through open, inclusive, and genuine community engagement—not through selective narratives

that ignore local perspectives.

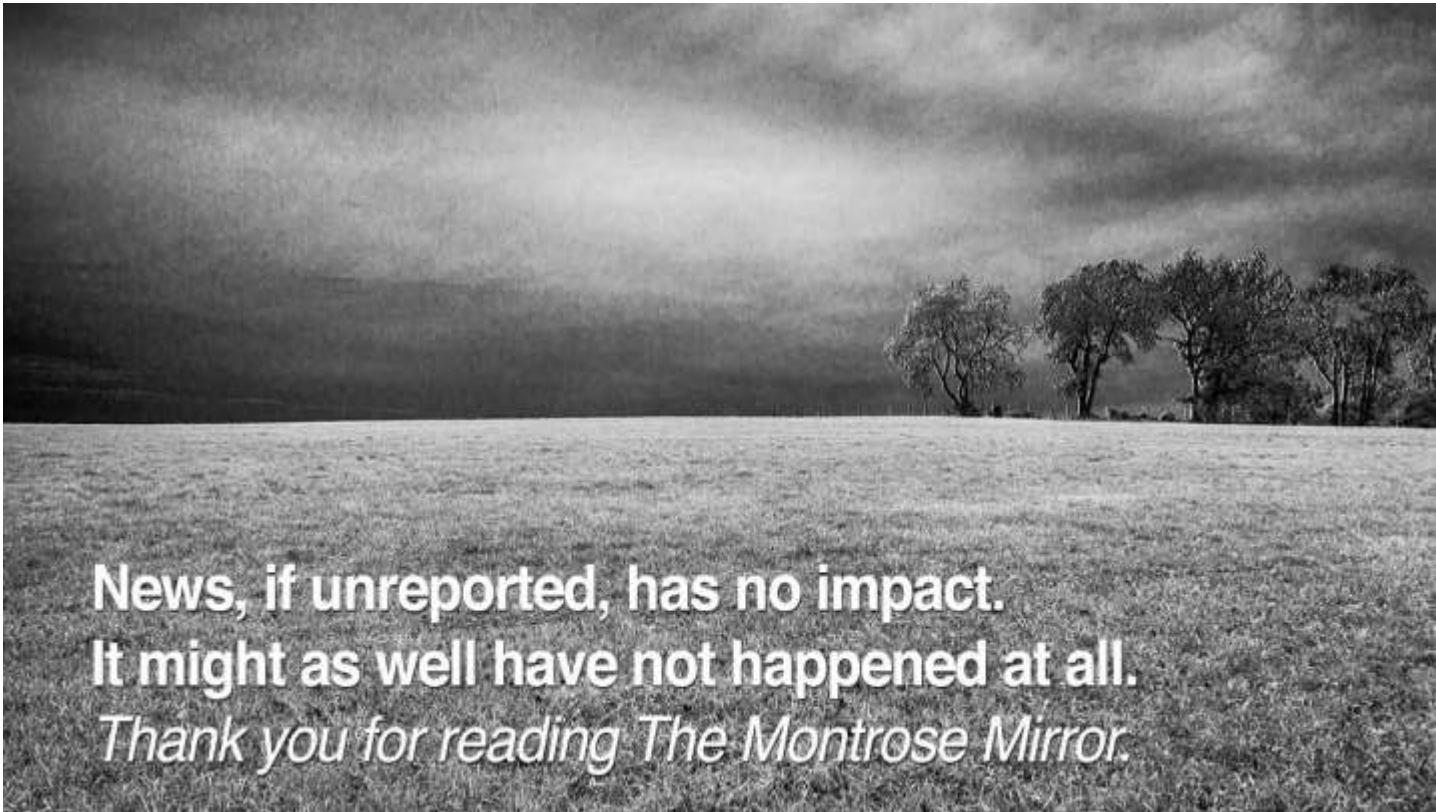
We call on Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Hansen to:

- Immediately halt negotiations until comprehensive public meetings are conducted
 - Provide transparent documentation of all discussions and stakeholder interactions
 - Ensure that local residents have a meaningful voice in any conservation planning
 - Cease making unsubstantiated claims about community support
- Rural communities deserve honest representation.

They deserve commissioners who listen, who engage, and who prioritize local knowledge and community well-being over external agendas.

The story of our land is written by those who live and work on it. It cannot—and should not—be dictated by those who view it from a distance.

Sean M Pond



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



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'THE DEMAND IS BEING MET JUST FINE' From pg 1

very proud of them...we thought it would be appropriate to honor the football team with the adoption of a proclamation."

Reed read the proclamation, which was accepted by Vinny who plays defensive end for the team.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD PRESENTATION

This month, the You Make a Difference Award was presented to the volunteers of the Montrose Municipal Animal Shelter, with each receiving a certificate and all gathering for a group photo. Those recognized included Volunteers Sharon and Dave Alcalay, John Britton, Harlene Garnhart, Kathy Harris, Scott Pollak, Brandy Raetz, Susan Thibeau, Debbie Short, Liz Teeter, Teresa Shishim, Deb Wall, Michele Ruggs, Laurie Austin, Lisa and Bob, Eric, Kalynn and Jude Carlton, Gail DeRuzzo, Gaye Lynn Brashers, Sayuri Tirona, Aidan and James Vonseggern, Tyler Erdmier, and Ruby Corona.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Montrose resident John Brown spoke. "There is a change coming," Brown said. "I'm not referring to the weather climate, but a change by we the people, who support our new president and are waiting anxiously for January 20th. The President-elect has vowed to remove all those who crossed our borders illegally. Sanctuary states and cities not only face certain penalties but will also have to reduce those they are protecting. Since Denver is a sanctuary city and Colorado is a sanctuary state, Colorado communities that have declared themselves to be sanctuary will find they have an excess population which has become a liability. In order to lighten the burden for their taxpayers as federal funds may be withdrawn from these displaced people, they will be looking for places they can relocate these illegal immigrants. If Montrose does not declare itself to be non-sanctuary, then Montrose could become a target community of these illegal newcomers.

"My main concern is that we maintain the safety of our community and our way of life. The way that our community government is spending money, I doubt that

we will have enough money in our budget to take care of our own local needs, both housing and medical. I think it is time for our city fathers to start looking in our own backyard. We have more than our share of homeless and veterans that need our help, especially since we don't have a year-round shelter with more than just 28 beds in it.

"Let's take care of our own before we start taking care of more than we can afford. Wouldn't that make a nice Christmas present for the community, to show that you really care for the people of Montrose, and declare Montrose to be a non-sanctuary city?"

"Thank you very much for your time, have a good Christmas," Brown said.

"You too Mr. Brown," said Mayor Reed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve [minutes of the November 19, 2024](#), regular City Council meeting as presented.

RESOLUTION 2024-23

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted to adopt [Resolution 2024-23](#), supporting the operation of a San Miguel Authority Regional Transportation commuter bus route within the City of Montrose.

ARTS LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGE OF LOCATION

Also approved was the [application for change of location of an Arts liquor license](#) for Montrose Center for Arts from 11 S. Park Avenue to 205 E. Main Street.

NEW LIQUOR LICENSED DRUG STORE APPLICATION

Council spent time considering a [new liquor license application](#), for a new Liquor Licensed Drug Store license at 16400 S. Townsend Avenue for Dillon Companies LLC, doing business as City Market #40, for consumption off of the licensed premises.

Council opened a quasi-judicial hearing. The applicants' Attorney [Adam Stapen](#) and Petitioner Eva Garretson spoke first, presenting the response to the survey that was conducted on behalf of the applicant. Garretson testified that the survey that was conducted was not biased. The number of business owners or managers and residents initially contacted was 384,

which is typical, she said. Of 124 signatures, 50 were business owners and managers (49 signing in favor and one opposed) and 74 residential (89 signing in favor and eight opposed). The combined total was 115 signatures signing in favor (93 percent) and nine opposed (seven percent), she said.

Mayor Reed opened the floor to comments from City of Montrose residents, business owners, and managers.

The first to speak was Dominic LaJoy, who owns the House of Spirits Liquor Store on east Main Street. LaJoy discussed the safety and training of staff, and the protocols he and his staff use to prevent minors from obtaining liquor. No one under 21 is allowed to enter the liquor store without a parent, he said. "We are present for the consumer...we watch the store...if you don't have people watching...what's to stop from someone going in the bathroom with a bottle...we deal with alcoholism, it's a serious problem...this is not a neighborhood need; we don't need another big liquor store in town."

The owner of The Pour House Liquor Store, Sophano Kan, also spoke. "I have heard lots of concern...the biggest thing I want to express today is the impact on small business in our Montrose Community and especially on the independent liquor store..."

Major grocers do not support local and small business, which will lose sales, Kan said. "We still support the small supplier, winery, distillery and brewery...and help them display their product at the front so they still can survive..."

Kan noted that Corks closed because it could not compete with the major grocery's pricing and asked City Council to consider denying the liquor license.

Mayor Reed said that testimony regarding unfair competition cannot be considered.

Palace Liquor Store Owner Fangling Koussoum also spoke, asking Council to deny the application. "...We want to support others locally and give each other the benefit...we want to do everything we can to keep our business...me and my husband both work seven days a week... local

'THE DEMAND IS BEING MET JUST FINE' From Previous pg

business are often more involved in local charity and non-profits than corporations."

Also, Palace Liquor Store staff are trained to refuse sales to minors and to those who are inebriated, Fangling said.

"Why can't we just let Montrose as a small town and community have a warm, peaceful, and better shop experience?"

Fangling said that she has received 200 petitions from Montrose residents who were opposed to the proposed liquor license in just one week.

The Liquor Store Manager Liz Schmidt also expressed opposition. A community should be a place where people are truly connected, know each other and take care of each other, she said.

"...We make sure our patrons are of legal drinking age, and not under the influence of alcohol or any other substance, to the best of our knowledge and training before each sale-- and by doing so we are ensuring our community we are providing a safe service and a safe environment to shop...we have donated to countless charities and events...we have volunteered to help our local non-profits with our time and other services, while putting nearly 70 cents of every dollar back into our community. We have a higher starting wage than most corporate business, we also utilize local services...for our business."

Schmidt shared the story of one young man who was refused service at The Liquor Store while struggling with alcoholism. "I was able to contact our local police department to come, pick him up, and take him home. This man is now sober and has thanked me for empathy in his time of need...The Liquor Store has created a sense of belonging to the Montrose community by forming these emotional ties and feeling of well being within our community. These ties in turn will make communities safer, economically stronger, and more resilient...will City Market check that someone is not intoxicated? Will they call to make sure someone gets home safe? Will they check on their fellow community members in their time of need? Will they do their due diligence to make sure they

are making our community a safe place to live?"

"...This county spoke loud and clear that they didn't want wine in grocery stores, and I feel that they have also spoken very loudly that they do not want hard liquor in grocery stores...in the small amount of time we had to gather signatures just in our small circle we managed to get 557," Schmidt said.

Next to speak were Jason and William Gordon, owners of The Liquor Store. Jason Gordon said that grocery stores provide easy access to youth, with lack of direct supervision and self-checkout options. "...We believe that alcohol is and should be a controlled substance. Unaccompanied and underage customers are not allowed in retail liquor stores..."

Larger retailers sell product below cost and do not need to make a profit from alcohol until the independents are driven out of business, Gordon said. The loophole that allows grocers to obtain a liquor license as drug stores to sell alcohol has been bad for Colorado, he said. "...Do we want our local economy to be determined by the voters in Denver and the lawyers in this room?"

William Gordon said that the State of Colorado is considering reassessing liquor licenses at drug stores in Colorado. "That is happening in January, and that is why you see such a rush before you now."

Leah Cole, Founder of the non-profit Mrs. Claus for a Cause in Colorado, spoke in opposition to the license. "...I rely on these small businesses in this town, the Liquor Store definitely being one of them, for their generous donations and in order to be able keep this non-profit going...we currently have 65 donation boxes at small businesses in Montrose...They donate to all of my different events that we do to be able to provide Christmas to the families in this community; they have toy boxes. It's like family when you go in, they ensure that we don't go without...we don't see that coming from any of the bigger stores here in town.

"If you go into a local City Market you're not going to see a toy box for Mrs. Claus

for a Cause, or for any other community non-profits that I've seen here," Cole said. "...We don't need the liquor in our grocery stores. These small businesses provide a need here for us...please don't pass it."

Kevin Williams spoke next. Williams said that while working toward his Master's degree from the University of Idaho, he conducted a scientific, randomly-designed sample survey, with a confidence interval of plus or minus five percent.

"...I did not hear the applicant's witness describe the sampling methodology that they utilized for the petition that they're presenting in support of the applicant...to conclude that the neighborhood, which I understand to be City of Montrose with 20,000 residents, overwhelmingly supports the applicant's liquor license with only...about 120 people willing to complete the petition, is frankly, in my experience having conducted these surveys, ridiculous and should be discounted as evidence."

Former Montrose Mayor Dave Bowman spoke, "...You tonight are looking at something you've never done before. This is the first time you've seen this kind of liquor license. You may have some very deep questions that you really need to think about...you have 30 days, I hope you vote it down...you've been told...that when wine got voted in for grocery stores in Colorado, that locally we did not approve that. It's been said by at least one Councilor here, the reason that Council will not entertain looking at a marijuana initiative in this town, is because when it was voted on at the State level, our community said no.

"Well, I hope you stay consistent with that...120 people making a decision for this community is ludicrous...I would encourage you to turn this into an election...let's look at what Montrose says and make sure we make a commitment to our community...if nothing else, delay this for 30 days, do some investigation on your own..."

Other speakers included Dustin Burkdoll, who said that the needs of the community are already being met.

'THE DEMAND IS BEING MET JUST FINE' From Previous pg

Chad Huffman spoke, saying that he was among those who were surveyed but declined to participate because he was not in support. "...If most people realized you could actually say no on this particular survey, they would have been more willing to say no... theft happens..."

Huffman said that City Market has teenage employees, and that he has purchased liquor from City Market and does not recall being carded each time.

Mike Miskovich spoke, saying he had a daughter with an alcohol problem, and who was able to steal beer at a grocery store and drink it in the bathroom.

For those who want to stop drinking, allowing liquor in grocery stores presents nearly irresistible temptation, he said.

David Fishing, who owns Storm King Distillery, said that demand is already being met by existing businesses.

"...Kroger's attorney mentioned that there is demand because Cork's isn't there anymore, and Cork's was one of the larger liquor stores in town...they put Cork's out of business, that's why Cork's isn't there anymore...the demand is being met just fine with the different liquor stores in town..."

Liquor Store Employee Luke Schlafer said, "Safety...is our main concern...to the best of my knowledge there is a no contact order for shoplifting in large corporations...most of the people who felt very strongly about City Market not getting a liquor license and live in the county...don't get to have their voice heard today, and that's very sad...everybody is strongly against this. We want to keep our community safe, we want to keep our community thriving, and that is done by locals...our need for alcohol in Montrose is met by

locals for locals, and we do not need City Market to have a liquor license."

The Applicant's attorney Adam Stapen gave a five-minute closing argument. He thanked everyone for coming down and dismissed negative comments as being competition-based. Speculation does not count; alcohol is governed by the State, he said. "It's a statewide body of law that governs the entire state...it's your discretion, we have law, you have to apply the law..."

Crime is not applicable to the decision, he said. "...I know it may be a difficult decision, but I believe that the law and the facts only support one decision. Thank you."

Council took a five-minute break before reconvening. Upon their return, they voted to take the matter under advisement for the next 30 days. City Attorney Chris Dowsey reminded Council that the ultimate decision must be based on the information presented at the meeting.

ORDINANCE 2677 - FIRST READING

Several residents spoke about [Ordinance 2677](#), which [repeals and reenacts](#) Chapters 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, AND 15 of Title 11 of the Montrose Official Code and makes conforming amendments to Chapters 3, 6, 12 and 14 in connection therewith.

Those who opposed the ordinance noted that it would allow duplexes in areas zoned for single family residents; others spoke in favor of the ordinance, noting the need for affordable housing. Speaker David Fishing asked Council to consider the intent of the changes prior to making the decision.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri raised questions about the impacts to local residents, par-

ticularly those who purchased homes in areas initially zoned for single family residential.

Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt discussed the need for more diversity and affordability in housing. "Trying to find housing is a real struggle...that's the strategy behind this code..."

Council voted four to one to adopt Ordinance 2677, with Ulibarri voting to deny.

ORDINANCE 2678 - FIRST READING

Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2678 on First Reading, a supplemental budget ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2645 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024.

VALLEY RANCH SUBDIVISION FILING 1 PRELIMINARY PLAT

Council voted unanimously to approve the Valley Ranch Subdivision Filing 1 Preliminary Plat expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinance and Municipal Code provisions are met and that the Applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to execution of the Final Plat.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no comments from Council, as the hour approached 10pm. "Having completed the work of Council, we will stand adjourned," Mayor Reed said.



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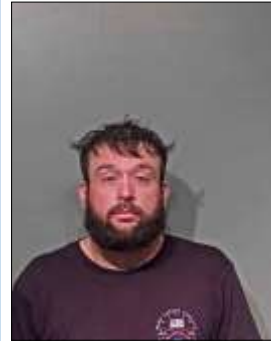
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|---|--|---|

KIDNAPPING SUSPECT APPREHENDED



Daryle Herger, Delta Police Department photo.

Delta Police Department News Release
 DELTA-At approximately 8:12am on Saturday, Nov. 30, Delta Police Department officers were notified by Delta County Dispatch following communications from Mesa County dispatchers, of a vehicle heading southbound on Highway 50 toward Delta County wanted in

connection to an alleged kidnapping that originated in the City of Delta.

Deputies with the Delta County Sheriff's Office located the suspect near the intersection of Highway 50 and G50 Road traveling at a high rate of speed. Officers with Delta Police Department and Delta County Sheriff's Office followed the suspect to the area of Trap Club Road, where the suspect abandoned the vehicle, and a ground search ensued. A Delta County Alert was issued at approximately 10:03am for residents within the area to stay inside. Colorado State Patrol provided air support, in addition to the deployment of K9 Racco tracking the suspect on the ground.

The suspect was apprehended after a brief standoff with law enforcement, and Delta County Alerts lifted the stay inside order at approximately 10:45am. The suspect, Daryle Herger (DOB 04/02/91), was arrested and booked into Delta County Jail. Delta Police Department charges include: 2nd Degree Assault, 2nd Degree Assault Strangulation, 2nd Degree Kidnapping, 1st Degree Burglary, Tampering with Physical Evidence, Obstruction of Telephone Service, and Domestic Violence. Delta County Sheriff's Office charges include: Vehicular Eluding, Driving After Revocation, Reckless Driving, Speeding 25-39 Over Limit.

All criminal charges are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty. This remains an active, ongoing investigation, and there is no further information available at this time.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY: PROTECTING OUR REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY

Co-authored by the Project 7 Water Authority Board Members representing the City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, and Menoken Water District.

REGIONAL-For decades, Project 7 Water Authority and its Board of Directors – representing the City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, Menoken Water District, and Chipeta Water District – have been working cooperatively to strengthen the regional drinking water system that nearly 60,000 people rely upon in the Uncompahgre River Valley.

Project 7 has been the wholesale drinking water treatment provider for our Valley since 1977. Its six member municipalities and water districts deliver the water to your homes and businesses. Together, we share the cost and share the benefits of operating and maintaining our regional drinking water system.

Today, all the drinking water supplied by Project 7 comes from one aging treatment plant and one source: the 115-year-old Gunnison Tunnel. It is highly unusual for a community the size of ours to be in a “one cup, one straw” situation. If there was a problem in our existing single source system, with many single points of potential failure, we would have no backup water supply. In fact, our system provides emergency drinking water for the neighboring communities of Ridgway and Ouray.

Where We've Been: Background & History

A second regional drinking water treatment plant has been planned since before the Ridgway Reservoir was constructed. When the reservoir was completed in 1987, the site for a new regional water treatment plant was originally located at the base of the dam. While the location has changed, this long-planned facility is still needed to protect our water supply, which currently relies upon one aging treatment plant to meet the day-to-day needs of our communities.

Over the years, at least 18 different alternatives have been evaluated to secure the

regional water system our communities depend on. These potential projects looked at everything from building a second regional drinking water treatment plant, to boring a second Gunnison Tunnel, or increasing raw water storage in our reservoir system by 10,000 acre-feet.

The price tag of these potential projects ranged from \$10 million to upgrade our existing facilities twenty-five years ago, to more than \$235 million, which is what it would cost to build a second Gunnison Tunnel in today's dollars. Ultimately, none of these options protected our drinking water system from wildfire, drought, and aging infrastructure better than constructing a second regional treatment plant.

In 2018, work on the Project 7 Regional Water Supply and Resiliency Program began in earnest because a new treatment plant was proven to be the best option for our long-term water security. As plans got more detailed, many concepts were evaluated by Project 7's Board of Directors and its member entities:

-In 2018, the initial cost for a 5 MGD (million gallons per day) facility, with no distribution pipelines, was estimated to be \$59 million, which is roughly \$74 million in today's (2024) dollars.

-From 2019 through 2022, a variety of 6 MGD options and up to 6 miles of pipelines were evaluated at the current site south of Colona for an estimated \$50 million to \$110 million.

-In 2023, conceptual design for a 6 MGD treatment plant and 11 miles of raw and finished water transmission pipelines at the Colona site were estimated to cost \$158 million.

-In 2024, a more detailed (30%) design for the same 6 MGD plant with 11 miles of pipeline was estimated to cost \$172 million.

We all know construction projects across the world have faced big supply chain, inflation and cost challenges in recent years. What isn't as well known is that costs are difficult to estimate before the project scope is determined and fully de-

signed. Costs for complex projects like this often increase as they go from “concept” to a “shovel ready” design that will deliver real value on day one. These factors working in tandem have caused a significant cost escalation that has us all concerned about affordability.

Where We're Going: Working Together For A Secure Water Future

The Project 7 Board and our member entities understand that the necessity of this project is not the challenge. Affordability is the challenge. Later this year, we will receive a Guaranteed Maximum Price from the design/build contractor. However, this is not the final price that we must accept without question if we want to secure our regional water supply with the new 6MGD facility needed to meet the current essential indoor water demand of our members, and provide the ability to expand to 12MGD in the future.

When Project 7 receives the Guaranteed Maximum Price, it will have been cross-examined by an independent third-party cost estimator, municipal fiduciary advisor, owner's representative and staff. Despite this thorough interrogation, there will likely still be portions of the project cost and finance plan that the Project 7 Board of Directors must reconcile before the project moves forward.

In early 2025, as the capital financing plan and total project cost come into focus, the Project 7 Board of Directors will meet with the elected officials of each member agency. This cooperative decision-making process will include discussions about appropriate cost allocations and funding options for each entity and determine how the project and its finance plan move forward in a way that provides the best value for future generations and a strong return on investment for the dollars that have already been spent.

How Will We Pay For It?

Project 7 has already been approved for financing instruments that are most commonly used to fund large water projects, including the Colorado State Revolving Fund (SRF) and

Continued next pg

PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY: PROTECTING OUR REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY

From previous pg

the Environmental Protection Agency Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA). These programs have the lowest below market interest rates available, principal forgiveness/deferment and many other favorable terms.

The importance of this project and why it has already received a commitment for more than \$50 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law WIFIA and SRF programs was highlighted in a [February 2024 White House Brief on Water Infrastructure](#). In addition, Project 7 is aggressively seeking grants from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Congressionally Directed

Spending, and other federal and state programs.

Project 7's Board of Directors and its member entities are committed to securing our regional drinking water system with the best possible project at the best possible price. We know the value of water is unlimited, but our members' and their customers' budgets are not. That is why we will continue to work together to secure financing that minimizes the increasing cost of water and maximizes every dollar contributed locally.

There is still much work to be done to update the financing plan, costs, and time-

line. We have been talking about this project for decades, but the hardest conversations are still to come, as we address our shared concerns about affordability. Just as our forefathers met many of the same challenges in creating a regional drinking water system, we are equally determined to continue their legacy by working together to strengthen and secure our water supply for future generations. Learn more about your water, where it comes from and our shared regional infrastructure at: www.Project7water.org/WaterSupply.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:COMMENTARY

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN MONTROSE, COLORADO – CIRCA 2024

Dealing with Trolls and Krampus-Like Creatures – Things are getting Weird!

By David White

As the year 2024 winds down we find ourselves in the midst of changes that one wouldn't have thought of just a few months ago (perhaps). It's kind of odd that there seems to be a bit of a mythical tilt to our community, but then again, maybe it's been here all along. Let me explain.

I'll start with the trolls. In a traditional sense, a troll is a dwarf or giant in Scandinavian folklore inhabiting caves or hills. In today's parlance, i.e., "slang", a troll is a person who posts deliberately offensive or provocative messages online (such as in social media, a newsgroup, a forum, a chat room an online video game platform, etc.) or who performs similar behaviors in real life ([Troll \(slang\) - Wikipedia](#)).

So concerned about this modern incarnation of trolls, one of our County Commissioners, Sue Hansen (aka "Sunset Sue" as she's in her term limited last two years in office), recently moderated and presumably helped organize a work panel discussion session for new County Commissioners at the Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) Winter Conference in Westminster, CO on December 2nd (CCI is the "trade organization" that represents most of the counties in Colorado much like the Colorado Municipal League – CML - represents Colorado cities).

The work session, titled "**Telling your County Story**", featured Ms. Hansen at the podium along with two communication professionals (Jennifer Finch, Public Information Officer for Weld County and Wendy Holmes, Director, Communications & Public Affairs for Douglas County). All three spoke to incoming County Commissioners on effective ways to share their county's story. Focus of this work session was on highlighting best practices for impactful communications, as well on giving these new politicians "**ideas on how to handle those trolls that might come after them and their county.**" ([2024 -Winter-CCI-Program-v5.pdf](#) – see page 11 of this agenda)

How nice! Most who have dealt with Commissioner Hansen at the citizen level understand her disdain for the average

person as she and her colleagues see themselves as the educated ones on most subjects related to County business and management and therefore know what's best for the rest of us. Question them, however, and arguably, you are labeled with the moniker of being a "troll" especially if such questioning and/or comments are ongoing. So, these thin-skinned politicians react accordingly. Those who question them and their actions need to be dealt with and what better way to do so than use thousands of your tax dollars to attend conferences such as this recent CCI conference to begin working on the new incoming Commissioners who too will rise to Ms. Hansen's level of imperial knowledge and understanding of all things County Government in order to maintain the status quo should she and other "handlers" in County government have their way.

In Montrose County and I'm sure other counties in the State, dealing with the local "trolls" transcends political and jurisdictional boundaries. Numerous examples exist most prominently with the equally talented, knowledgeable and yes, imperial elected or appointed officials who serve locally on the Montrose City Council, Montrose RE-1J School Board, Montrose Regional Library Board, Project 7 Board and others that impact our daily lives. All I can say is that I and others who bring information to the public that is not disseminated by the local mainstream press and who offer our opinions, based upon years of experience dealing with such matters, will not succumb to the manipulation these elected officials seem hellbent on foisting on the local citizenry nor the belittling of our bona fide opinions on matters that those in these elected official's echo chambers repeatedly try to minimize.

Moving on to the "other worldly" beings manifesting themselves in our community...In case you haven't heard, there was a controversy leading up to this past Saturday's annual City of Montrose Parade of Lights Christmas Parade that centered around the entry of the Montrose Witch Shop (14 N. Townsend Ave.) as a parade

participant. Local business owner, Claire Braddock's entry was, to many, sacrilege as it centered around the Krampus, who, according to central European popular legend, is a half-goat, half-demon monster that punishes misbehaving children at Christmastime. He is the devilish companion of St. Nicholas. Krampus is believed to have originated in Germany, and his name derives from the German word *Krampen*, which means "claw."

In an article published on November 7, 2024, and found on Christianity.com, author Britt Mooney relates that:

"Krampus probably began in pre-Christian Alpine traditions. Connected to winter, he represented the darker and dangerous aspects of nature. In these pagan traditions, he symbolized the wild forces of the cold season, a forest and mountain spirit. Krampus was born from fears tied to the harsh winters. Early myths suggest Krampus acted as a type of winter demon, believed to travel the mountains and forests, punishing those who misbehaved. Ancient folktales often developed myths and figures to scare children into obedience to warn them from dangerous activities.

As Christianity spread in the region, Krampus' image changed. Church leaders first tried to suppress his influence in the medieval period. They associated him with the devil since he had horns and cloven hooves. Despite the church's efforts, his myth became mixed with Christian celebrations, especially in German-speaking areas. By the 1600s, Krampus had a place in St. Nicholas Day festivities on December 5th, also known as Krampus Night. While Santa Claus rewarded good children with treats or gifts, Krampus became a malicious opposite, punishing the bad kids. During Krampusnacht, young men would dress up as Krampus with terrifying masks and parade through town with sticks to scare people.

By the early 20th century, Krampus' image softened, probably because Christmas cards started including him. These postcards, called "Krampuskarten," showed Krampus in more comical ways

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN MONTROSE, COLORADO – CIRCA 2024 *From previous pg*

instead of horrifying. Sometimes, he played pranks or chased children with mischief rather than hurt them. The humorous Krampus spread, giving him a wider appeal. When Austria banned Krampus celebrations after WWI to be more kid-friendly, it backfired. Public fascination only grew.

Today, Krampus symbolizes the winter season's darker folklore. In Austria, Germany, and even in parts of the U.S., Krampus parades celebrate his role.

Like the more traditional idea of St. Nicholas, Krampus teaches the concept of reward and punishment, showing children that misbehavior has consequences. Krampus scares children into following family and community expectations of good behavior.

Krampus reveals the Christmas season isn't all warmth and kindness. Darkness also exists. He serves as a warning that actions have repercussions and choices matter. In the ancient world, evil and supernatural beings also conveyed moral lessons. His chains can be interpreted as bondage to bad decisions, and the birch rod he carries reminds children of the switch parents might use for spankings.

The Bible teaches that our actions have results, both in this life and the next. God speaks of those frightening consequences from his love, to keep us from experiencing them.

Paul writes in [Romans 6:23](#), "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Sin leads to death, even the terror of hell, while the Lord offers a path to life and redemption. [Krampus isn't a symbol of divine justice, but his role points to the punishment waiting those who live in disobedience, as the Bible teaches. Wrong actions lead to unwanted outcomes unless we turn to God for forgiveness.](#)

Since Christianity also includes a counter to God, the Devil, it makes sense that Christianity would adopt Krampus as the opposite of St. Nicholas. Just as Santa Claus rewards the good and Krampus punishes the bad, the Bible shows how God rewards righteousness but allows consequences for sin. "For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his faithful ones. The righteous shall be kept safe forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off." God loves justice, and divine justice is a part of his character and role as supreme

judge." ([What is Krampus? The Story behind The Myth](#))

While I don't know what Ms. Braddock's reasons for entering a "Christian" themed event were (one can speculate, but until she tells us, I won't), but Montrose residents need to understand that since the parade is a City sponsored and financed event and Ms. Braddock is a resident, business owner and taxpayer in Montrose as well as one with the same 1st Amendment free speech rights as the rest of us, until the Christmas parade is paid for strictly through private donations or sponsorships, she and others may participate in this and other City sponsored events without discrimination. It's a Constitutional right and the law. At the end of the day, those who oppose her belief systems are free to boycott or not attend any event that she or those who are like-minded choose to participate in as long as the government has a hand and a checkbook involved in the event.

Our community is made up of many different and unique individuals. Ms. Braddock has now put herself on the local map as one of the more interesting people living in our community. Her Facebook page is filled with positive and negative commentary as well as an introduction into who she is. From a September 2022 post, she states:

"Allow me to introduce myself. I am Claire Braddock. I am known as the Montrose Witch. Known as the Montrose Witch, I furthermore named my shop after me. MONTROSE WITCH Shop. My shop is not named after the town of Montrose, it is named after me being known as and called the Montrose Witch. My shop is not a co-op. It is a witch shop that specializes in witchcraft. Not Halloween, not plastic novelty witch shit, not anything that anyone can buy this time of year at any large corporation store. The majority of inventory in my shop is handcrafted by me and by a select hand chosen few who I have personally invited to be a creator at my shop. My shop is not appropri-

ate for children. Please leave your children at home and do not bring them into my shop."

Ms. Braddock is also the registered owner of Black Canyon Home Health in addition to the Montrose Witch Shop and is known in some circles as Claire E. Yanchunas. A bit of research shows that Blue Raven of Scathach Grove Coven, Wicced Ride, Witches Night Out and HotepWesting are all trade names for businesses, clubs or other entities listed under Ms. Braddock's control. She is the current or former owner of the tradenames (most expired) of these organizations possibly taking advantage of IRS rules and regulations on "religious" organizations (none of these are registered in Colorado as current corporations). Her Facebook page states that membership in the Blue Raven of Scathach Grove Coven [is open only to those who have demonstrated three qualities: magickal prowess, a desire to protect and promote the evolution of the planet, and a devotion to the Blue Raven and its Divine Nature.](#) For the record, Scáthach, (Gaelic: "The Shadowy One"), in Celtic mythology, is a female warrior, especially noted as a teacher of warriors. ([Scáthach | Warrior Queen, Irish Heroine, Celtic Goddess | Britannica](#))

Simply put, it appears that Montrose has a side to it that has laid below the surface but is now coming to light as our population changes. Weird only begins to describe where things have been and apparently are going. Maybe Frank Peretti (look him up) needs to write a book about these things. Oh yeah, he already did! You might want to read it folks. ([This Present Darkness - Wikipedia](#))

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.



Journalism of a
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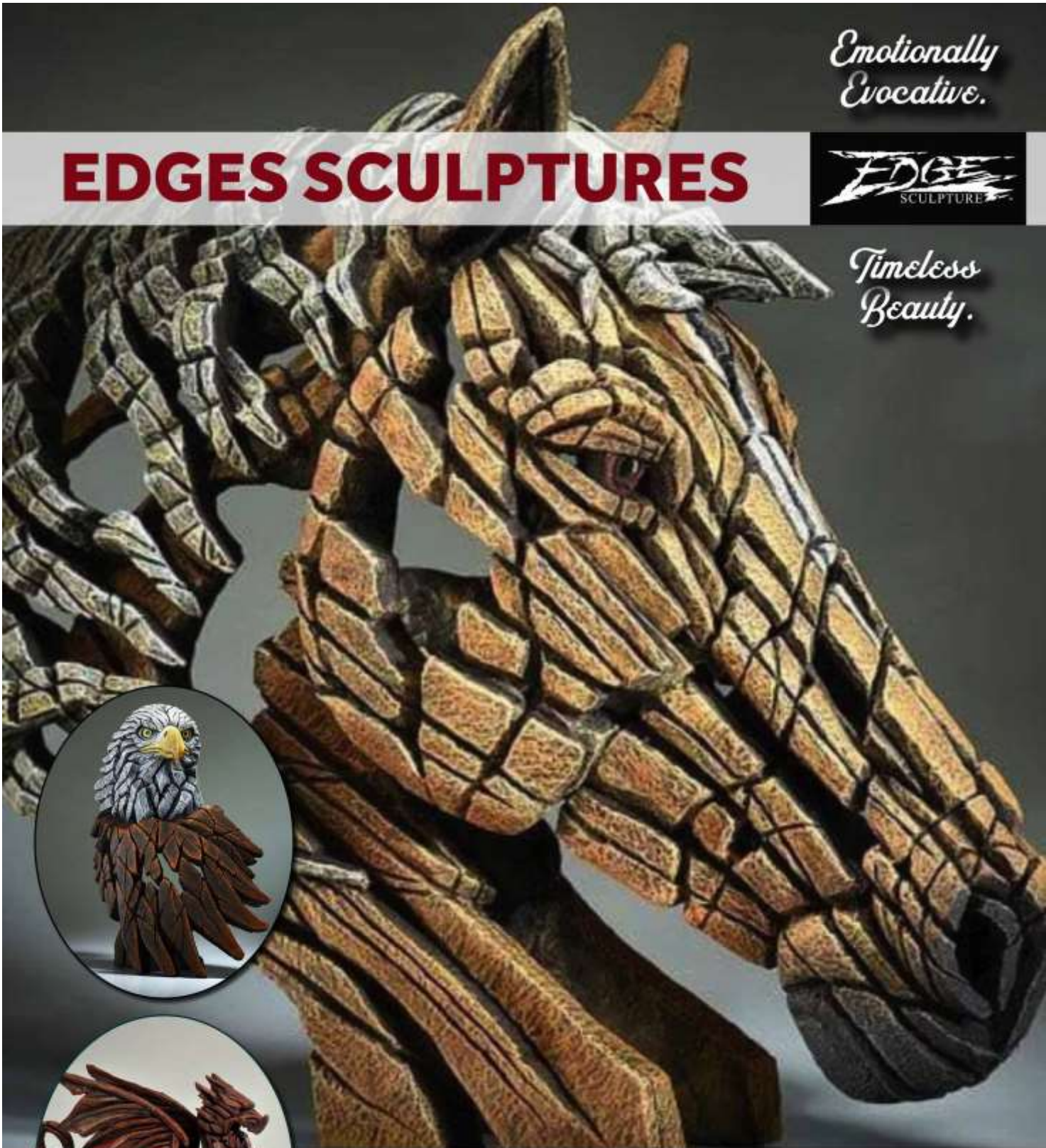
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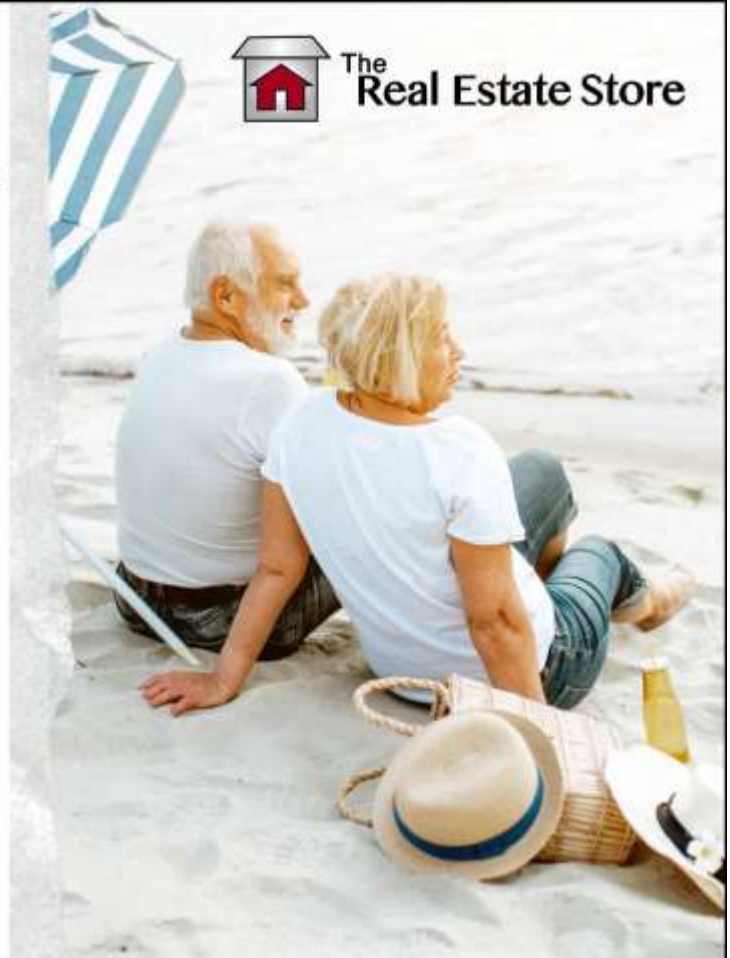
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RESPONSE TO HENRIE'S EDITORIAL IN THE MONTROSE MIRROR, DECEMBER 2, 2024

Editor:

There were too many ridiculous comments to address them all, so I focused on several that were compelling to me.

ED HENRIE: "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.**"

FACTS: On May 17, 2017, Rod J. Rosenstein, Acting Attorney General, requested Special Counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, to conduct an investigation on: (i) any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump; (ii) any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation; and (iii) any other matters within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a) after the FBI gathered a number of reports that Russia was interfering with the election and that Trump's team might be interacting with Russia. Special counsel Mueller's team indicted or secured guilty pleas from 34 people and three companies. **Six of them were former Trump advisers** – five of them plead guilty. *All of Robert Mueller's indictments and plea deals in the Russia investigation*, Andrew Prokop, VOX, December 17, 2019, <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/JU/JU00/20191211/110331/HMKP-116-JU00-20191211-SD942.pdf>

Since the 2016 election, Russia continues to meddle in our elections. It would seem that Americans would embrace an investigation when foreign adversaries appear to be trying to influence us during elections, spreading falsehoods that may drive us toward beliefs and candidates (Trump) that benefit their agenda and determine if anyone within the United States and the political system colluded or sought help from these foreign players.

Here are some findings by experts who have spent years tracking and identifying foreign threats. I won't pretend to be a back seat driver.

Based on the Mueller report which took three and one-half years to complete,

"Russia used Republican operative Paul Manafort, the WikiLeaks website and others to try to influence the 2016 election to help now-U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign." *Factbox: Key findings from Senate inquiry into Russian interference in 2016 U.S. election*, Mark Hoseball, Reuters, August 18, 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/factbox-key-findings-from-senate-inquiry-into-russian-interference-in-2016-us-idUSKCN25E2OY/>.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence provided the most comprehensive assessment of foreign threats to the 2020 election to date including confirmation that "Trump and his closest allies publicly embraced Russia's disinformation campaign against Biden, met with Kremlin-linked figures who were part of the effort and promoted their conspiracy theories." *US intelligence report says Russia used Trump allies to influence 2020 election with goal of 'denigrating' Biden*, Zachary Cohen, Marshall Cohen, and Katelyn Polantz, CNN, March 1, 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/16/politics/us-election-intel-report/index.html>

"U.S. intelligence reveals that Russia-linked influence actors 'are manufacturing videos and creating fake articles to undermine the legitimacy of the election, instill fear in voters regarding the election process, and suggest Americans are using violence against each other due to political preferences,' read the statement issued by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency." *Russia and Iran ramping up influence campaigns targeting U.S. Voters*, federal agencies say, Politics PBS, November 5, 2024, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/russia-and-iran-ramping-up-influence-campaigns-targeting-us-voters-federal-agencies-say>.

On May 29, 2019, Mueller said he did not intend to testify to Congress and explained he did not have the "option" of charging the president with a crime. SOUND FAMILIAR – Trump's 37 felony

counts related to mishandling classified documents and four felony counts for attempts to reverse the 2020 election results leading to an insurrection were dismissed "without prejudice" – not an affirmation he is not guilty but an acknowledgement that a sitting president cannot be prosecuted.

Federal Election Commission complaints were filed based on the **bipartisan** US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence five-volume report, *Russian Active Measures Campaigns and Interference in the 2016 U.S. Election* (Mueller) alleging that Russian interference amounted to impermissible campaign contributions from foreign nationals. The facts before the Commission – "set forth in the Senate Intelligence Committee Report, the Department of Justice Special Counsel's Report On the Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election, federal indictments and trial transcripts, and other findings issued by the U.S. Intelligence Community – overwhelmingly supported the conclusion that the Russian Federation and the Internet Research Agency ('IRA'), a Russian troll farm tied to Russian intelligence, made, and that Donald Trump and his presidential committee ('Trump Committee') knowingly solicited or accepted, prohibited foreign national contributions in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1970, as amended ('FECA' or the 'Act')." *Statement of Reasons of Commissioners Shana M. Broussard and Ellen L. Weintraub*, February 15, 2022, https://www.fec.gov/files/legal/murs/7207/7207_47.pdf

To see a timeline showing interactions of actors with Russia that lead up to Mueller's investigation, see *The Russia probe: A timeline from Moscow to Mueller*, Mike Levine, ABC News, July 23, 2019, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/russia-probe-timeline-moscow-mueller/story?id=57427441>.

ED HENRIE: "Tulsi Gabbard is today experiencing this same thing (Trump investigation.) She left the Democrat party, joined the Republicans, and endorsed Trump."

RESPONSE TO HENRIE'S EDITORIAL IN THE MONTROSE MIRROR, DECEMBER 2, 2024

From Previous pg

FACT: Gabbard targeted? Ridiculous! She endorsed Trump only FOUR months ago (August 2024) and changed from an Independent to a Republican only ONE month (October 2024) before Trump announced he would appoint her director of national intelligence.

Someone else has also demonstrated a dramatic shift like hers. In 2016, JD Vance went "back and forth between thinking Trump is a cynical a-hole like Nixon who wouldn't be that bad (and might even prove useful) or that he's America's Hitler." He changed that view when running for the Senate and received Trump's endorsement in April 2022. Now Vance is Vice President of the United States under Trump and is totally supportive of Trump. Is this a belief in Republican values or just political positioning? If you can't climb one way, why not try another. Sounds like people who are called chameleons who quickly adapt their behavior, speech and appearance to fit in with different social groups or situations.

ED HENRIE: "Suddenly allegations arise that she is a Russian asset and she is put on a TSA watch list."

FALSE: Nope – not suddenly nor "watch list" that infers she was placed on a terrorist list. The things Henrie allege – her supportive stances on Russia and her TSA listing – occurred **before** she endorsed Trump (August 26, 2024) and became a Republican (October 23, 2024.)

On August 4, 2024, it was reported that Gabbard was on a Transportation Security Administration "Quiet Skies" list that prompts additional security screening measures before flights after her overseas travel patterns and foreign connections triggered a government algorithm in that program. She was quickly removed from that list.

TSA's Quiet Skies software program is **not associated with the FBI's terrorist watch** even though Congressman Tim Burchett (Republican) inaccurately stated she was placed on a suspected terrorist watch list. *Trump's national intelligence pick was placed on government watch list for overseas travel and foreign connections*, Katie Bo Lillis, Zachary Cohen and Holmes Lybrand, CNN, November 22, 2024,

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/11/22/politics/tulsi-gabbard-government-watch-list-travel-connections/index.html>

Gabbard's secret trip to meet with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in 2017 at a time when he used chemical warfare on his own people and her support of Russia after it invaded Ukraine (2022) has raised concerns on both sides of the aisle. Recently, Russia media praised Trump's choice, Gabbard.

And, Nikki Haley (Republican,) former UN ambassador during Trump's first term, said: "This is not a place for a Russian, Iranian, Syrian, Chinese sympathizer." *Trump top spy pick faces fresh scrutiny over Syria visit and Russia comments*, Phil McCausland, Kayla Epstein and Rachel Looker, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c14l6jpykmjo>.

ED HENRIE: 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."

FACT: Have we traded a bureaucracy for an autocracy?

1. Trump has named multiple cabinet members whose experience is questionable but whose loyalty is undeniable.
2. Trump has appointed the richest man in the world, Elon Musk, to head up the Department of Government Efficiency. Issues such as those listed here raise the question of how this new position may further expand his wealth and create significant conflicts of interest.

a. Musk has been awarded billions of dollars from the Federal government for SpaceX.

b. Musk's \$147 million dollar investment in Trump's campaign netted him over \$40 billion in increased wealth within days of Trump's election.

c. As the owner of Starlink, if Musk cancels the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which allocates \$42.45 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill to expand high-speed internet access in rural areas, it could provide his product a significant advantage while jeopardizing rural America's access to reliable, reasonably priced Internet

access.

1. Musk not Vance is constantly seen beside Trump making decisions about Trump's actions and cabinet. Even posting a poll on his own platform, X, when he tried to influence Trump to change to Musk's preferred nominee.
2. Trump distanced himself from Project 2025 and now is selecting people for positions in his administration that were architects of that policy.

Biden Grants Pardon to Hunter – Trump Grants Pardon to Charles Kushner

I know Henrie will leap ahead to President Biden pardoning his son, Hunter Biden, in his next editorial. My question is "Why not?" Hunter Biden paid back the taxes he owed, never committed a crime with the firearm he illegally purchased, and has been accused but never convicted of any other crimes. But, as Trump so famously coined the phrase, the "witch hunt" is about to begin for those who have questionably sought to harm him. Hunter Biden is one of many targets. It is reported Hunter Biden made \$5.8 million, more than half his total earnings from 2013 to 2018, from deals with Chinese business interests.

But wait, **Jared Kushner, after he left the White House, started a private equity firm that received a reported \$2 billion investment from the sovereign wealth fund controlled by Prince Mohammed.**

Yes, the same Prince some believe approved the 2018 killing of Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident and Washington Post columnist. **KUSHNER WINS.** Shouldn't he be investigated for using his connection to Trump for his own financial gains?

And what about Donald and Ivanka Trump? Between September and November 2018, the Chinese government granted 18 trademarks to companies linked to President Donald Trump and his daughter Ivanka Trump. In 2018, including these, China's Trademark Office granted 34 total trademarks to them. Has any investigation been made whether President Trump made foreign policy decisions in the interest of his and his family's businesses?

When you look at Trump pardoning Charles Kushner, Ivanka Trump's father-in-law, in December 2020, how is it different

RESPONSE TO HENRIE'S EDITORIAL IN THE MONTROSE MIRROR, DECEMBER 2, 2024

From Previous pg

from Biden's pardon? Oh, Biden said he wouldn't pardon his son. With the political climate in Washington, D.C. and Trump's vow of revenge against his opponents, who can blame Biden for this reversal. And, what did Kushner do that prompted Trump to pardon him? Kushner is a convicted felon who plead guilty to **18 counts of tax evasion, witness tampering, and making illegal campaign donations.**

Chris Christie, who prosecuted the case, said Kushner's offenses were "one of the most loathsome, disgusting crimes that I prosecuted when I was U.S. attorney." Kushner hired a prostitute to lure his brother-in-law to a motel room to record him with a hidden camera and sent the recording to his sister. Why? Because his brother-in-law was cooperating with federal investigators.

Well now that he's pardoned, Trump plans to appoint him U.S. Ambassador to France? Is there any question about his pardon or his appointment to a cushy job? NO! Guess hiring a hooker (witness tampering) and tax evasion doesn't matter here. In addition, Trump has selected billionaire Massad Boulos, father-in-law of Trump's daughter Tiffany, to serve as senior advisor on Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs.

Is this nepotism (hiring family members rather than qualified candidates) or just establishing a monarchy?

Unsupported Ranting and Mudslinging Continues

Finally, here are some of Henrie's rants and mudslinging comments in his latest editorial – unsupported and hurtful. Again, is he unable to provide clear, concise reasons for his statements so instead he reverts to destructive narrative? I chose not to address these ridiculous comments!

- 1.Criminal behavior on part of Clinton campaign, the FBI, and journalists.
- 2.Biden and son travel the world committing treason by accepting million-dollar payoffs from our enemies.
- 3.Biden can illegally open our borders.
- 4.Biden can invite a nuclear war.
- 5.Bill Clinton having sex with Monica Lewinsky and taking multiple trips to Epstein's island.
- 6.Harris succeeded by sleeping with Willy Brown.
- 7.Democrats are controlled by radical leftists.
- 8.Democrats' tactic is to divide America into smaller groups of victims and oppressors and turn us against each other.
- 9.Joy Behar and her moonbats on the View are agents of racial hatred and division of the most toxic kind spewing endless vitriol against anything conservative.
- 10.Never have to hear Kamala's cackle again.
- 11.Media are Trumpderanged hate-mongers.
- 12.if Kamala had . . . Gestapo-like lawfare perpetrated against political opponents.
- 13.Wokeness and DEI are national-destroying catastrophes.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:COMMENTARY

2025 WILL BRING NEW LAWS INTO OUR WORLD *Colorado Legislators Contribute to Inflation and More Loss of our Freedom*

By David White

The start of a new year means a new set of laws go into effect in Colorado, the majority of which were passed during the 2024 legislative session. Local communities share in enforcement of the new laws but also make their own.

The following are new State laws that go into effect on January 1, 2025:

1. All eggs sold in Colorado must be from cage-free hens

A law passed in 2020 requires that all eggs sold in the state must be from hens housed in cage-free facilities by Jan. 1, 2025. The law also requires producers to have one square foot of floor space per hen. Farms with fewer than 3,000 hens are exempt from the law. Producers who do not adhere to the new rules can be fined up to \$1,000 by the Department of Agriculture.

(If you thought inflation was going to subside, think again. If you don't think this will cause a huge increase in the price of eggs, you're in for a surprise!)

2. Using a phone while driving will be illegal

While Colorado drivers under the age of 18 were already prohibited from using a cellular device while driving, a new law will expand those rules to drivers of all ages, requiring the use of a hands-free device when making phone calls while driving.

There are several exceptions to the law, such as in emergencies or by first responders.

First-time offenders will be fined \$75, with penalties increasing upon each subsequent offense. Two points will also be deducted from an offender's driver's license.

3. Updates to car seat rules

The General Assembly passed a bill during the 2024 legislative session making changes to the state's rules around car seats for infants and children, which will go into effect in 2025. *The bill increases the age that a child is required to be in a booster seat from 8 to 9 years old and raises the age and weight of children who must be*

in rear-facing car seats from under 1 year to under 2 years old and from under 20 pounds to under 40 pounds.

4. Guns must be securely stored in vehicles when left unattended

Starting next year, any handguns left inside an unoccupied vehicle must be stored in a locked hard-sided container out of plain sight. The vehicle must also be locked while unattended.

Other firearms can be stored in soft-sided containers, as long as the weapon has a locking device.

There are some exceptions to the law, including for antique firearms, law enforcement officers, and people who live in RVs.

(All I can say is: Watch out folks! This has the potential to be a set up for you losing your firearm as well as facing big fines!)

5. Minimum wage is increasing

Colorado's minimum wage will increase from \$14.42 per hour to \$14.81 per hour next year, while the wage for tipped workers will increase from \$11.40 per hour to \$11.79 per hour.

The state's minimum wage increases each year based on the consumer price index. *(If you thought inflation was going to subside, think again. The small business owner is going to get hit hard. Prices MUST rise to compensate for this government mandate.)*

6. Ban on "forever chemicals" in cosmetics and furniture

During the 2022 legislative session, lawmakers passed House Bill 1345, which prohibits the sale of certain items that contain harmful perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals, also known as PFAS or "forever chemicals" because they can last for centuries in the environment.

The first stage of the law went into effect last year, banning the use of PFAS in items like rugs, food packaging, and products meant for children. The next phase of the law will go into effect in 2025 and will apply to cosmetics, furniture, towels, and bedding.

7. Increased protections for minor workers

Last session, lawmakers passed House Bill 1095, modernizing the state's youth employment laws by increasing penalties for violating the Colorado Youth Employment Opportunity Act of 1971 and requiring employers who violate the act to pay damages to the affected minors. The law goes into effect on January 1.

8. Protection orders for victims of crimes

Also going into effect on Jan. 1 is 2024's House Bill 1122, which strengthens and clarifies the procedures and protections associated with civil protection orders in Colorado. The law allows protection orders to be filed in any county where the alleged harmful behavior occurred, permits judges to extend temporary protection orders for up to a year after the scheduled hearing for a permanent order, and requires individuals involved in cases of domestic violence that include physical threats or force to relinquish all firearms.

9. Minor autopsy report release requirements

Under 2024's House Bill 1244, starting Jan. 1, 2025, autopsy reports for the death of a minor are confidential and can only be disclosed in specific situations and to certain individuals. The law clarifies that autopsy reports for minors are not considered public records under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

10. Higher damage limit for tort actions

House Bill 1472, signed into law last summer, raises the cap on damages for noneconomic loss or injury from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million starting next year, with adjustments for inflation every two years after 2028.

The law also includes siblings in the list of individuals allowed to sue for wrongful death and imposes a wrongful death damages cap of \$2.125 million, with adjustments for inflation every two years after 2028.

Medical malpractice and wrongful death damages will also be incrementally increased starting in the New Year to reach \$1.575 million by 2030 with biennial inflation adjustments thereafter.

2025 WILL BRING NEW LAWS INTO OUR WORLD From previous pg

(This one is long overdue. Nursing homes, assisted living centers, memory care providers and others have gotten away with literal murder for years and will now become more accountable for putting profits before people!)

Other laws that go into effect on January 1, 2025:

-[HB24-1248](#) – Non-Testamentary Electronic Estate Planning Docs (better get your will updated!)

-[HB24-1258](#) – Credit Covered Person Expenses Insurer Insolvency

-[HB24-1321](#) – Insurance Holding Company Model Regulation

-[HB24-1342](#) – Test Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

-[SB24-024](#) – Local Lodging Tax Reporting on Sales Return

-[SB24-026](#) – Agriculture & Natural Resources Public Engagement Requirement

-[SB24-093](#) – Continuity of Health-Care Coverage Change

-[SB24-167](#) – Training for Entry-Level Health-Care Workers

The source for most of the above article comes from Colorado Politics. See:

[Colorado laws that go into effect Jan. 1: Here's what to expect | Legislature | coloradopolitics.com](#)

As a friend of mine said to me in a recent email:

As one founder of this Republic wrote: *“In questions of power, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.”* Thomas Jefferson

Enough said!

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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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CIEL BOTTOMLY

April 4, 1942 - November 11, 2024

CIEL HEIM BOTTOMLY passed away peacefully on November 11, 2024, at Colorow Care Center, Olathe, Colorado.

Ciel was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 4, 1942. She is survived by her husband, Bill Bottomly of Montrose, her son Charles (Charley) Freeman Burch, of Colorado Springs, and her daughter, Mielle Rose Bottomly, also of Montrose.

A love of all the arts was infused in Ciel by her parents, and throughout her life she nurtured that love in many ways. Her photographic, watercolor, performing, and written art enriched her and those around her.

She graduated from High School in Waukesha, Wisconsin in 1960, and the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1964, with a degree in Education and Drama. After graduation, she worked in the New England states in a variety of jobs until moving to Prince Frederic, Maryland, where she began a 12-year love affair with teaching special education, pre-school, elementary, middle, junior high, and high school students. She spent most of her teaching career in Vinton and Roanoke, Virginia, where her son and daughter were born, and where she

and Bill met.

Ciel ended her 12-year teaching career in June, 1977, when she, Charley, and Mielle migrated to Denver, Colorado, where Bill had taken a job with the Bureau of Land Management. She taught at a pre-school and worked in restaurants in Denver. They were married there on November 10, 1979, shortly before they moved to Montrose, Colorado.

In Montrose, Ciel taught pre-school at the former Tiny Tots. She also became active with the Magic Circle Players theatre company (MCP), where she performed and directed for many years.

Her first role with MCP was "Golda" in *Fiddler on the Roof*, in the early 1980s. She also enticed Bill, Charley, and Mielle into many MCP projects. One of the highlights of her theatrical art was when she and Co-Director Dr. Richard Shannon in 1999 took 32 actors from Montrose to England to perform *Guys and Dolls* in Christchurch. She and Bill also worked on, and performed, in many productions together over the years. In 1984 Ciel earned her Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, and started her 30-



plus years career as a mental health counselor.. She retired in 2015. The family requests that those wishing to, please consider making a donation to the Care Giver Support Foundation that Bill helped found at <https://family-caregiver.org> in her name, or to your favorite charity. A celebration of her life will be held at a time and place to be announced.

CIEL BOTTOMLY CELEBRATION OF LIFE DECEMBER 14, 2024

Bill Bottomly, Mielle Rose Bottomly, and Charles Freeman Burch wish to announce that a celebration of the life of Ciel Bottomly, who died November 11, 2024 at Colorow Care Center in Olathe, Colorado, will be held at the Crippin Funeral Home Chapel, 802 East Main Street, Montrose, Colorado, on December 14, 2024, at 11 AM. A reception will be held at Ted's Steakhouse, 103 Rose Ln, Montrose, Colorado, immediately after the celebration. Friends and associates of Ciel and the family are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, if desired, please make a donation in Ciel's name to [Family-caregiver.org](https://family-caregiver.org), a local foundation Bill is associated with.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

HARTLEY HARVEY BLOOMFIELD ***November 6, 1940 — December 3, 2024***



HARTLEY HARVEY BLOOMFIELD passed away peacefully at the age of 84 on December 3, 2024 in Montrose Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family.

Hartley was born in Grand Junction, Colorado on November 6, 1940 to Hartley Jackson Bloomfield and Margaret Elizabeth Scott. The early years of Hartley’s life were largely impacted by his family experiences and history growing up on the Bloomfield homestead and in the Meeker, Colorado area. After graduating from Rio Blanco County High School in 1958, he attended Western State University for a

year before transferring to Brigham Young University. Hartley graduated from BYU with a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Philosophy.

In December 1966, Hartley met his beloved wife, Lynn Chamberlin-Bloomfield. They were married on June 3, 1967 at the Methodist Church in Meeker, Colorado. Together, they raised two children in Meeker, Colorado and enjoyed 57 years of marriage.

Hartley was elected as the County Assessor for Rio Blanco County in 1974 and served the residents in that position for 12 years. Additionally, he was appointed by Governor Lamb to the Advisory Committee to the State Property Tax Administrator for eight consecutive years. In 1991, Hartley relocated to Phoenix, Arizona where he worked at REI for three years. Afterwards, Hartley moved back to Colorado, settling in the Town of Norwood in 1999 where he lived for 17 years. He worked for the San Miguel County Assessor’s Office until he retired in 2005. After retiring, Hartley provided private appraisal services for three years. At the age of 76, Hartley migrated to Montrose, Colorado where he lived to the present.

Throughout his life, Hartley was an active member in many groups and organizations including the Northwest Colorado Advisory Committee for Bureau of Land

Management, Historical Society of Rio Blanco County, Meeker Chapter of the Colorado Archeology Society, Meeker Native Plant Society, Meeker Public Library Board, Norwood Lone Cone Public Library Board, Old-Timers Association in Rio Blanco County, and the Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center and Public Lands Information Center.

Hartley is preceded in death by his father, Hartley Jackson Bloomfield (April 17, 1914 - November 9, 1983), mother, Margaret Elizabeth Scott (April 24, 1918 - July 27, 2015), and brother, Robert Charles Bloomfield (May 3, 1934 - January 20, 2008). Hartley is survived by his wife, Lynn Chamberlin-Bloomfield of Montrose, Colorado, his son, Hartley (Scott) Bloomfield, daughter-in-law Laurie Bloomfield both of Fernley, Nevada, and daughter, Margery Bloomfield-Huebner, and son-in-law, John Huebner both of Norwood, Colorado, grandchildren, Ariel Bloomfield of Fresno, California, Sienna Huebner-Mims and spouse Lana Huebner-Mims of West Palm Beach, Florida, Bryce Bloomfield and spouse Mariah Lopez-Bloomfield both of Fernley, Nevada, and Sisily Huebner of Raleigh, North Carolina. He was the proud great grandfather to Layne Bloomfield of Fernley, Nevada. He was loved and cherished by them all and his memory will continue through the love he radiated.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

E. RICHARD HALE

July 26, 1930 — November 21, 2024



RICHARD HALE passed away peacefully early Thursday morning, November 21, at home with his wife Joan "Joann" and one son, Rick, present with him. He was 94 years old.

Richard was born in Decatur, IL to Elmer and Florence Hale on July 26, 1930. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Tustin, CA. in search of work during the difficulties of the Depression. Richard grew up in Tustin until he joined the Navy at 17 years old where he served in Pensacola, FL for four years.

After his service, Richard returned to Tustin, CA and worked a few years for Douglas Aircraft. After a layoff at Douglas, he began his lifelong career as a journeyman pipefitter for commercial sprinkler systems. During this time, he met his foreman's daughter and future wife "Joann." They were married in Las Vegas, NV on November 17, 1956. They were the perfect couple, enjoying 68 years of marriage.

Richard and Joan had four children: daughter Lori (who passed away shortly after birth), identical twin boys Ronny and Ricky, and daughter Susan.

Richard and Joan lived for 26 years in Costa Mesa, CA, afterwards retiring to Cedaredge, CO in

1990, and then to Montrose, CO in 2001.

Richard was a strong and hard worker – a responsible, "salt of the earth" type of person. Richard was easy-going, cheerful, self-sufficient individual typical of the era that he grew up in. Richard was respected by those he worked with and loved by his entire family. He was a true gift to all who knew him.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Florence, daughter Lori, his brother Clifford, sister Margie (Jerry), brother Hank (Wanda), sister Enid (Bert).

Richard is survived by his wife "Joann," sister Linda (Dan), son Ron (Doris), son Rick (Julie), daughter Susan, grandchildren James, Maggie, Thomas (Lydia), Ashley, Connor, and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held in the Crippin Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 3pm.

JOSEPH MARTIN HUGHES

April 23, 1943 — December 1, 2024

JOSEPH MARTIN HUGHES, 81, raised in Dorchester, South Boston, long time resident of Belvidere and Wheaton, IL more recently of Montrose, CO, passed away peacefully on December 1, 2024 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was the beloved husband of the late Josephine "Josie" Hughes and current husband of Romagean Personne Hughes; loving father of Joseph Jr. (Michelle), Cynthia (Gideon) Schlessinger, James (Debi), Timothy, Kathleen (Adam) Greetis, and Brian; proud grandfather of Alexandra, Jackson, Matthew, Harrison, Emilia, Elena, Orly, Jordan, Jameson Patrick "JP", McKaileigh, Charlotte "Charlie", Daniel, Abigail, Martin, Sean, William, Ellis, Josie, and Maddy; dear brother of Bill (Pat), Tom (Joanne), Mary (the late George), and Leo (Carol), adored uncle of many nieces & nephews. Visitation Sunday, December 8, 2024, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Hultgren Funeral Home, 304 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL 60187. A funeral mass will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Daniel the Prophet Catholic Church, 101 W. Loop Rd, Wheaton, IL 60189. Interment with military honors will follow at St. Michael Cemetery in Wheaton, IL. Memorial gifts may be directed to the American Cancer Society.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BETTY LOU HENDERSON

September 28, 1930 — November 15, 2024

Betty was born on September 28, 1930, in Minot, North Dakota to Thomas & Helen Lauder. She was the youngest of three children, with two older siblings, Benita and Harry. She married Rex Lombardi, and together they had four children, Rex Daniel, Cheryl Daylene, Adina Rae, and Rexanne (Rikki).

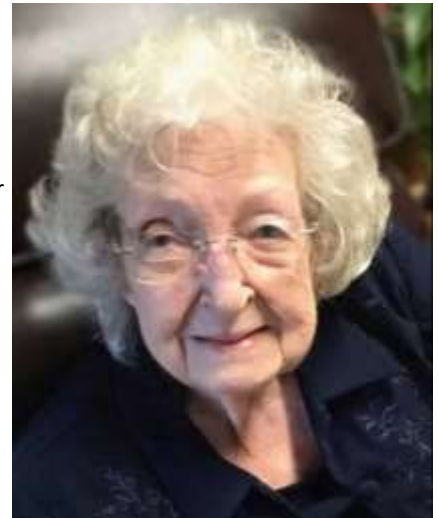
Betty dedicated her life to Jehovah and was baptized on May 8, 1953. She loved all of Jehovah's creations but had a special place in her heart for dogs, hummingbirds and of course her large loving family. Betty was loved and appreciated by many in the various congregations she was part of throughout her life.

Her career in the airline industry allowed her to travel extensively, which she greatly enjoyed, often allowing her to attend Conventions in other countries, including Russia.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her siblings, three of her children, and two grandchildren. She is survived by her daughter Rexanne (Rikki), and 11 grandchildren, and several great grandchildren.

The service will be held December 14, 2024, at 1:00 pm at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 16672 Woodgate Road, Montrose.

A heartfelt thank you to all. We appreciate the love and support shown to us during this difficult time.



CYRIL W. SCHULZ

November 1, 1949 — November 16, 2024



CYRIL W. SCHULZ, age 75, passed away on November 16, 2024, at Horizon Care Center. He was a beloved member of the Montrose community, residing in the Montrose area for past 37 years.

Born on November 1, 1949, in Buckeye, Arizona, Cyril graduated from Buckeye High School. He dedicated his life to his passions as a woodworker, radiator repair specialist, and dairy farmer. Cyril found joy in woodworking, gardening, and taking long drives with his family. He was known for his cheerful presence in his workshop, always immersed in a project. He was also a proud member of Celebration Church in Montrose, serving the Lord alongside his beloved church Family.

Cyril is predeceased by his cherished wife, Connie Mae Schulz (Constance Moses). He is survived by his children: Brian Schulz and his wife Jamie, Nathan Schulz and his wife Staci, Katie Mewes and her husband Adam, and Molly Mulkey and her husband Travis. He is also survived by his brother, Jody Schulz; sisters, Glenda McMillen and Lynn Schulz; eight loving grandchildren; and two adored great-grandchildren.

Cyril bravely struggled with Alzheimer's disease for several years. He now rests in peace with his Lord and Savior, free from his burdens.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date and time, honoring the remarkable life of Cyril W. Schulz.

ISSUE 498 Dec. 9, 2024

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE WITH WENDY VIDELOCK

Why Tradition, Ritual and Ceremony?



By Wendy Vidlock
PALISADE-Winter is the season steeped, not only in celebration, but in silence, stillness, ritual and introspection.

I've been thinking a lot lately about

tradition and ceremony, which seem to stand at the very center of what it means to be human.

When I was eleven and my grandfather, whom I cherished, died, the sense of loss was dizzying. The ground beneath my feet became suddenly unstable. One's first real encounter with mortality is often like that—and often memorable. On my mother's return from the funeral, I vividly recall her announcing we would plant an evergreen in his honor. She gathered us all together.

It was a tiny sapling and it was handled with great care by my father. The very act of digging a small hole in the yard, of carefully placing the tiny rootball into the earth, of tamping down and sprinkling water over the soil, somehow restored in me a sense of grounding, a sense of footing, a sense of meaning.

This was my first real experience of ceremony, which seems to provide we humans not only comfort, but also something meaningful (and spiritually symbolic), for the hands to do. The physical act of planting and nurturing the soil runs

deep in the human experience and seems to be written into our DNA—and woven into our very souls.

Getting knocked off our feet by loss is an ongoing part of being human, which is why we seem to require ongoing forms of ceremony to walk with us throughout our lives.

Professor of archaeology Michelle Langley tells us, "Ritual behavior has very deep origins in humanity. Thus far, the best evidence for ancient rituals is the deliberate burial of loved ones. The oldest example is found at Mt Carmel in Israel, where some 130,000 years ago a Neanderthal woman was ceremonially laid to rest by her community."

This helps explain why our ceremonies remain important. It connects us to our ancestors, reminding us of the cyclical nature of life on earth, whether we're in the throes of celebration, or in the difficult grip of grief.

Perhaps ritual helps move us through life's transition with renewed grace, gratitude and communion.

A couple of months ago I attended a friend's 70th birthday party. At one point she asked anybody over the age of 70 to come to the front of the room. What followed was a very simple ceremony in which my friend, holding a candle, crossed a threshold and was welcomed into a new stage of life by those who had crossed that threshold before her.

I was deeply moved—and also delighted

by how lovely and vibrant each of the elders were. It was all the more wonderful that this impromptu ceremony was done alongside the traditional blowing out of candles on the birthday cake. I couldn't help notice both traditions involved a little fire, a little intention and a little humor. These "threshold" ceremonies are known as initiations, or *rites of passage*, from which we get the word *ritual*.

The rite of passage is above all a recognition, a narrowing, a widening

a deepening of that which is earned, granted or denied. A bird can clear the windowsill

from the inside, given the window is made to open. It all depends

upon the lighting of a candle or the nature of the feather—how a rite of passage will

or will not change your life forever.

In our times, initiations, or rites of passage ceremonies include weddings, bar and bat mitzvah, quinceanera, baptisms, graduations, communions, retirement celebrations, inaugurations and memorials.

Continued next pg

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE WITH WENDY VIDELOCK From previous pg

Rumspringa is an Amish rite of passage in which adolescents are given the opportunity to engage in rebellious behavior before deciding whether to commit to the Amish faith or move in another direction.

The pilgrimage is another kind of rite of passage. Examples would be Christians and spiritual seekers who walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain, Jews who travel to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, Muslims who journey to Mecca, Hindus and Buddhists who journey to the river Ganges, and Japanese school children who travel to Kyoto as initiation into Japan's rich cultural and historical heritage.

Another kind of recurring ritual is seasonal. Examples would be Solstice celebrations, Christmas, Harvest festivals, Thanksgiving, Day of the Dead, Halloween, and Equinox celebrations.

Here in agricultural Western Colorado, our yearly celebrations revolve entirely around harvest time, from the peach and wine festivals in Palisade to the Apple Fest

in Cedaredge to the Strawberry Fest in the Roaring Fork Valley to the Corn Fest in Olathe, to the Fruita Fall Festival, to the pumpkin patches across the region.

Several years ago while hiking with another couple, we came upon a glistening spot where two streams merged together. Our friends told us that at every confluence they encounter, they stop to renew their wedding vows. They invited us to do the same. And so we did. And so we do.

There's something wonderful about bringing such practices into our lives, whether we are renewing vows, giving thanks, or lighting a candle for a loved one.

And then there are the daily rituals I myself couldn't live without. A daily ritual can be as simple as preparing and enjoying a cup of tea, sitting for meditation or prayer, gratitude practices, the reading or writing of poetry, journaling, the morning walk, the evening filling of the birdbaths.

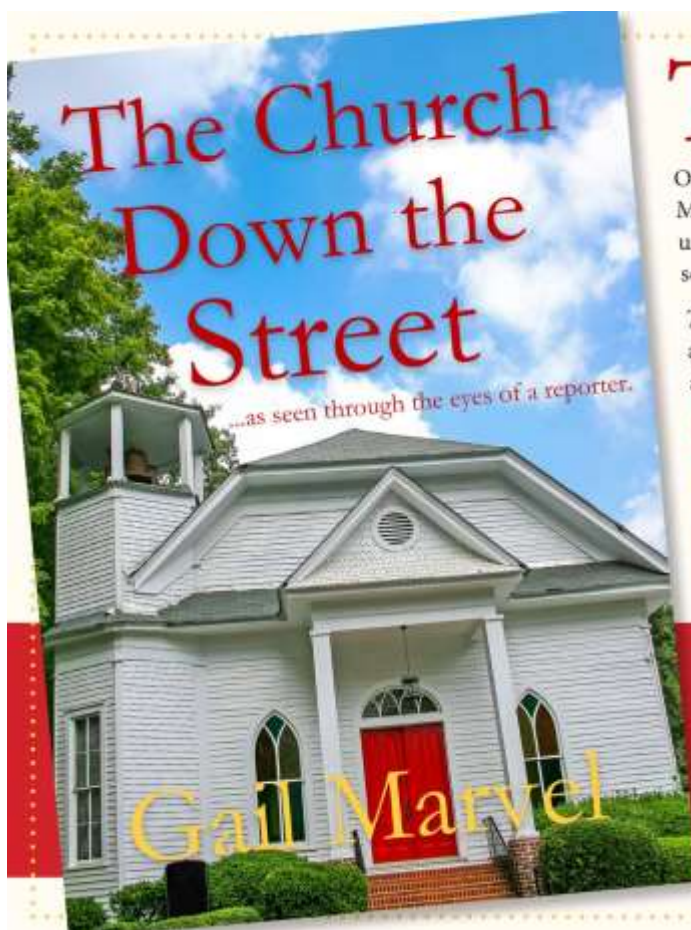
It's the simple things that can become

beautiful, ceremonial and yes, even sacred, if we do them with attention and intention. I don't know about you but I can use all the help I can get to get out of the monkey-mind and into the breathing body.

The body has its own language, which seems remarkably fluent in sense, sensibility, calm and intuition.

*This morning in the shower
the water was not a means to an end
or a place where over and over
and over again
one worries and plans and frets,
but rather the water
was water
and I earth, and water's daughter.*

Wendy Vidlock of Palisade is an arts advocate, award-winning author and currently serves as poet laureate of Western Colorado. Reach her at westernslopeword@gmail.com



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH THANKFUL FOR COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Montrose Seventh-day Adventist Church is overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible generosity shown by the community during this year's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thanks to the community's support, the church provided for 65 families in need.

This year, volunteers from the church handed out 2,300 bags and then collected the bags of non-perishable food items left outside homes across the community the following week. The response was overwhelming and provided for families in need.

This heartwarming tradition has been an example of the church's mission for over 41 years, with Judy Kelly and Jerilyn Pester faithfully leading the effort for more than 30 of those years. Their dedication, combined with the kindness of donors, has made a profound impact on countless lives. "Thank you to the community who gave generously," shared Jerilyn Pester. "Not only will it make Thanksgiving possible for these families, but it's about a week's worth of groceries."

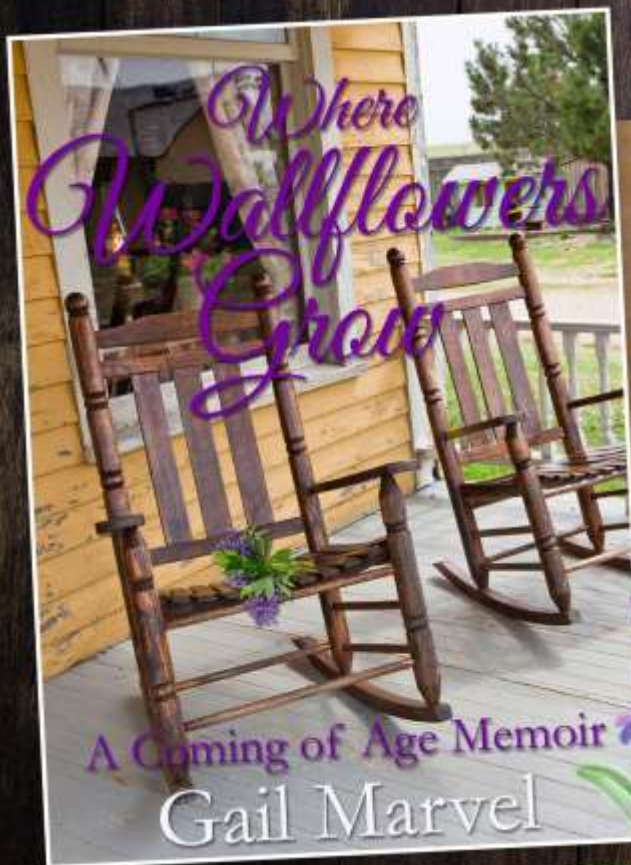
Each bag was thoughtfully prepared to ensure families had all the essentials needed for a holiday meal—including in-

gredients for staples like green bean casserole—along with other groceries to sustain them beyond Thanksgiving.

The church recognizes this would not have been possible without the support and donations from individuals and families throughout Montrose. Your contributions brought comfort, hope, and nourishment to families during this season.

To all who donated, volunteered, or prayed, the Montrose Seventh-day Adventist Church extends its heartfelt thanks.

Your kindness and generosity exemplify the true spirit of Thanksgiving.



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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





The Montrose Community Band
 invites you to the
22nd Annual Holiday Concert

WINTER WONDERLAND

December 22, 2024
 3:00pm
 Montrose Pavilion
 Free Admission



montroseband.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-

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist
 112Main St.
 P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021
www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

Website: [https://
 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 5th grade)
 programs offered both services.

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

Denomination Affiliation: Non-
 denominational Christian Church/Church
 of Christ

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-
 noon and by appointment.

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

Mission: Christ's Church of the Valley is a
 loving and welcoming church whose pur-
 pose is to help people to know and grow

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

Description: CCV is a multi-generational
 church family. While we are currently pre-
 dominately seniors, we are becoming
 more multi-generational.

Sunday School & Childcare: CCV has
 adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Youth
 Church during the 10:30 a.m. worship
 service.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,

office@ccfmontrose.net,

www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

Worship service times. 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, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook
Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-appropriate children's ministry during adult worship.
 Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM
 Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

Contact: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com, www.fpcmontrose.com
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo
Worship Service times: 9:30AM, *We strive to encourage, challenge and*

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ
Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401
Office hours: By appointment
Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047
 Email address: office@montroseucc.org
 Website: montroseucc.org
Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd
Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.
 Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)
 We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox
Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.
Worship Services: The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

roseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
Worship service times:
 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual
 9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship
 11 a.m. Sanctuary
Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures.
Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information:
 Phone: 970.249.4887
 website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
 email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.
Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.
We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*
We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

<p>Church Directory Mirror Editorial Staff MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following</p>	<p>information to the Montrose Mirror: Name of church Denomination affiliation Address Office hours Contact information (phone number, email address, website) Name of current Senior Pastor Worship service times</p>	<p>Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community. Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles). Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?</p>
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CAROLE ANN MCKELVEY'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN CRAVINGS: *Chili's ready to serve you Tex-Mex & Oh, those ribs . . .*



MONTROSE – Chili's in Montrose has been a go-to staple ever since they opened. The other night my son, Ian, and I decided to grab a bit for dinner. Now, if you have trouble with long menus be forewarned. There are a lot of choices here. I wasn't particularly hungry, so decided to have a Caesar salad, oh and with a margarita please, my son is driving. I thought of ordering a Quesadilla Explosion Salad, but with more than 1,000 calories for a salad?! No thanks!

Ian chose to order a "big mouth" burger with pulled pork and a Coke. We also were ordering for my teen-age grandchild, who didn't want to come with us. Teenagers!

The teen was ordered a half order of those baby back ribs and fries; to arrive packaged before we left.

My salad arrived in all its glory with crunchy lettuce and veggies and croutons. Yummy!

Seems I was hungrier than I thought so I helped Ian with his fries. He pronounced the pulled pork/burger "okay," but nothing spectacular. Chili's is a good restaurant if you have a favorite meal here. Nothing too spectacular.

But the menu has almost anything you would expect from this nation-wide chain.

Appetizers: From \$5.29-12.99

Crispy Asparagus; Regular & Spicy Loaded Boneless Wings; White Spinach Queso; Crispy Cheddar Bites; Fried Pickles; Triple Dipper Combination of 3 appetizers; Chips & Salsa; Texas Cheese Fries Full; Classic Nachos; Classic Nachos with Fajita Chicken or Beef; Fresh Guacamole; Signature Wings; Signature Boneless Wings;

Salads, Soups, & Chilis: \$4.99-10.99

House Salad; Quesadilla Explosion Salad; Santa Fe Chicken Salad; Boneless Buffalo Chicken Salad; Caribbean Salad With Grilled Chicken; Caribbean Salad with Grilled Shrimp; Grilled Chicken Salad; Soup & House Salad; Sandwiches & Handhelds, served with homestyle fries; Bacon Avocado Chicken Sandwich; Buffalo Chicken Ranch Sandwich;

Craft Burgers Served with House-Made Garlic Dill Pickles & Homestyle Fries: \$9.59-14.99

Southern Smokehouse Burger; Big Mouth Bites;

Lighter Fare: \$10.99-14.99

Ancho Salmon; 6 oz Sirloin with Grilled Avocado; Mango Chile Chicken; Grilled Chicken Salad; Margarita Grilled Chicken;

Fajitas & Enchiladas: \$11.49-16.99

Mix and Match Fajitas; Mix and Match Fajita Trio; Beef Enchiladas; Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas;

Fresh Mex Bowls: \$10.99-11.49

Prime Rib Fresh Mex Bowl; Chipotle Chicken Fresh Mex Bowl;

Burritos: \$10.99

Smothered Prime Rib Burrito;

Tacos & Quesadillas: \$10.99

Ranchero Chicken Tacos; Spicy Shrimp Tacos;

Ribs & Steaks Chicken & Seafood: \$11.29-19.99

Cajun Chicken Pasta; Crispy Honey-



Chipotle Crispers; Original Chicken Crispers; 6 Oz. Classic Sirloin* With Grilled Avocado; Classic Ribeye; Classic Sirloin* – 10oz; Classic Sirloin* – 6oz; Honey-Chipotle Full Order Ribs; Honey-Chipotle Half Order Ribs;

House BBQ Full Order Ribs'; House BBQ Half Order Ribs; Mix & Match Ribs; Original Full Order Ribs; Original Half Order Ribs; Texas Dry Rub Full Order Ribs; Texas Dry Rub Half Order Ribs

Lunch Combos: \$7.49-9.00

Lunch Combo – Fajitas; Big Mouth Bites; Mini Burgers; Chipotle Chicken Fresh Mex Bowl;

Desserts: \$7.29

Molten Chocolate Cake; Skillet Chocolate Chip Cookie; Cheesecake

Kids Menu: \$4.99

Each comes with choice of entree, side, and drink: Pizza Pepperoni; Mac & Cheese; Pepper Pals Grilled Cheese Sandwich; Pepper Pals Cheese Quesadilla; Pepper Pals Crispy Chicken Crispers; Pepper Pals Grilled Chicken Bites; Pepper Pals Cheese Burger Bites.

Chili's is located at 1431 Ogden Rd, Montrose, CO 81401; call (970) 249-7160. Hours: Mon – Sat. 11 am – 10 pm; Sunday, 11 am to 10 pm. Happy hour drinks Mon-Fri. 3 pm-6 pm; Saturday and Sunday, all day.

SHAFFER
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WOMENS' GIVING CLUB OF MONTROSE DONATES TO KIN CONNECT

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Women's Giving Club of Montrose is pleased to announce their most recent donation of \$13,400. The recipient, decided at their 4th quarterly meeting on November 7, is Kin Connect, part of Foster Connections, a child placement agency. Kin Connect helps non-parental family members who are caring for children. They are not funded by the State and these family members often need help with essential items for these kids. Rebekah Lansdown and Kyli Rodgers spoke on behalf of the organization.

Two other organizations were drawn and made presentations: 1. MADA (Mexican American Development Association), represented by their Executive Director, Bethany Maher. MADA provides services to elderly, disabled and low-income community members. 2. Kids Aid, with Sharon Seaton and Shannon Stogdill speaking on their behalf, addresses kids with food insecurity by sending food home in backpacks on weekends. They have served 309 kids this year.

The winner from the third quarter, Rotary's Shoes For Kids, reported that this year they were able to buy 267 pairs of shoes for kids at the beginning of the school year. The event at Famous Footwear allowed the kids to pick out their own shoes.

The Montrose Giving Club has now given a total of \$391,500 to local non-profits since the group's inception in 2017. All Montrose women are invited to attend the next quarterly meeting in February. The Bridges will be remodeling, so the Magic Circle Theater has graciously offered to host the meeting on the second Thursday, February 13, 5:30 p.m. at 420 So.12th Street. This may be a different date and a different venue but be assured that the same great stuff will be happening! We will have drinks and appetizers and hear from impactful organizations. Please come and help us make a difference! You'll want to witness this incredible magic for yourself!

For more information, please contact Phoebe Benziger at 970-209-9598 or phoebeneziger@gmail.com.



From Kin Connect: Dominique Martinez, Ashley McKee, Ally Gerken, Tina Veitch, Rebekah Lansdown. From the Women's Giving Club: Diane Brueske, Kristy Barrett, Phoebe Benziger. Courtesy photo.

STORIES & POEMS TELLURIDE SET FOR DEC. 22

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- *Stories & Poems Telluride* will continue Dec. 22 with Ruth Duffy and Mike Olschewsky of Nucla and finally on Dec. 29 with Peter Waldor of Trout Lake and Paulo Munguia of Montrose. 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 Art Goodtimes at <art@tellurideinstitute.org>. To visit the website: <www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds>





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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

Dec. 9- Delta County Historical Society (DCHS) and Museum is pleased to present Monday, Dec. 9, 7 pm at the Delta Library Community Room, author and historian, Dave Fishell. The Museum is located at 251 Meeker Street, Delta. For more information go to deltacountymuseum.org or phone 970 874-8721.

Dec. 13-Montrose Republican Women's Annual Christmas Chili Potluck and Gift Exchange is Friday, Dec. 13 at Hampton Inn Montrose from Noon to 1:30pm. Doors open at 11:30a. Please bring a side dish or dessert and a gift to exchange. Contact Kerri at 970-209-5170 for information.

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

Dec 22-3 pm ~ Free Holiday Concert: Winter Wonderland. Join the Montrose Community Band at the Montrose Pavilion. Christmas is time for joy and memories. Let us entertain you with fond memories, musical pictures, and old favorites.

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



At left and below, "Tis the Season!" Harry Switzer captured signs of Christmas around town in festive Holiday Displays and Santa's Cabin.




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