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ASSOCIATION



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MURA BOARD MEETS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MAY

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Nov. 18 MURA (Montrose Urban Renewal Authority) Board meeting, the board's first meeting since May, was called to order by Board President David Reed. The order of business included the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call (all members present in person), no changes to the agenda, no public comment, and approval of the May 1, 2025 meeting minutes.

Chair David Reed welcomed new board members Tom West and Ken Otto.

TIF EXPENDITURE UPDATE - City Engineer Scott Murphy

Murphy gave an overview of the MURA to help the new board members get acquainted with the Authority. Handing out a summary of MURA Expenditures to date, Murphy said, "Every penny that's been spent. Originally the URA didn't have revenue to start, and the city helped front it

Continued pg 25



(L to R) City Engineer Scott Murphy, City Councilman Ed Ulibarri, and City Manager Bill Bell. Councilman Ulibarri wears a beard year-round. However, Murphy and Bell grow beards in November as participants of No-Shave November, which is a movement that brings awareness to men's health issues (prostate and testicular cancer). Photo by Gail Marvel.

A TOUR OF THE MONTROSE COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Unlike Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes, whose new office is decorated, (above) the décor for Montrose County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy sits on the floor leaning against her office wall, awaiting the arrival of her decorator. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-While office space in the Montrose County Courthouse has been updated, the ambiance and character of the newly refurbished building remain intact.

On Nov. 3, county employees who were displaced for almost two years moved back into the historical building and now occupy all four floors of the building; however, the location of offices has changed:

-Basement level – Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

-Second floor – Offices of the Montrose County Assessor and Montrose County Treasurer.

-Third floor – Offices of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), County Administration, and the BOCC Boardroom.

-Fourth floor – Offices of the Montrose County Attorneys and the Veterans' Services.

Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes took the Mirror on a tour of the

Continued pg 27

[City of Montrose Approves
Municipal Budget for 2026!](#)

[Gia Pirelli Column:
The Satisfied Self!](#)

[Red Hawks Football
by Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Magic Circle Theatre Review:
By Art Goodtimes!](#)

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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. This rule now includes requests to re-print letters that have already run.

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,*

the Montrose Mirror



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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or its editorial team.

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**December 1,
10:00 AM-3:30 PM
Library Meeting
Room**



Enjoy a little friendly family competition? Looking for a fun way to spend a few hours during Winter Break? Join us for Family Game Day! Play some tried and true classics like Candyland and Sorry, or try out some new games you might not have heard of like Buildz and Qwirkle. This will be a drop in program.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PALISADE WELCOMES ALL TO ANNUAL GINGERBREAD CONTEST & SHOWCASE

Special to the Mirror

PALISADE-The Palisade Chamber of Commerce invites community members of all ages to take part in the annual *Gingerbread Contest & Showcase*, a sweet holiday tradition that highlights creativity, craftsmanship, and festive fun!

The *Gingerbread Contest & Showcase* will be held in conjunction with *Olde Fashioned Christmas* on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, in Downtown Palisade. Participants are encouraged to build their best gingerbread houses or structures and display

them for the public to enjoy during the event. Entries will be judged based on creativity, craftsmanship, and overall presentation, with prizes awarded in several age categories.

"The Gingerbread Contest & Showcase has become a favorite part of our holiday celebration," said Jessica Burford, President & CEO of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce. "It's a fun, family-friendly way for everyone to express their imagination and be part of the community spirit that makes Palisade so special."

Guests attending *Olde Fashioned Christmas* can stroll through the showcase, admire the impressive displays. Whether you're an experienced baker or simply love holiday traditions, this event is a great way to join in the seasonal festivities.

Contest entry forms and full guidelines are available at palisadechristmas.com. Celebrate the joy of the holidays with a dash of creativity, join us for the 2025 *Gingerbread Contest & Showcase* in Downtown Palisade!

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- County Planning Commission
- Region 10 Board of Directors
- County Weed Commission



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MCA PROUDLY PRESENTS THE HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE OF FINE ART

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts proudly presents its newest exhibit: The Holiday Marketplace of Fine Art. Western Colorado artists will brighten the season with their offerings of fine art pieces for the holidays, making perfect gifts for family and friends. The exhibit will run from November 18 through January 10.

The Cottonwood and Ponderosa Rooms will open on November 18 with amazing gifts, from jewelry to pottery, from cards to paintings, and so much more. Then on December 2, the Main Gallery will showcase a vast array of 8 x 8 paintings for our annual silent auction fundraiser. The starting bid is \$30 on each of these small jewels. Final bids will be accepted on December 19, and on December 20, winning bidders can swing by and pick up their painting. However, for folks who can't make it back to the gallery, the MCA has a pay now option — \$50 over the current bid.

MCA invites you to stop by the opening

reception from 5 – 7 p.m. on December 2 to share holiday treats and beverages, explore the gallery, and begin shopping for holiday gifts.

Support the Arts this Holiday Season

Visiting MCA and purchasing art, or donating on the website, is the easiest and most effective way to help our organization continue to foster the arts in our community. With your help, our all-volunteer team can continue to manage daily operations, expand on programming to include bigger and better opportunities for local and budding artists, and attract art lovers from all over the world to our community.

Our FREE and low-cost programming includes:

- ART CRAWL during the summer months and continuing with 2nd Thursday receptions throughout the year.
- Art in Motion (AIM) where artists showcase work in local businesses
- Partnering with the Montrose Regional Library District for a book club focused on

the arts

- Partnering with local youth organizations and the city of Montrose to give young artists a free place to exhibit their art
- Art classes in all mediums.

- Plus, a showcase for local and regional artists to exhibit their art — from painting to woodworking and woodturning, from jewelry to pottery, from metal to photography and much more.

These free programs and more are only possible with the continued support of our growing community. Your purchases will support local artists and your donations will be invested into these very programs, ensuring we continue the traditions that are enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year.

Donate by going to the website at montrosecenterforarts.com, or to ColoradoGivesDay.org (they'll match some of the dollars donated) at

www.coloradogives.org until December 9. Remember, contributions to MCA are tax deductible!



COLORADO WEST LAND TRUST

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Join us to view the Sandhill Crane migration while enjoying a warm cup of cocoa.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DISCOUNT TIRE BLACK FRIDAY & CYBER MONDAY DEALS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Discount Tire is giving drivers incredible Black Friday & Cyber Monday deals on tire and wheel purchases from Thursday, 11/20 through Wednesday, 12/3. Below are a few highlights and more information can be found online at [Discount Tire's website](https://www.discounttire.com).

Black Friday & Cyber Monday Promotions:

Instant savings on sets of 4 tires when you purchase in-store and online at [DiscountTire.com](https://www.discounttire.com).

- Yokohama & Michelin: \$100 instant savings on all lines
- Pirelli: \$100 instant savings on all lines (excluding Strada)
- Cooper, Goodyear & Toyo: \$100 instant savings on select lines
- Bridgestone: Up to \$100 instant savings on select lines

For drivers who aren't sure which tires are best for their vehicle, Discount Tire offers personalized tire recommendations through their online tire buying guide, [Treadwell](https://www.treadwell.com).

Black Friday also marks the start of winter, a perfect time to make sure your tires are cold weather ready. A few essential tire safety tips from our experts include:

- Ensure you have the proper tread depth before traveling
- Maintain proper tire pressure for better fuel economy and control
- For every 10 degrees shift in temperature, tire pressure changes by 1 pound per square inch (psi)
- We recommend checking tire pressure monthly – especially before road trips
- Rotate tires every 6,000 miles to extend tire life (Discount Tire offers free rotation)

MONTROSE COMMUNITY DINNERS NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR THANKSGIVING!

FYI! MONTROSE COMMUNITY DINNERS needs your help this year! They are short on volunteers and Thanksgiving is next week.

Also, they are prepping for 4,000 meals, of which about 1,800 are usually delivery. So far, they have only slightly more than 500 requested meals.

To sign up for delivery meals and to volunteer, please contact montrosecommunitydinners.com

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BLM OFFERS PERMITS TO CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

Special to the Mirror

LAKEWOOD— Tis the season for tree harvesting! The Bureau of Land Management is now offering permits to cut Christmas trees for personal use in Colorado.

Trees are available only in specific areas of public lands, so be sure to take a map showing where you can cut trees from a local field office or online... and check it twice. The cost for each permit is \$8-\$10, and different types of trees are available. Permits can be purchased either online or at most BLM field offices. If you want to call ahead to check when helpers are in the workshop, you can find contact info on the BLM website: <https://www.blm.gov/office/colorado-state-office>

While you are making a list, the BLM suggests bringing a handsaw, eye protection, rope or twine, extra food, water, and blankets. It's also a good idea to have tire chains, a shovel, and emergency supplies just in case. Lastly, be sure to use a map or a device with GPS to make sure you are cutting a tree in an area where it's allowed.

Remember to attach a haul tag to your tree when you take it from BLM lands. After the holidays, please dispose of your tree properly: many communities have compost collection sites for Christmas trees.

For more information about cutting a Christmas tree or firewood on BLM-managed public lands, visit the [BLM Christmas Tree](#) site or contact your nearest field office.

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SATURDAY
6th
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9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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UTE INDIAN Museum

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH EXPANDS URGENT CARE HOURS TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA — Delta Health is pleased to announce expanded hours for our Urgent Care services, effective December 1, 2025. The expansion of service days and hours is to better meet the needs of our patients and community. Delta Health Urgent Care, located at 296 Stafford Lane in Delta, will now be open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The extended hours make it easier for patients to receive care before and after school and work, ensuring timely access to high-quality medical services when it's most convenient. "Our goal is to provide care that fits the lives of our patients," said Julie Huffman, Delta Health Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Legal Officer. "By opening earlier and staying open later, we're making it easier for families and working adults to get the care they need—without disrupting their daily routines."

At Delta Health, patients also benefit from continuity of care with their primary physician. Our Urgent Care team works closely with your Delta Health provider to ensure seamless follow-up and coordination, so every visit supports your long-term health.

Delta Health accepts all insurance plans, making it simple and affordable for everyone in our community to access quality healthcare, close to home. For more information about our expanded Urgent Care hours, please call 970-874-5777.

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CITY APPROVES \$168,931,090 BUDGET FOR 2026, ANNOUNCES FUTURE CAMPAIGN FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATES



Mayor Dave Frank presented a "You Make a Difference" award to Pang Cooper of Weehawken Dance. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present for the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Nov. 18, during which they approved the municipal budget for 2026.

After calling the meeting to order and leading with the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Dave Frank presented a "You Make a Difference" award to Pang Cooper of Weehawken Dance.

Cooper was nominated by 24 members of the community, Frank said. He read the nomination aloud, noting that Cooper teaches 100 students each week, sews costumes, offers one-on-one coaching, supports new instructors, guides young dancers, volunteers at festivals, serves meals at the Community Dinner, and her global training "has brought World Class artistry to Western Colorado."

Cooper received a round of applause and thanked Mayor Frank for the award.

"When you said all of these, I just realized I did all of those. It sounds great!"

There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Frank read the rules for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve [minutes of the November 4, 2025](#), regular City Council meeting.

NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council approved the new Hotel and [restaurant liquor license application](#) at 232 E. Main Street for Eatery 66 North LLC.

2026 BUDGET APPROVAL

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the 2026 Budget for approval. Council voted to adopt [Ordinance 2695](#) on Second Reading, with Total Appropriations of \$168,931,090.

Next, Council voted to adopt to adopt [Resolution 2025-20](#), adopting the 2026 Municipal Budget.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET-2025

Also approved on First Reading was [Ordinance 2698](#) "amending Ordinance No. 2674 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025; 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, 2025."

The [Supplemental Budget Worksheet](#) is included in the meeting packet.

ORDINANCE 2699 - FIRST READING

[Ordinance 699 on First Reading](#) was also approved unanimously, authorizing the [sale of 1.15 acres of real property](#) owned by the City of Montrose located off Niagara Road to Volunteers of America. City Manager Bill Bell discussed the reasons for the sale, "I am really excited about this one," he said. "It's been something we've talked about for the past several years...."

Bell said that the land under the Magic Circle Theater is owned by Volunteers of America, while the City of Montrose owns land that it does not need, adjacent to the Volunteers of America facilities near the Montrose Pavilion. The properties are slightly different in price; Volunteers of America will pay the difference in a [land swap](#), Bell said.

"...In April we would close on the trans-

action. Then the Magic Circle can go out and do a capital campaign and raise funds to purchase the property and really control their own destiny...this is just a good way for all of us to collaborate and meet the needs of the community in a variety of different ways."

Youth Councilor Shiloh Warthen said, "So this land that we're swapping with VOA, we intend to sell to Magic Circle...is there any potential loss to the community services we offer as a council by not having access to that land...?"

Bell said that the City will find other places to deposit snow, equipment, and street sweepings.

Bell said that the City has partnered on curb, gutter, and sidewalk for the theatre, as well as signage.

Mayor Dave Frank said that the Magic Circle Theatre has been in Montrose for over half a century. "I think that the value that they bring to our community is immeasurable. This is one of those definite win-wins...it's a no brainer..."

City Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2699 on First Reading.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MODIFICATION LETTER

Also unanimously approved was a [Community Development Block Grant Modification](#) letter, for a [previously awarded Community Development Block Grant](#) in partnership with Haven House.

ORDINANCE 2696 - SECOND READING

Council approved [Ordinance 2696](#) on Second Reading--amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the Parsons Subdivision from R-4, High Density District, to B-2, Highway Commercial District-- in a four to one vote, with Councilor Ed Ulibarri voting No.

ORDINANCE 2697 - SECOND READING

The final action item to be considered was [Ordinance 2697 on second reading](#), amending the zoning district designation of 12658 6450 Road from MHR, Manufactured Housing Residential District, to R-6, Medium Density/Manufactured Housing District. Ordinance 2697 was unanimously approved.

CITY APPROVES \$168,931,090 BUDGET FOR 2026 From previous pg

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report for September, by Collections and by Area.

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Third Quarter Budget Report.

Mayor Frank said that the City had a clean audit, and congratulated Wittenberg.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS

Youth Councilor Shiloh Warthen said that the Youth Council is revamping its manual and is working with the Chief of Police on

a proclamation regarding gun violence awareness.

Several youth councilors have gone to the National League of Cities Conference in Salt Lake, and should bring home new ideas for Montrose, Warthen said.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that Council toured the Wastewater Treatment Plant. ...It was worthwhile for us...I was really glad that our staff opened that up for us to go tour today..."

Mayor Frank praised Wastewater Treatment Center staff for having done so well

with machines and tools that are 50 years old. "...All through the state and across the country they look at Montrose and go, 'How on earth are you still running that.' And they're having to go into junkyards to find spare parts for the things we're doing. So, our next campaign to update and do the funding for our water treatment plant's updates is absolutely money well spent. That's going to be a great program coming up very soon."

"Expensive, but great to have," Files said. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

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LEARN SOMETHING NEW TODAY: MISS SUZY'S EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Miss Suzy Conty wants to help you make your life better! Whether you are a school-age child, or an adult just looking to expand your knowledge and skills, Miss Suzy offers education tailored to your needs.

As the founder of the non-profit Miss Suzy's Educational Services, located at 843 East Main Street, Miss Suzy offers a classical array of academic courses for both children and adults, from the four "R's" to music, manners, etiquette, and even fashion.

When it comes to her young students, "We want to help kids to be the best they can be, in a beautiful, warm, welcoming space," said Conty, a lifelong educator. "We work with all kids; we want to be coming alongside of families and helping them. Parent education is a huge piece-- we want to make it approachable for parents."

There are Custom-Tailored, One-On-One Sessions and Small Group Tutoring Sessions available. Skill Building Workshops are offered in Music; Art; Manners and Etiquette; Sewing; Cooking; and Woodworking. One-on-One tutoring is available for any subject.

For the littlest learners, educational small-group classes for kids ages two to four are offered from 9am to Noon on Fridays.

On Jan. 28, 2026, there will be an afternoon Field Trip to Nu Vista Federal Credit Union, to learn about saving money and



Miss Suzy offers Music Workshops starting Dec. 4, with two performances at Montage Creek Senior Living. Courtesy photo.

how a bank operates.

Upcoming workshops also include a Sewing Workshop on Dec. 3, and Music Workshops beginning on Dec. 4, with two performances at Montage Creek Senior Living. Several Christmas Gift Making Workshops are scheduled for December.

Conty has 15 experienced teachers on her team. "We have created a beautiful community with families," she said. Conty herself is highly experienced, having run a prestigious school in Santa Barbara for many years. She is a musician as well and plays the Autoharp. "I struggled in school," Conty said. "Because of that, I developed a lot of grit. As a teacher, I hold kids accountable and I help them excel."

Teaching classes in Manners and Etiquette may be unusual in today's world, but so is Miss Suzy. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Conty has lived Coast to Coast in the U.S. and has traveled to many



Miss Suzy Conty with her husband MG and their son David. Photo credit Deanna Janiko.

countries worldwide. Suzy attended college in the Boston area and in Santa Barbara, where she studied Sociology and Social Work. Suzy's husband, MG Conty, is a successful educator and entrepreneur, and also tutors students in math, writing, and science. To reach Miss Suzy's Educational Services, call 970-318-0982, or find them online at www.facebook.com/MissSuzysEducationalServices. Contact Miss Suzy to enroll in the upcoming Gift Making and Music Workshops, and Christmas Concert on Dec. 10 at Montage Creek Retirement Home!



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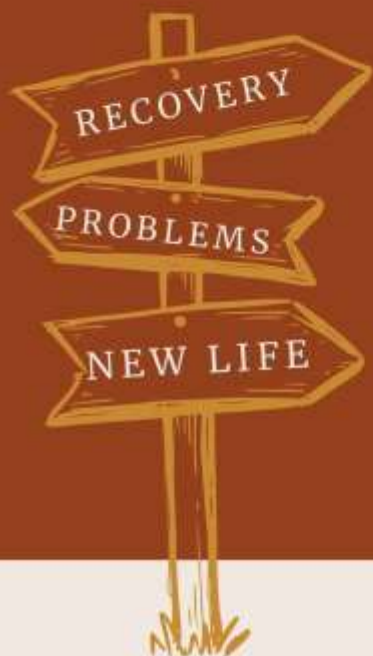
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE THANKSGIVING DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— City of Montrose offices, including City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Visitor Center, City Shop, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department, will be closed Thursday, November 27, for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Police Department offices will be closed; however, officers will be on duty and responding to calls. The Black Canyon Golf Course will also be closed.

Trash and recycling schedules will be adjusted for the holiday. For residences with Thursday collection, trash pickup will instead occur on Tuesday, November 25, and Wednesday, November 26.

Residences west of Townsend Ave that are normally on the Thursday route will receive collection services on Tuesday, November 25. Residences east of Townsend Ave that are normally served on Thursday will receive service on Wednesday, November 26.

Recycling collection for customers scheduled for pickup on Thursday, November 27, will instead receive collection service on Friday, November 28.

Normal city operations will resume on Monday, December 1.

For more information, contact City Hall at 240.1400 or visit www.CityOfMontrose.org.

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.

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RED HAWKS RAMBLE – 56-27



The Red Hawks defense prepares to shut down the Coyotes offense. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks continued their winning ways on Saturday as they ran roughshod over the out-manned Monarch Coyotes by the score of 56-27. The Red Hawks ran the table with 10 straight wins during the regular season and then received a bye in the opening round of the state playoffs.

The home team notched victories over Frederick and Monarch to qualify for a home game next Saturday in the 4A semi-finals. The quality of the opposition increases dramatically as the final four teams battle for 4A supremacy in the semi-finals and the championship game.

The matchups have been decided with the Palmer Ridge Bears coming to Montrose to test the Red Hawks. The other side of the bracket has Dakota Ridge hosting Heritage. The surviving two teams will then contest the 4A State championship game which will be played at Canvas Stadium on the campus of Colorado State University on the first Saturday in December.

The Red Hawks continued their dominance from the get-go as they kicked off to the Coyotes who promptly fumbled the football and the Red Hawks scored their first touchdown in three plays with Elijah Wooten racing ten yards for his first touchdown.

The Red Hawks defense put the clamps on the Coyotes offense, forced a turn-

over on downs and quickly moved 54 yards with fullback Elijah Wooten scoring his second TD, this time from three yards out to make the score 14-0.

The Coyotes took over at their own 20-yard line and put together an eight-play drive for their first touchdown of the afternoon. The extra point was no good and the Red Hawks maintained their 14-6 advantage.

The Red Hawks special teams stood out as the Coyotes kicked off. Senior Biniyam Kenny fielded the kick, bobbed and weaved his way for a 60-yard return to put the Red Hawks in excellent field position. Six plays later Junior Quarterback Cade Saunders faked a pitchout and dove into the end zone for the Red Hawks third touchdown increasing the score to 21-6.

The Red Hawks attempted an on-side kick, but the Coyotes got a good bounce and covered the kick at the Red Hawks 44-yard line. It took only six plays for the Coyotes to punch the ball into the end zone via a five-yard pass play to narrow the margin to 21-13.

The Red Hawks continued their dominance as they put together a ten-play drive with Senior Fullback Elijah Wooten scoring his third touchdown, this time from four yards out, to increase the score to 28-13.

The Red Hawks kicked off to the Coyotes but disaster struck. The Coyotes fumbled the kick and the Red Hawks recovered. It

took the Red Hawks just four plays to hit paydirt again as Cade Saunders scored his second touchdown of the afternoon. The score: 35-13 as the first half came to a close. The Red Hawks received the opening kickoff of the second half and moved smartly 60 yards in eight plays as Cade Saunders scored his third end zone dash, this time from one yard out increasing the margin to 42-13.

The Coyotes got their offense untracked and put together their best drive of the game, 58 yards in ten plays for their third score on a pass play to a wide open receiver in the left flat. The Red Hawks then drove 80 yards in nine plays with senior Jayce England scoring from four yards out to increase the score to 49-20.

The Red Hawks defense, stout all day, continued their dominance as they forced a three and out and then drove 75 yards for their final touchdown as Junior Lincoln Jones scored from two yards out to hang 56 points on the scoreboard.

The Coyotes managed one final touchdown in the waning moments of the contest to add their tally to the Red Hawks crushing victory 56-27.

The Palmer Ridge Bears are also undefeated. They ran off straight wins in the regular season plus two in the tournament. The Bears and the Red Hawks will both be looking for Win Number 13 next Saturday at the stadium in Montrose. The kickoff is slated for 1 PM. Don't miss it.

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Dear Santa,



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

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

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

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

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

MURA BOARD MEETS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MAY *From pg 1*

with promissory notes. The big alpha year was 2017 with \$6.75 million (the Fairfield Hotel project). We did not invest in buildings but in horizontal (sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, parking lot), the stuff that the URA invested in initially. The promissory notes that came under the project, those funds [their] payback is more or less \$3 million in the bank [that] is available without having to get more promissory notes [for additional projects]. There is a \$17 Million interest obligation to be repaid to the city as funds come in. To date, \$3.4 Million in TIF [Tax Increment Financing] Revenue has been collected. That's what we've earned."

Reed said, "I see it performing as it was intended."

City Manager/MURA Executive Director Bill Bell said, "There is a little lag time. Cash flow is good."

Referring to upcoming projects, City Business Development Employee Anthony Russo said, "We can fund [them] without going to bond [financing]."

Speaking to the new board members, Mayor Dave Frank said, "We made a conscious decision to delay repayment [on the promissory notes to the city]." Delaying the payments allows the board to continue investing in new projects.

Otto said, "You will have it paid back in 2042. Make sure we are holding back enough."

Bell said, "There was a forecast done. I'll get that for you."

Russo said, "Part of the equation and formula is to make sure we are okay in 2042."

GREENLINE PROJECT – CONTRACT EXTENSION - City Business Development Employee Anthony Russo.

Russo said, "They have come to us asking us to assist them. Initially they were going to build multi-family first, then retail later. The retail complex is across the street and flanked by the multi-family project. The mixed-use, because of the cost, tariffs, and labor, they had to put on hold. Some prices have decreased; there is some positive. The goal right now is some pre-leases on the retail. Breaking ground on retail, then three months after, breaking ground on multi-family. [Now proposing] the two projects are going simultaneously. They were going to [break ground] in October and they want an extension."

Bell said, "From an equity standpoint, we

can set a date for July 1st."

The question of a completion date was brought up, but Frank said there was no need for a completion date, "...because this is the extension for groundbreaking. They are pushing retail forward faster, which generates our revenue. Housing does not generate revenue."

Brad Hughes said, "Nine months extension. I want to give them October 31, 2025, to October 3, 2026, so that we don't have to come back as a board, we don't need to address it again."

The board approved the extension of the building permit and the extension agreement.

REVIEW MURA HANDBOOK - Executive Director William Bell

Bell said, "We had a summer intern who worked on the manual. Every single thing relating to the URA; all the agreements, Anderson Analytics, promissory notes, is in a three-ring binder."

SCHEDULE FUTURE MEETINGS

Bell said, "Staff would like to meet again in December and start talking about some other projects. A potential project on rehabbing historical buildings [downtown]. The URA covers the whole city." Russo spoke about the work on a third hotel and zoning changes to join two small properties to bring them into the URA.

Bell said, "I anticipate we will be meeting monthly." Meetings were scheduled for 2pm on Dec. 10, 2025, and Jan. 14, 2026.

Colorado Outdoors Community Relations Director Heidi Dragoo updated the board. She said, "The Flex Building is now fully leased; the last unit is under construction. We learned from the Flex Building that retail space needs smaller space. With retail and restaurants, we want pre-leasing. We have one community event a year, our Block Party. Thank you all for coming. We will have another one next summer."

The board asked for an update on the proposed medical office building, as well as the unfinished medical structure. Referring to the medical office building Russo said, "They still own the land. They are working and doing a survey, it's an exciting project. They are talking to medical providers to get better reimbursement. I can't confirm that it is going to happen."

Referring to the half-built medical building Russo said, "I can't share too much. They are actively working on options.



The unfinished medical building in the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority is surrounded by tumbleweeds and fencing. Executive Director Bill Bell said, "That wasn't a URA or a City of Montrose project. Colorado Outdoors just sold the land." Photo by Gail Marvel.

They are moving in a positive direction. Hopefully they will have something by the first quarter next year. The conversation is in a different direction. All parties are engaged."

Bell said, "That wasn't a URA or a City of Montrose project. Colorado Outdoors just sold the land."

Even though the building is not producing revenue, Assessor Hughes sees the positive. He said, "Someone is still paying [property] taxes."

Haugsness said, "I hope it gets sold so locals [contractors] can get paid."

ADJOURNMENT

Background: The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. Generally speaking, the MURA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism to finance public infrastructure in the MURA. The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the Justice Center on the north and West Main on the South, is being developed by the Dragoo's Mayfly Outdoors. The Dragoo Developers are son David Dragoo and father Doug Dragoo.

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Jim Haugsness (At-Large Representative), Tom West (Montrose School District) and Ken Otto (Special Districts Representative). The six-member city constituency holds the controlling interest and actions of the MURA Board.

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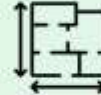
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**CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home**

A TOUR OF THE MONTROSE COUNTY COURTHOUSE From pg 1



Montrose County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy in her not-yet-decorated office
Photo by Gail Marvel.



The new Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) boardroom, which is on the third floor and has a maximum occupancy of 84, has yet to hold its first meeting.
Photo by Gail Marvel.



The ambiance and character of the re-furnished Montrose County Courthouse remain intact and include the vault door for the District Court Clerk (a door to nowhere, above), original brick exposed in some storage areas, and vintage office equipment on display (right). Photo by Gail Marvel.

Courthouse. He laughed and said, "I've been in the basement for 20 years. I'm moving up. Maybe with my next move I'll make it to the top floor."

Record keeping in the Assessor's Office is dictated by State statute. Hughes said, "I have a vault and three storage areas in other parts of the building. Some records must be retained for seven-plus years. We can't just throw them in the trash or take them to the dump. We store them until we can arrange disposal [shredding]." The vault area contains a large counter space with a computer for attorneys, builders, and staff to do research. Hughes said, "The old record books are huge and some of them weigh as much as 40 pounds."

Hughes continued, "With the building

restoration we tried to keep as much as we could. In my office I have the vault door for the District Court Clerk. It's just the door, a door to nowhere, but it's history we could keep."

Fixtures from the original courthouse that were saved include benches, chairs, a clock, shelving, and vintage office equipment used over the years. In storage areas the contractor kept, exposed, and blended some of the original brick work into the new construction.

The Assessor's office, with 13 employees, has adequate parking spaces for staff and department vehicles. However, Hughes

feels parking could become a big issue now that county entities are consolidated in one place.

He said, "We don't have a public parking lot associated with the courthouse. The public can park on the street, but when there is a big board meeting, events downtown, or hotel guests looking for a place to park, they won't be allowed to park in permitted areas during regular work hours."

Stryker, the contractor, is completing the IT Building; the stand-alone facility is located to the west of the Courthouse. It is estimated that by mid-December the entire project will be completed.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

UNLAWFUL ORDERS

Editors:

Politicians encouraging service members to challenge orders that they feel are unlawful will certainly be disruptive. Not so much for the majority of the military that understands their responsibility and training in the matter of lawful orders, but for the lives of the individuals who will unwittingly take up this partisan cause.

In their recent commercial these politicians needed to add, "Oh, by the way, if you follow our advice, you'll be on your own and regardless of the outcome, your military career will effectively be over! This is especially true since the UCMJ specifically has a code that addresses sedition and mutiny that may apply to your situation."

Service members need to understand that disobeying an order immediately shifts the burden to the defendant to prove that the order was somehow constitutionally unlawful or beyond the authority of the person giving the order – not easily done and often without success!

At your court-martial what you believe to be correct or true, or how strongly you feel about your moral code will be immaterial to what you can actually prove was unlawful about the order disobeyed in accordance with the rule of law. Ironical, ain't it!

Self-serving politicians will not face the same consequences of service members trying to individually or collectively respond to a questionable order that ultimately MUST be argued and debated, but not necessarily by the service members who will be sacrificed.

At this point in time it's the Congress who certainly has and can use their constitutional power to actively legislate the parameters to address their own discontent with how this matter is unfolding and without inciting a mutiny.

It would be interesting to know how many times in their military careers did these self-righteous politicians challenge the orders of seniors. What they very well may be encouraging is a media event around which they can further their own partisan political agenda.

Unfortunately, some discontented and possibly disaffected service members who may think that they're morally correct in their pursuit of perfect justice, do not have the background training and expertise to make such a historically complicated argument.

In my career I only remember challenging one order that I was given to be unlawful. Years ago I was the Operations Officer for the Navy's Combat Stevedores in Williamsburg, VA. The CO was convinced that his Sailors should take a more active role in the election process by mandating that everyone WILL vote.

To accomplish this, every officer was directed to guarantee that their Sailors mailed in absentee ballots. At an 'All Hands' he then said, "I don't care for whom you vote, but keep in mind the Republicans are big supporters of the military (wink wink)." He didn't actually wink.

It was at this point that I didn't challenge the order directly, but told him privately that I felt that ordering people to vote and then suggesting a political party was a really bad idea and would also generate

push back from his Sailors.

He noted my concern, thought otherwise, and because he felt that it was in everyone's best interest, expected the officers to personally ensure the mailing of absentee ballots for everyone of the Sailors in the command.

When further explaining the order to those Sailors in my charge as their department head, I added, "Oh by the way, there's is no law, military or otherwise that mandates that you vote. What you do with your ballot is your business, not mine. The base post office is right across the street."

One Sailor, still incensed that he was being coerced, wanted to appeal the order up the chain, but instead called the ACLU, who then called the CO asking if he was really forcing people to vote, when in fact, they had the right not to do so. Suddenly, and before anyone was actually forced to vote, the order evaporated.

On one other occasion, I ignored the Navy's order to get the mandated, experimental, biological warfare vaccination during Desert Shield; but ultimately, so did my CO, at which point I said to the Ship's Doc who was trying to stick me, "See!" (Of note: As the CO and I stalled in our compliance, the Navy rescinded the order to the Fleet not long after issuing it.) Dissent can take many situational forms - like giving a Sailor the phone number for the ACLU instead of having him make a complaint up the chain about an otherwise well intended CO for whom he works and ultimately determines his future in military.

L. S. Rizzo, USN (RET)



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

STATEMENT FROM THE MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Montrose County School District

MONTROSE — The Montrose County School District (MCSD) is aware of a Facebook post currently circulating in the community referencing an alleged bullying incident at Columbine Middle School. We understand that such posts can raise concerns among families, students, and community members, and we want to provide accurate information about our response. MCSD takes all reports of bullying, threats, and safety concerns extremely seriously. Our schools follow a comprehensive, research-based safety and threat-assessment process aligned with state and national best practices. This process includes an immediate review of any reported concern by administration, communication with involved parties, collabora-

tion with law enforcement and mental health professionals, a comprehensive review of records and formal evaluation process, and an ongoing monitoring to support the safety and well-being of students and staff.

Because student-related safety matters involve sensitive information, the district does not discuss individual situations publicly. This protects student privacy and ensures concerns are handled thoroughly, accurately, and in the appropriate setting. We encourage parents and students to report any concerns directly to school administrators, local law enforcement, or through Safe2Tell, Colorado's confidential reporting system, which is monitored 24/7. If there is an immediate safety concern, individuals should contact local law

enforcement.

Sharing unverified information on social media can unintentionally spread misinformation and heighten anxiety.

The most effective way to ensure accurate information and timely support is to report concerns to school administration or submit a Safe2Tell report so they can be addressed promptly and safely.

Keeping our schools safe is a community effort, built on ongoing communication and collaboration among parents, community members, schools, and law enforcement.

MCSD remains committed to maintaining safe, supportive learning environments and values the continued partnership of families and the community in promoting student safety.

DELTA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER LINDA REEVES PROMOTED TO REGION 3 LEAD VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY—After nearly five years of dedicated service to local veterans, Linda will support counties across western Colorado to ensure veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

During her tenure with Delta County, Reeves has been an unwavering advocate for local veterans and their families, assisting with service-connected disability claims, education benefits, and programs for in-home and assisted living care. She has also provided guidance on burial benefits and ensured veterans receive the support they have earned through their service.

In a recent KVNF Public Radio interview, Linda reflected on her 25½-year U.S. Army career—including service with the 82nd Airborne Division, the 10th Special Forces Group, and deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan—and how that experience guides her work helping veterans navigate complex benefits systems.

“Just still continuing to help veterans and making sure that our veterans in Colorado are still being helped.”

— Linda Reeves, KVNF interview

As Region 3 Lead Veterans Service Officer, Reeves will oversee and support county-level Veteran Service Officers across western Colorado, ensuring consistency, training, and collaboration among local offices. Her leadership will help strengthen service delivery and coordination for veterans across the region



Linda Reeves, Veterans Service Officer.
Courtesy photo.

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CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT IS WRONG TO SPEAK THAT WAY TO ANYONE

Editor:

Two things happened this past week that have literally pushed me over the edge and has me totally gobsmacked.

The first took place on Air Force One as Trump was headed to Mar-A-Lago. Catharine Lucey, a reporter for Bloomberg, asked a simple question. She questioned Trump about the implications of the Jeffrey Epstein emails, specifically asking him why he was acting as if there was something incriminating in the files if there weren't any?

He interrupted her, shouting, "Quiet! Quiet! Piggy," and pointing his finger at her. I am going to include a statement a friend wrote to me. He is both an award-winning novelist and non-fiction writer. He said:

"The Quiet Piggy thing has bothered me more than a lot of things he's done, because it's so blatant, so obvious, so inde-

cent. It's something even kindergartners know not to do. And yet he did it on camera as the leader of the free world. And in the process, he debased not just himself, that office, and our entire country, but all the members of the press who did not stand up for her in that moment, and every Republican politician and talking head who has not spoken out against it since. We have truly lost our way as a country."

I too am shocked. One, because Trump continues to demean people. If he doesn't like a question asked of him, he ridicules the person or the media outlet that person works for. Two, because not one person had the guts to speak up and tell Trump it is wrong to speak that way to anyone. Someone should have spoken up.

The second event that occurred followed an ad put out by six members of Con-

gress, including Colorado's Jason Crow, that the United States military does NOT swear an oath of loyalty to a leader. Article VI requires they swear loyalty to our basic law; The Constitution. They spoke out that should orders and the law ever conflict, they must obey the law. They urged members of the military to refuse ILLEGAL orders.

Trump went bonkers. To summarize, Trump said that their behavior was "seditious" and "punishable by death." These members of Congress were very specific.

They said you must refuse **illegal** orders. There is a sign hanging on the wall of the United States Military Academy at West Point that says exactly that.

Or is that sign going to be removed like so many other signs have been under this administration?

Jon Sering (former Montrose resident)



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FEATURES

- 3 Bedrooms
- Covered Porch
- 3 Baths
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRAT PARTY LEFT MOST OF ITS MEMBERS YEARS AGO

Editor:

I wrote last week about concerns about the state of our public education system and the role of teachers' unions in that failure. I noted that the great teachers we had in our youth are being replaced by academics who want to indoctrinate rather than teach. I noted that, for decades now, public schools have pushed the oppressed / oppressor lie, along with as much Marxist, feminist, racist, and LGBTQ theory as possible. This week, the nation's two biggest teachers' unions stepped up to prove my point. Leaked "training materials" revealed that the National Education Association (NEA), which is not only the largest teachers union but also the largest union in the country, is training teachers to advance gender and racial ideology in classrooms, and to fight Republican and parent groups who "harm us all" by standing in the way. The union also tells teachers to villainize opponents of men invading women's sports and their locker rooms by re-framing their criticisms and painting them as discriminating against women. If teachers' unions are going to offer training to teachers, one would expect it to focus on how the union can benefit them in their profession. Unfortunately, the NEA doesn't care about that. They have a different agenda, which lines up perfectly with the insane left's agenda. It turns out the NEA has decided a stealth battle should be waged against parents at the classroom level. These same teachers have difficulty teaching basics like reading, science, or math, but they can teach kids that there are 30 genders. The NEA is prepping its 3-million-member network to work on partisan activism even as two-thirds of students can't read at grade level. Parents are in the way of their agenda so they have to train their teachers to work under the radar to transition their children. This is the same NEA that spends 50% of its \$400 million budget on left-wing political PACS and leftist nonprofits, and only 10% on their teachers. This is the same union that is literally suing parents for making information requests.

This week the president of the nation's second largest teachers' union, the American Federation of Teachers claimed that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies were all that stood in the way of fascism. Randy Weingarten accused opponents of DEI pro-

grams of seeking to wipe out the "civil rights movement." This is the same Weingarten who previously claimed that any criticism of her was motivated by homophobia and anti-semitism. This is the same union president who opposed efforts to reopen schools during the covid pandemic. Despite parents' objections, and despite student achievement plunging, teachers' unions continue to promote and defend lunatic left-wing causes like gun control, critical race theory, and gender ideology. Is it any wonder that parents are desperately seeking options to sending their kids to government schools? A common refrain is that the Democrat party is no longer the party of your grandfather. A more accurate statement is that is not even the party of your father. From common sense and concern for the working class, the Democrat party left most of its members years ago. A coalition of 130 congressional Democrats just filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court urging it to rule in favor of trans "athletes" participating in women's sports and invading their locker rooms. Once upon a time, no one argued about such absurdities. Common sense used to prevail, but no more. Somalia is a failed state known for several things: war, Islamic terrorism, piracy and lawlessness. Common sense would have told us what would happen if we invite thousands of unvetted Somalians to set up a Somalian proxy state within Minnesota. Minnesota is drowning in fraud. Billions in taxpayer dollars have been stolen during the administration of Dem Governor Tim Walz alone. Democrat state officials are asleep at the wheel as they attempt to control one of the biggest welfare regimes in the country. Much of the fraud has been perpetrated by Minnesota's sizable Somali community. The Somali fraud rings have stolen billions in taxpayer funds and funneled a share of those billions to Islamist terrorists back home. Terrorists in Somalia are now being funded by Minnesota welfare dollars.

The more I learn about Democrats' futile attempts to somehow connect Trump to Epstein, the more I have to chuckle. No wonder there was no outcry from Democrats when the "Epstein files" languished under Biden. It turns out that all of Epstein's friends were Democrats. I don't have to go into the details of Bill Clinton's shameful

behavior. House minority leader Jeffries solicited funds from Epstein – after Epstein's conviction for crimes against children. Epstein actively coached (via texts) Democrat representative Plaskett during a hearing to help her question one of Trump's previous lawyers, concluding with a text saying "good work" – also after Epstein's conviction. Epstein visited Harvard University campus more than 40 times after his conviction and was given office access to a research center he helped fund. Former Treasury Secretary and Harvard President Larry Summers continued embracing Epstein long after his crimes were known. Summers and Epstein continued to communicate up to the day Epstein was arrested. Summers even solicited romantic advice from Epstein, with Epstein referring to himself as Summer's "wing man." Longtime MIT professor and progressive activist Noam Chomsky maintained a close friendship with the sex offender long after his conviction. It is now apparent that numerous Democrat elites continued embracing Epstein long after his crimes were known. Apparently access to Epstein's money and influence outweighed any concerns about sex-trafficking crimes. Now, Dems are citing pedophile Epstein's hatred toward Trump as if that is a point scored against Trump. Sorry Dems, but you just confirmed that Epstein is one of your own.

Not all scandals plaguing Democrats come with an Epstein connection. More often than not, just plain old corruption will suffice. This week, Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL) and her brother were indicted on money laundering and theft charges.

The indictment alleges the pair stole and laundered \$5 million in federal relief funds. Any good Democrat who is accused of wrongdoing, and is anything other than a straight white male, immediately blames their situation on racism, homophobia, sexism, or any number of other "isms." In this case the representative wants us to believe her indictment is due to racism. Perhaps the Somali immigrants in Minnesota are assimilating better than we thought. Unfortunately, they appear to be assimilating the Democrat culture of fraud and corruption. They fit perfectly well under the Democrat "big tent" along with pedophiles and Marxist teachers' unions.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

"THE COUNTY DOES NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS"

Editor:

The Montrose County Government website has for many years touted the importance of transparency in government.

For many years the county actually lived up to its promise to be transparent.

Back then any taxpayer could call any department in county government, ask a simple question, and get a simple answer. Sadly, that is no longer the case. After 8+ years under Hansen, Caddy and Rash transparency here in Montrose is nothing but a multi syllable word.

On several previous occasions, when I ask simple answers to simple questions, the County Attorney would demand a CORA request, and the responses I got were documents that I never requested. I have been danced around the mulberry bush too many times by the county so I determined to try one more time for a simple answer to my questions.

Last week I put in a Cora request asking two simple questions about Resolution 36 that was passed and implemented in July of this year.

Based on my past experience within the last three years, the answer I received was exactly what I expected with one slight difference.

The County Attorney FINALLY admitted that that, "the county does not answer questions."

Transparency today in our Montrose County Government makes the Biden / Harris Administration look like the gold star epitome of transparency and government.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MOVE OVER OPERATION HONORS FALLEN TROOPER *Two agencies join together to honor Trooper Cody Donahue*

Colorado State Patrol

CASTLE ROCK – The Colorado State Patrol will partner with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office on November 25 to conduct a coordinated Move Over Enforcement Operation to educate drivers and increase compliance with Colorado's "Move Over" law.

The operation is being held on this date to honor the memory and sacrifice of Trooper Cody Donahue, Colorado State Patrol, who was tragically killed in the line of duty while investigating a motor vehicle crash on I-25 on November 25, 2016. Trooper Donahue was struck and killed by a passing motorist who failed to adhere to the law.

"The tragic and unnecessary loss of Trooper Donahue compelled Colorado to strengthen protections for all roadside workers through the 'Move Over for Cody Act,'" said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol.

"Cody was an amazing human being, and someone took away his life. Each year, we remember his dedication and legacy through a joint enforcement operation intended to send a clear reminder to every driver that their focus must be on the road ahead to protect people working or stranded."

"Our deputies are honored to stand alongside the Colorado State Patrol in remembering Trooper Cody Donahue," said Douglas County Sheriff Darren Weekly. "Being part of this operation isn't just about enforcing the law; it's about protecting the men and women who serve on our roadways every day. When drivers move over and slow down, they help ensure that tragedies like the one that took Trooper Donahue's life are never repeated. We owe it to him, his family, and every roadside worker to keep safety at the forefront."

This multi-agency operation will take place on Wednesday, November 25, on I-25 and C-470.

All 50 states have "Slow Down, Move Over" laws, yet fewer than 30% of Americans know these laws (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

In 2024, the Colorado Slow Down Move Over law expanded to provide greater protection for all people and their vehicles on the side of the road. The enhanced law requires you to move over for all motorists, including emergency responders, tow trucks, maintenance vehicles, and passenger vehicles with hazard lights activated. Colorado drivers have two choices when they see an emergency/tow/ maintenance vehicle or passenger vehicle with emergency hazards on:


- Move over at least one lane from that vehicle
- If they cannot safely move over, then they must slow down to a safe speed.
- Safe speed means Drivers must slow down to 25 MPH or less in a 40 MPH zone.
- Drivers must slow by at least 20 MPH in a 45 MPH or higher zone.

Failure to yield to a stationary vehicle is a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense and punishable by 10-90 days in jail and or \$150 to \$300 in fines, and 3 points assessed on their Colorado DL.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE TO OBSERVE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, NOV. 27

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO — The U.S. Postal Service will observe the Thanksgiving federal holiday on Thursday, Nov. 27. All Post Office locations will be closed and only Priority Mail Express will be delivered that day. Regular mail delivery and retail services will resume on Friday, Nov. 28.

With more holidays just around the corner, customers are reminded that when Post Offices are closed, they can still access many postal products and services through the more than 2,600 self-service kiosks available in select lobbies nationwide. These kiosks feature:

- Postage printing for Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express and international shipping;
- Stamps for purchase;
- Ability to weigh and mail packages; and
- Package tracking information.

And, as USPS modernizes its retail locations, more self-service options are becoming available at more locations and include:

Rapid Dropoff Stations for customers who have already created and printed labels online;

Label printing for customers to print shipping labels from a merchant-provided QR code; and

USPS Smart Lockers that allow customers to both drop off and pick up packages, often with 24/7 access available.

Many self-service kiosks are available 24/7, offering customers flexibility and convenience even when Post Offices are closed for the holiday.

For more information on USPS services, visit www.usps.com.



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REGIONALNEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2ND ANNUAL PAINT THE PLOW CONTEST



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Montrose County Road & Bridge is proud to announce the winners of its Second Annual Name the Plow/Paint the Plow contest, which is an initiative designed to promote safe winter driving while engaging local students in a fun, creative community project.

This year's theme, "Slow Down When the Snow's Down," highlights the importance of caution on snowy and icy roads.

Seven winners from the Montrose County School District were selected. Of those, two plows will be showcased in the Montrose Parade of Lights as well as the Olathe Parade of Lights, giving students a chance to see their artwork celebrated in one of the community's most cherished seasonal events. This year's winners are:

-1st Place: *King Slow Mo* - Olathe Elementary, 5th Grade, Ms. Sarah Seymour's Class

-2nd Place: *Cow the Great Big Plow* - Early Childhood Center, Pre-K, Miss Erica's Class
In addition to the top placements, several classrooms were recognized for their cre-

ativity and enthusiasm in the program. Additional entries include: "The McFlurry" and "Blizzard Wizard" from Olathe Middle School's 8th grade classes led by Paige Ready; "Snowy" from Oak Grove Elementary 5th Grade, Kristy Custer's class; "Plowasaurus Rex" created by Olathe Elementary 4th Grade, Melissa Cary's class; and "Kindness" submitted by the Early Childhood Center Pre-K class taught by Emily Crown.

"Our crews work tirelessly to keep our roads safe in winter, and this program allows students to be part of that mission," said Curtis Milton, Montrose County Interim Road & Bridge Superintendent. "Seeing the creativity and excitement from local classrooms reminds us how important community partnership is, especially when it comes to winter safety." Brandon Wallace, Interim Public Works Director said, "What used to feel like a routine winter task has become something our entire crew genuinely looks forward to. The Paint the Plow program has brought new energy to our team. They

can't wait to find out what name their plow will get each year. Seeing students pour their creativity into these designs not only builds schoolwide excitement, but it also raises real awareness about the work our plows do in the winter. It's one of our most meaningful forms of community outreach. When kids see these massive trucks up close and understand their role, it stays with them. And when they're waiting for the school bus and a plow comes by, that awareness helps them take a step back and stay safe."

Montrose County School District Superintendent Dr. Carrie Stephenson said, "The Paint the Plow program is a wonderful way to connect students with real-world community services. Not only do they get to express their creativity, but they also learn about teamwork, responsibility, and the importance of staying safe on winter roads. We're thrilled to partner with Montrose County on this meaningful project." For more information or to apply, visit the County's official website at www.montrosecounty.net.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROAD CLOSURES SCHEDULED FOR THREE MONTROSE LOCATIONS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 25

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County Public Works will implement road closures in three Montrose area locations beginning November 25 through December 12, 2025, in order to replace three large culverts.

The road closure locations are as follows:

1. Cedar Road at Carnation Road
2. C-2395, 6450 Road at Kayla Trail
3. C-3012, 6250 Road, 930 feet south of Highway 90/Oak Grove Road.

Drivers are encouraged to plan alternate routes and follow posted signage during this period. For more information, please contact Rich Rivera at 970-252-7009 or Mike Hindson at 970-964-2448.



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES LARGEST METH SEIZURE IN COLORADO HISTORY, SO-CALLED 'KINGPIN' CHARGE FILED AGAINST LEADER OF DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION

US Attorney District of Colorado

DENVER – The United States Attorney for the District of Colorado announces that 15 individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury in connection with the largest methamphetamine seizure in Colorado history. One defendant is facing the so-called 'drug kingpin' charge as an alleged leader of a drug trafficking organization.

Defendants named in the indictment include: Marco Antonio De Silva Lara, Sergio Ivan Arce Lopez, Juan Luis Cabrera Saucedo, Luis Enrique Lopez Lopez, Rigoberto Aranda, Erik Alejandro Benitez Chavez, Robert Shane Gerstner, Joseph Ricardo Menzor, William Joseph Rollins, Brittney Pierce, Francisco Javier Armenta Barraza, Jamie Cash Hoover, Cesar Andres Huizar Guerra, and Trenton Anthony Thompson. Eleven of these defendants are in federal custody, while the remaining defendants are believed to remain in Mexico.

As detailed in the complaint, federal wiretaps, extensive surveillance, undercover operations, and swift enforcement efforts led to the seizure of more than 1,000 pounds of methamphetamine linked to this organization, including the following:

-In December 2024, agents seized 96 pounds of methamphetamine from a member of the organization on a Greyhound Bus in Vail, Colorado.

-In February 2025, 101 pounds of methamphetamine and a half kilogram of fentanyl powder were seized from another member of the organization on a highway in Colorado.

-In April 2025, over 700 pounds of methamphetamine was seized from a residence in Lakewood, Colorado, along with freezers, propane tanks, and other equipment consistent with methamphetamine manufacturing or conversion. Investigators found thousands of packages of methamphetamine concealed in the corners of containers of fruit.

-In August 2025, nearly 50 pounds of methamphetamine was seized from a residence in Arvada, Colorado.

All 15 defendants face drug charges which carry a potential sentence of no less than ten years and up to life in federal prison. Four of the defendants are charged with money laundering, which carries a potential sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison. Marco Antonio De Silva Lara is charged with operating a Continuing Criminal Enterprise in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 848(a), commonly known as the 'drug kingpin' charge. This charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years and up to life in prison.

The Transnational Organized Crime and Money Laundering Section of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado is handling the prosecutions.

The charges contained in the indictments are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. Case Number: 1:25-CR-240-PAB

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE COUNTY'S DOUBLE STANDARD: WHY SUE HANSEN REMAINS UNTOUCHED

Editor:

A Tale of Two Commissioners

Montrose County voters narrowly recalled Commissioner Roger Mijares for what recall supporters labeled “questionable behavior.” At the same time, Commissioner Sue Hansen continues to serve unscathed despite years of documented ethical violations that dwarf the trumped-up charges against Mijares. One official loses his seat over minor controversies. Another collects citizen awards while openly flouting Colorado law. The hypocrisy is impossible to ignore.

The Information Has Been Public

This is not a case of hidden facts. Local reporting over the past year has repeatedly exposed Hansen’s conduct. Residents who claim ignorance simply have not been paying attention. We can no longer plead lack of evidence, only a lack of wanting to accept facts. Which is understandable as nobody wants to believe they have been misled or worse, lied to for the past seven years.

Seven Years of Calculated Influence

For seven years, Sue Hansen has embedded herself into every corner of Montrose County politics with ruthless efficiency. She attends every ribbon-cutting, poses for every photo, and stacks plaque upon plaque. The strategy has worked brilliantly. The fatal flaw: she has done it all while systematically violating the Colorado Code of Ethics.

Violation One: Breach of Public Trust (C.R.S. § 24-18-103)

Colorado law declares that holding public office is a public trust. Officials must act only in the public interest and avoid any conduct that erodes confidence in government integrity. Hansen shattered this standard when she used her personal Facebook page to actively support the recall campaign against Commissioner Mijares. A

sitting commissioner campaigning to remove another commissioner is not protected speech; it is a direct assault on the public trust the statute exists to protect.

Violation Two: Improper Use of Position (C.R.S. § 24-18-104)

State law forbids public officers from using their position for private political gain or even creating the appearance of such use. Hansen’s public posts, made while identifying herself as a county commissioner, gave the clear impression that she was weaponizing her office against a colleague. Partisan warfare trumped impartial service.

Violation Three: Creating Conflicts of Interest (C.R.S. § 24-18-105)

Officials may not take actions that could result in private gain or impair independent judgment. By inserting herself into a divisive recall fight, Hansen turned county government into a factional battleground. That choice harmed the economic and political interests of every resident she swore to serve.

Violation Four: Breach of Fiduciary Duty for Local Officials (C.R.S. § 24-18-109)

The statute aimed directly at county commissioners lists specific acts that constitute a breach of fiduciary duty. Publicly working to unseat a fellow elected official while serving in the same body fits the definition perfectly. It undermines collaborative governance and serves no legitimate public purpose.

The “Private Citizen” Excuse Collapses

Some will argue her Facebook posts were private opinion. The claim is laughable. She lists her title on the page. She tags county business. She trades on her elected status daily. In the eyes of ethics law, perception is reality when the public’s faith in government hangs in the balance.

We Rejected Dysfunction Once, Why Not Again?

On November 4, Montrose voters put children above politics and cleaned house on the school board. We proved we can set bias aside when the stakes are high. The county commission is no less important. Applauding Hansen while recalling Mijares reveals a standard that changes depending on whose team is winning.

What Is She Hiding?

When an elected official works this aggressively to destroy a colleague while wrapping herself in awards and praise, honest citizens must ask the obvious question: what else has Sue Hansen buried behind the polished image?

A Possible Political Coup?

There are also whispers that Hansen and her leftist allies are staging a coup of the Montrose County Republican Party, whom she stealthily left back in March of 2025 to become unaffiliated.

Having unaffiliated and democrat party operatives change their affiliation to “Republican” for the caucus in an effort to overtake the party to upend it. Another unethical political power move in the making if true.

Montrose County deserves leaders who obey the same ethics laws they expect from everyone else. Awards do not erase violations. They only expose how effectively the game has been played. It is time to end the double standard. Sue Hansen’s seven-year pattern of ethical breaches demands real investigation, not another certificate on the wall.

Michael J Badagliacco, “MJB”

Michael is a father of five, grandfather of three, United States Air Force veteran, international recording artist, and Editor-in-Chief of the [Colorado DOGE Report](#). He is passionate about the United States of America and the founders’ genius in crafting the Constitution.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK OFFERS FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH RECOVERY ACCESS FUND

Special to the Mirror

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK'S REGION, CO-Tri-County Health Network (TCHN) announces the continued availability of the Recovery Access Fund (RAF), a financial assistance program designed to help individuals access essential mental health services related to substance use challenges and recovery.

The Recovery Access Fund provides applicants with support for up to twelve counseling or therapy sessions with licensed behavioral health providers. The program aims to reduce financial barriers that often prevent individuals from seeking or continuing mental health treatment during critical moments in their recovery journey.

The RAF is available to all residents and workers in Montrose, Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel counties. Individuals do not need to have health insurance to qualify, and those who are uninsured, underinsured, or experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to apply.

"Recovery is not a linear path, and no one should be denied access to care because of cost," said Melanie Wasserman, Co-Executive Director of Advocacy and Inclusion. "Our Recovery Access Fund is designed to reduce financial barriers to substance use therapy or ongoing recovery counseling and is a meaningful support opportunity to community members seeking help."

More information about the program and how to apply can be found at www.tchnetwork.org/programs/raf or you can call TCHN directly at 970.708.7096. TCHN staff are here to assist you with the application process or answer any questions you may have. Recovery should not be sought alone and TCHN is here to walk beside you.

Tri-County Health Network remains committed to collaborating with its communities to improve health for everyone. Community members are encouraged to share this information with anyone who may benefit from additional support in their recovery.

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION APPROVES ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE TO SUPPORT RELIABILITY AND MEMBER CHOICE

Special to the Mirror

NUCLA/RIDGWAY— San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has approved an electric rate increase for all consumer classes, scheduled to take effect on **December 15, 2025**. The adjustment is designed to ensure balanced cost recovery amid rising operational expenses, while maintaining the cooperative's commitment to delivering reliable power and preserving meaningful choices for members in how they use and manage their energy.

Over the past several months, SMPA's Board of Directors reviewed and considered comments submitted by members regarding the proposed changes. Member feedback played an important role in the Board's deliberations, reinforcing the cooperative's priority to remain transparent, responsive, and community-driven throughout the rate-setting process.

A key driver of the rate increase is the continued rise in wholesale power costs, including a **7.2% increase from SMPA's wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission**. In addition, SMPA faces higher costs for essential materials, insurance, and investments in critical infrastructure upgrades—expenses that support the cooperative's ability to maintain safety, reliability, and long-term system resilience.

Despite these pressures, SMPA notes that its rate adjustments over time remain modest compared to national inflation and national average electric cost trends.

For most residential consumers, the approved rate change includes:

-A **\$5 increase** to the monthly access charge, bringing it to **\$33.00 per month**

-A **3¢ increase** to the on-peak energy rate, bringing that rate to **25¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh)**

A complete list of the rate changes can be viewed at www.smpa.com/rates.

These changes will apply to energy used beginning **December 15, 2025**, and will first be reflected on members' **January electric bills**.

As a member-owned cooperative, SMPA seeks to partner with its members in making changes for the benefit of all. Through energy-efficiency programs, rebates, an on-bill repayment program, distributed energy options, and personalized guidance, SMPA offers tools that maximize dollar value, while continuing to make the long-term investments needed to serve its communities safely and reliably.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

NEW IMMERSIVE EXHIBIT, "THE THINGS WE CARRY—LAS COSAS QUE LLEVAMOS," TRANSFORMS LABOR INTO A "LIVING ARCHIVE" OF RESILIENCE AND HOPE

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE— Telluride Arts and a coalition of community partners will host the powerful and immersive art exhibit, "The Things We Carry—Las Cosas Que Llevamos," a living archive built by and for Latino workers in San Miguel County. The exhibit will be open to the public from **Nov. 14, 2025, through Jan. 2, 2026** (Nov 24-28 by appointment only) at Telluride Arts HQ, 135 W Pacific Ave, Telluride, CO.

This installation is more than an exhibit; it is a sacred space rooted in the truth that creativity is a political act, taking inspiration from the words of Amílcar Cabral: "The culture of liberation is the terrain of struggle." The project transforms the lived experiences of local workers into a powerful collective testimony of survival, resistance, dignity, and hope.

Visitors are invited to step into a space that is part gallery and part archive, where everyday

objects, voices, and truths become altars, portraits, and collective memory

walls. Through visual, sound, and interactive mediums, the exhibit asks the community to "Look what we built together" by engaging directly with the tools, words, and stories of labor.

"This is an act of collective healing and truth-telling, aiming to spark community empowerment and amplify voices that are too often silenced," said lead curator, Tabassum Siddiqui. "This is the story of millions." said one of the story contributors. In the current political climate, it is a significant challenge for this community to share their stories publicly, making this exhibit a crucial and necessary act of resilience.

The exhibit is vital to the community for its power to humanize this experience and help develop a critical consciousness so that systemic issues can transform and become something of the past. Its public opening on November 14th will kick off the community's Semana de Bienestar (Wellness Week), which runs November 13-16, reinforcing the core tenet of the coalition: "Without social justice there is no wellness."

About the Supporters

This vital project is made possible through a collaboration of community organizations and advocates, including **Tri-County Health Network's Multicultural Advocacy Team (TCHN)** and the **Workers' School, Raíces Sin Fronteras, Telluride Arts**, and various Coalition members across the state. The exhibit is also supported by the CDPHE Health Disparity Community Grant Program.

Visitor Information

If you would like to schedule a learning lab or private visit during the run time of the exhibit, please contact the Multicultural Advocacy Team at mca@tchnetwork.org.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LUKE FEDLER NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE SAN JUANS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans (HFHSJ) is pleased to announce the hiring of its new Executive Director, Luke Fedler, who brings more than 25 years of public service, leadership, and community partnership experience to the organization.

Luke joins HFHSJ after a distinguished career in law enforcement, including over a decade with the Delta County Sheriff's Office and extensive service with the Delta Police Department. In 2017, he was appointed Chief of Police of the Delta Police Department, where he led 23 sworn officers and 10 civilian staff, strengthened interagency collaboration, and focused on community-centered service. Throughout his career, Luke has been recognized for his integrity, collaborative leadership style, and ability to build trust across diverse groups — qualities that align directly with Habitat's mission of building safe, stable, affordable housing.

Luke's background includes deep experience in strategic planning, operational management, training, investigations, and community outreach. His leadership roles have given him firsthand insight into the social, economic, and housing challenges facing families across Western Colorado. His career has included service as a patrol officer, detective, detective sergeant, in-

structor, and agency chief, all of which shape his belief that stable housing is foundational to a healthy, thriving community.

Luke earned his Colorado Basic Peace Officer Certification from the Delta-Montrose Area Vocational Technical Center in 2000 and later completed a Bachelor of Science in Public Management from Colorado State University with academic honors. He has undertaken extensive specialized training in leadership, organizational development, investigations, and community engagement across the Western United States.

Luke's commitment to service extends well beyond his professional roles. He has served on the 7th Judicial Community Corrections Board, is an active member of the Delta Elks Lodge, and has taught and advised for the Technical College of the Rockies Law Enforcement Academy. He is also the past president of the Western Colorado Peace Officers Association.

Luke and his wife, Angela, are proud parents and grandparents. The family lives and works in Montrose and Delta, and they will soon be moving to Pea Green, where they are building their forever home.

A Vision for Habitat's Future

As Executive Director, Luke is committed to strengthening Habitat for Humanity of

the San Juans' impact by building meaningful partnerships, increasing community engagement, and advancing the organization's mission to help families achieve safe, affordable homeownership.

"Luke's leadership experience, integrity, and dedication to serving others make him exceptionally well-suited for this role," said Jessamy Pressler, HFHSJ Board President. "We are excited for the future of Habitat under his guidance and the energy, compassion, and professionalism he brings to our community. It is exciting to think about what a fresh take will bring to this organization."

Luke shared his enthusiasm for this next chapter:

"I am honored to join Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans. Safe, stable housing changes lives, and I look forward to partnering with families, volunteers, the community, and our supporters to continue the important work of building homes and hope across the region."

Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building safe, stable, and affordable homes in partnership with local families. Serving Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties since 1991, HFHSJ works alongside volunteers, donors, and community partners to help families achieve long-term housing stability.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT IS A LEGAL ORDER?

Editor:

There has been a lot of talk/uproar lately over certain people in Congress suggesting members of the military have a duty to disobey illegal orders.

When an individual enlists in the armed forces he swears an oath. That promise includes:

Support and defend the Constitution: The core promise to protect the Constitution from all enemies, both from outside the U.S. and within.

Obey orders: An agreement to follow the orders of the President and the officers appointed over them, according to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The rub is, who determines what a legal order is? So, let me present this hypothetical to you. An order comes down from the Secretary of Defense to board a small water craft that is in international waters, to execute everyone onboard that boat, leave their bodies and then destroy the boat. The justification is suspicion of transporting narcotics. Would that be a legal order?

If your answer is no, I ask how is the scenario I laid out any different than sending a missile from an airborne aircraft to do the same? Is the manner in which an interdiction takes place justification for legality? As an Air Force Veteran I know

what my answer is.

Two events come to mind where "I was only following orders" was used as justification for extrajudicial killings, the Holocaust during WWII, and the Mai Lai massacre during the Vietnam War. In both cases those that committed the murders were found guilty.

In my mind, just because an order comes down the chain-of-command does not necessarily make it legal. The recipient of the order has a heavy weight on his/her shoulders to determine if the order should be followed without question.

*Dave Stockton,
Montrose*

TO SEE FORWARD SOMETIMES YOU MUST LOOK BACKWARD

Editor:

Two thousand years ago, Rome and Greece were the richest civilizations on earth, and their productive citizens paid almost no direct tax for centuries. Then the tipping point came. By the 5th century, Roman farmers owed 40–60% of their harvest in taxes. Fields were abandoned by tens of thousands of acres. By 476, the Western Empire was gone. A century earlier, Greek cities faced Roman warlords demanding five to ten years of taxes in a single year. Temples were stripped; free citizens sold at auction; populations halved. When the rate finally dropped, the creative heart of Greece never fully recovered.

Today, many Colorado ranchers and middle-class Americans are crossing the same line. A productive household now surrenders 29–32% nationally, 38–45% in high-cost states. On the Western Slope, property taxes alone (driven by subdivision com-

parable sales valuation) take 20–40% of a ranch net profit. A 500-acre irrigated operation that cleared \$35,000 a decade ago now owes \$12,000–\$18,000 in property tax before the first calf is sold.

We are watching generational ranches forced into conservative easements or sold to developers because the tax bill arrives whether cattle prices crash or not. Young families leave for Wyoming and Texas the same way 5th-century Gauls crossed the Rhine to escape Roman collectors. History is brutally clear: civilizations do not collapse at 15% or 25% taxation. They collapse when the people who grow the food and build the businesses are asked to hand over 40–50% and counting. When taxes were low great civilizations thrived; when taxes reached a certain point, they died.

The barbarians didn't conquer Rome as the history books tell us, Rome digested itself through over-taxation, depopulation,

and loss of loyalty, and the barbarians simply stepped into the vacuum, county by county, valley by valley. When you see a Western Colorado ranch sold to a Denver developer because the owner couldn't pay the property tax, or a young family move to Texas because Colorado's combined burden is too high, you're watching the 21st-century version of the same quiet absorption, one tax notice at a time. Other states are absorbing the productive people of Colorado, and non-productive hobbyists are absorbing the land. If this is a part of some grand, land-grab plan or it is just government greed run amuck, the outcome is not going to be pretty.

I am beginning to understand how and why the Front Range of Colorado has turned (and the Western Slope is turning) from red to blue.

The producers are slowly being replaced by the non-productive.

Don Hemme, Redvale



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

THOMAS "TOMMY" IRA JONES *May 19, 1961 – November 15, 2025*



.With Great sadness we announce the unexpected passing of Thomas Ira Jones

aka Tommy, Tom Cat. A Beloved Father, Grandfather, Husband, Brother and Friend. Tommy brought joy, humor, wisdom, and light to everyone he shared his life with.

Thomas was born May 19th, 1961, to Mona and Ira Jones in Grants, NM.

Thomas is preceded in death by his Parents Ira Custer Jones and Mona Marie Jones (Woods). Uncles Thomas Earl Jones, Paul Jr Nixon, and his Aunt Dorothy Monger (Jones).

Tommy is survived by his wife Ramona Jones (Katzdorn), son Timothy Ira Jones (Chandra), Daughter Stacy Ann Dominguez (Arnie) and Grandchildren Reatta Jones, Thomas E. Jones, DeMonte Dominguez, Tallen Jones, Isabella Dominguez, Arnulfo Dominguez III, and Rayleen Jones. Siblings Sherry Pribble

(James), Tammy Moyer, and Chad Jones (Brenda). Along with several Nieces and Nephews and their children who Tommy Loved and Enjoyed spending quality time with.

Tommy was known for his love of Tractors, Semitrucks, Cool Old Cars, Motorcycles, The Woods and Outdoors, but most of all the Love for His Family.

A Celebration of Life is to be held at the Community Center (Moose Lodge) in Nucla, CO on Nov. 28th 2025 at 11 o'clock. Come Help us say goodbye to an Amazing Father, Husband, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle and Friend.

Bring your Stories, Memories, and a side dish if you can share. The Family looks forward to hearing All your exciting adventures you have shared with The Tom Cat over the years.

DAVID EARL READOUT *April 1, 1943 — November 14, 2025*

DAVID EARL READOUT (82) departed from this earth to be with his Savior, Jesus, on November 14, 2025, at his home in Montrose, Colorado, after a long illness.

David was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, on April 1, 1943. His parents were Frank and Ellen (Devault) Readout. He grew up and went to school in Ames, Iowa. He attended Barber School and worked with his father as a barber until he was called to serve his country in 1968. David joined the US Air Force and proudly served his years at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. After serving his country, David trained at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to be an air traffic controller, and moved to Longmont, Colorado, to work at the Longmont ATC. He also worked at the Oklahoma Training Center as an instructor as well as the Cleveland ATC. He also was an instructor at the University of North Dakota in Air Traffic Control.

David married in 1963; this marriage ended in divorce. In 1976, David met the love of his life, Rosalee (King) Stehman. They were married on October 29, 1976. They celebrated their 49th anniversary on October 29, 2025. David is survived by his wife, Rosalee, and three stepchildren - Judy Ziller (Greely, CO), Jerry Stehman (Grand Junction, CO), and Kathy Potts (Sturgis, SD) - 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, (one deceased grandson).

In lieu of flowers, honor David by a gift to Hope West (Montrose, CO)

www.hopewestco.org/donate and/or Turning Point with David Jeremiah (San Diego, CA) www.davidjeremiah.org/donate.

Viewing is 5-7pm on Friday, December 5, 2025 at Crippin Funeral Home (802 East Main Street, Montrose, CO). A service will be held at 11am on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at Crippin Chapel (Montrose, CO) followed by a Committal Service and Military Honors at Cedar Creek Cemetery, (2221 Miami Rd, Montrose, CO)



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

PATSY MILLS

September 15, 1940 — November 12, 2025

PATSY MILLS, 85, of Montrose, CO, passed away peacefully on November 12, 2025.

Patsy was a loving mother, grandmother, and friend. She was known for her kindness, her generosity, and the steady strength she carried throughout her life. She touched many lives with her warm heart and caring spirit. She is survived by her children Lynne (Andy) Huddleston, and Dan (Jody) Mills, and by her beloved grandchildren Cory and Wesley Huddleston, along with her brother William Glendening and extended family.

Per Patsy's wishes, no service will be held. The family thanks everyone for their support and kindness during this difficult time. She will be deeply missed and forever loved.



ALBERT "AL" ZEMAN

July 11, 1932 — November 14, 2025

On November 14, 2025, our beloved father and friend, Albert "Al" Zeman went home to be with his Lord Jesus. We celebrate his life — a life well-lived, devoted to family, faith and service. Born July 11, 1932, in Niles, Michigan, Al was the third and youngest child of Albert George and Margaret Andrews Zeman. Affectionately called "Bert" in his youth, he spent his early years moving often, before his family settled in Laguna Beach, California, where he attended high school and was named Captain of the football team.

Al was awarded an athletic scholarship to play football at the University of Colorado, from where he graduated in 1956, earning Bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and business, along with additional credits toward a Master's degree. While in school, he met the love of his life, Donna Lien, and they married on June 14, 1955. He also served as Chapter President of the Sigma Nu fraternity.

After graduation, Al served in the Army Reserve and began his career with General Electric as a design engineer, before moving into management. Later in his

career, he went on to work for Public Service of New Mexico, and finally Iowa Power and Light before retiring.

At 40, Al took up competitive running and completed numerous marathons, enjoying the camaraderie of new friends. In retirement, he devoted himself to volunteer work — serving in his church, mentoring troubled youth, and helping victims of Hurricane Katrina. A lifelong master woodworker, he crafted beautiful furniture as well as other fine pieces. In addition he took up cycling, which he embraced with the same enthusiasm as he approached everything in life and became a welcome contender among his cycling buddies.

Al and Donna raised three daughters and lived in many states before ultimately returning to New Mexico, where Donna — his wife of nearly 68 years — passed away. Wishing to be closer to family, Al moved to Montrose, Colorado, where he spent his final months. He lived life to the fullest and was deeply loved and admired.

One of his favorite verses was Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your



heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

Al is survived by his daughters, Linda Zeman, Julie Arthur and Susan Bruss; his two sons-in-law, Bill Arthur and Ron Bruss; ten grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.



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ISSUE 549 Nov. 24, 2025

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: WITH WENDY VIDELOCK

ODE TO THE OLD, ODE TO TRADITION

I recently offered up a class in gourd painting and the turnout was remarkable. Everybody it seems, loves a gourd.

Maybe the gourd is irresistible because it is many things at once, a natural fusion of form and function. The gourd is a freak of nature as well as a marvel of the earth, a vessel grown on vines, shaped by the elements into a thousand whimsical forms.

*The soft color of cream,
neon orange or deeply green,
round as a moon or crooked
as a question mark,
speckled or striped,
bulbous
or teeny tiny,
brightly,
quietly,
the gourd reminds us
nature loves variety.*

Gourds trace back to the Neolithic era and are among the oldest cultivated plants on earth. Belonging to the Cucurbitaceae family, gourds share ancestral roots with pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, and melons.

There's no denying that gourds have been important to cultures across the world, serving as nourishment, container, tool, substrate, musical instrument, talisman and sacred, ceremonial object.

I confess I find it thrilling to hold a gourd in my hands, the hollows of which were the first bowls.

To trace the story of gourds is to steal a glimpse into humanity's penchant for shaping the natural world into both practical and symbolic expressions of life.

For centuries in the Americas, gourds have been rattled to call in the spirits, in Africa they resonate as drums and lutes and in Asia they become offerings to deities. The gourd has traditionally been more than a plant—it has been a companion in worship and community.

Many years ago, not long after we had moved to the Western Slope, I met a colorful character named Art Goodtimes, a poet, pota-to farmer and political figure living in Norwood just outside Telluride. He appeared quite suddenly at the poetry circle I organized at the newly built Barnes & Noble in Grand Junction. He introduced himself with aplomb and handed me a gourd.

This, he explained, is the *Talking Gourd*, used for ceremony and the sharing of words while sitting in a circle. The gourd, he said, is passed from person to person and everyone must listen attentively until the speaker is finished. In this way, he continued, we foster active listening, mutual respect and meaningful conversation.

Most of us have heard of the indigenous use of the Talking Stick, (and the Conch shell used in Lord of the Flies), but I had never heard of the Talking Gourd used in the same capacity. From that day forward, I was hooked, hooked on Art Goodtimes, (who since has become one of my dearest friends and mentors) — and hooked on the gourd and everything the gourd stands for.



By Western Slope Poet
Laureate Wendy Vidlock.
Courtesy photo.

Continued next pg

ODE TO THE OLD, ODE TO TRADITION *From previous pg*

*Both feminine and masculine,
the gourd,
without question is
a wonky salutation,
an open invitation
and really good medicine
for the active
and
the lapsed imagination.*

In the gourd painting class I recently taught, I couldn't help noticing that the folks who signed up were as diverse as the gourds themselves. Some were seasoned artists, others were entirely new to the arts. All were adults, but one child had enrolled, a boy perhaps eleven or 12 years old. His parents introduced him to the group and then left him to enjoy the class.

I began teaching a few painting techniques to the group and noticed the young boy was busy doing his own thing with the supplies I had provided. He was working quietly and with determination so I left him to his own devices.

At the end of the class he approached me to show me his creation, which he accompanied with narration. This, he said, is the story of how the earth was formed and of human civilization. He pointed to what looked like pictographs of a tiny lightning bolt and a bird. He traced his finger across the other symbols he had carefully rendered on the belly of the gourd in a continuous, spiraling circle. The story he told was one of diverse life forms, hunger and prosperity, destruction and creativity.

I was gobsmacked. These humble vessels known as gourds seem to bring out the best in us. Nestled in this boy's story were aspects of all the big myths, religions and creation stories uttered across the earth.

Before clay pots or glass bottles, gourds carried water, seeds, medicines, and hope. They floated on rivers as buoys, cradled harvests in storage, and became ladles in the hand.

Their story continues in contemporary times. Artists carve them into glowing lamps, power masks and birdhouses. Musicians still depend on their resonant chambers. Gardeners grow them all over the world.

And on the Western Slope of the Colorado Rockies, young boys in earnest still paint creation stories on gourds while poets, sitting in a circle, lift them while singing songs, telling stories and reciting poems.

*Ever notice how a circle
swings open the door
to all that is new
and all
that's come before?*

—

Wendy Videlock's books are available wherever books are sold. She currently serves as poet laureate of the Western Slope. Reach her at westernslopedword@gmail.com

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SLOW ART AND VIEWFINDERS REDEFINE ABSTRACT ART

By Siggie Carpenter

MONTROSE-Julia Reid, a friendly and engaging Montrose neighbor, has recently invented an interactive tool that might just change the way people view art. Julia Reid, the artist, cordially invites you to come and view abstract art and experience "Slow Art" currently on display until Nov. 29 at the Montrose Center for the Arts - "The Art of Observation: Two Voices" created by Bonnie Bucknam and Julia Reid.



Abstract art is defined by its departure from the depiction of visual beauty. Art is one's expression of creativity and imagination to produce works that are intended to be seen not only for beauty but also emotional power. As Julia's friend, I had no clue what abstract art was about, I am not an artist. I am a writer and one who agrees with my doctor, accepting a challenge now and then is highly encouraged. Up until now, I have always been one who avoided art galleries. I would quickly walk by because I didn't understand art, I was out of my comfort zone and besides, I couldn't afford an original piece of art. I was wrong. As an artist, Julia understood why I felt intimidated, but, as my friend, she challenged me to go to the Montrose Art Center and experience it again, only this time from a different observation point.

Julia was right! With the use of the art viewfinder, I became immersed in each art piece and gained a better appreciation for abstract art. As an incentive to use the viewfinders and experience "Slow Art," we have the opportunity to create our own masterpiece and submit it for a cash reward. The deadline for entries is Friday, Nov. 28. I called Julia to thank her for challenging me, and now, I challenge you to create and submit your own artistic creation.

"Time spent on TikTok is longer than most people spend to view a piece of art," according to Julia. "Most people spend less than eight seconds looking at a piece of art while they're moving on to the next piece. Our prevailing culture is so immersed in speed and instant gratification." However, a new social phenomenon is taking hold, the "Slow Movement" culture that opposes the idea that "faster is better" and emphasizes quality, mindfulness and intentional living over speed and efficiency: Slow Food, Slow Journalism, Slow Nature, and Slow Art.

Currently on display until Saturday, Nov. 29 is "The Art of Observation: Two Voices" featuring local artists Bonnie Bucknam and Julia Reid. Come to the Montrose Center for the Arts at 205 E. Main Street and take an unhurried approach and let your creative journey begin. For more information, call 970-787-9428. www.montrosecenterforarts.com



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF THE WINTER FAIRE IN DOWNTOWN PALISADE!

Special to the Mirror

PALISADE — Get ready to embrace the wonder of the holiday season at the *Winter Faire*, happening Saturday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Downtown Palisade! Presented by the Palisade Chamber of Commerce, this enchanting outdoor market is the highlight of *Olde Fashioned Christmas* weekend and promises a full day of festive fun for all ages.

Stroll through a charming holiday marketplace brimming with local vendors, handcrafted gifts, artisan creations, and delicious seasonal treats—the perfect place to find something special for everyone on your list. But the Winter Faire is so much more than shopping!

Families can delight in carriage rides through downtown, make memories at the petting zoo, and hop aboard the Candy Cane Train for a ride filled with cheer. The day will be filled with live entertainment, including holiday carolers, local performers, and festive tunes to keep spirits bright. Santa Claus will also make a special appearance, spreading smiles and joy to visitors young and old.

“The Winter Faire is one of Palisade’s most magical holiday traditions,” said Jessica Burford, President & CEO of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce. “It captures the heart of our community; celebrating local talent, small businesses, and the joy of the season in a truly unforgettable way.”

Bundle up, bring the family, and experience the sights, sounds, and flavors of the holidays in beautiful Downtown Palisade. Admission is free, and all are welcome to join in the celebration!

For full event details and the entertainment lineup, visit palisadechristmas.com.



The Satisfied Self

26 FOR 26, WEEK 3: ORDER, EASE & HOLIDAY FRIENDLY SYSTEMS



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

By Week Three, something subtle begins to happen: you start to feel yourself again. The identity work from Week One and the physical rhythm from Week Two have created a sturdier internal landscape—steadier mornings, clearer energy, and a quieter mind.

Now we turn outward.

Week Three is intentionally holiday-friendly because this season, more than any other, needs systems that lighten your load, not add to it. These shifts—Declutter One Zone, Create a Launchpad, and the Digital Reset—may look simple, but they are powerful levers. They reduce friction, restore clarity, and create space for presence. This week is all about reclaiming ease.

Shift 9: Declutter One Zone (Pillar: Environment & Systems)

Your environment is not neutral—it is always influencing you. Visual noise drains cognitive energy; clutter amplifies stress; disorder interrupts flow. But the solution does not require a weekend-long deep clean or a color-coded reinvention of your home.

This week, we focus on one zone. Singular. Contained. Finite. Choose a space that impacts your mood and efficiency the most:

- Entryway
- Desk
- Bedside table
- Bathroom counter
- Closet “hot spot”
- Kitchen catch-all drawer

Personally? I need to do all of these. Looks like I have a Saturday project. Set a timer for 30-60 minutes, turn on music, and remove everything unnecessary. No nostalgia. No emotional archeology. Just clarity. The goal: not a perfect home—a functional one. A space that supports you instead of

siphoning your attention.

Shift 10: Create a Launchpad (Pillar: Environment & Systems)

Life becomes exponentially easier when things you need are where you need them, before you need them. The “launchpad” is a micro-system: a small but sacred spot near your exit point—the door, hallway table, or kitchen counter—where your essentials live.

Think of it as the logistical equivalent of self-respect.

Your Launchpad contains:

- Your bag
- Your keys
- Water bottle
- Charger or portable battery
- Anything essential for [tomorrow](#) (or the next time you walk out)

This simple system eliminates morning friction, decision fatigue, and the low-level of chaos searching for your belongings while trying to get out the door. The idea is to remove obstacles before they appear. Anticipation is a form of self-care rarely acknowledged but deeply felt.

Shift 11: Digital Reset (Pillar: Environment & Systems)

Your digital landscape is an extension of your physical one—and in many cases, it’s more crowded. Notifications, apps, tabs, alerts, inboxes, texts, low phone storage, and background noise can quickly erode focus and elevate stress.

This week, you’ll streamline your digital world with ruthless precision:

- 1.Reduce your home screen to one page. Only the essentials remain: calendar, messages, camera, notes, and the apps that support your well-being and work. (All else can be organized into folders.)
- 2.Delete ten apps. Not archive. Delete. If you haven’t used them in three months, they’re not serving you.
- 3.Turn off 80 percent of notifications. The only apps that deserve your attention are the ones that move your life forward or involve immediate financial consequence. Everything else is noise.

A digital reset is a reclaiming of mental real estate. It restores the invisible energy lost to constant pings, scrolls, and micro-decisions. The outcome? A phone that feels like a tool, not a tether.

The theme of this week is to reduce friction and increase freedom. These three shifts—small and manageable by design—create immediate relief. They give you room to breathe during the most chaotic time of the year and make everyday tasks smoother, lighter, and less reactive.

When your environment, systems, and digital world become streamlined, your mind follows. What you gain is not just space, but capacity—for joy, for creativity, for presence, for the moments that matter.

Next week, we turn toward eloquence and expression—refining your appearance, presence, posture, and personal care rituals—just in time to look your best for the holidays. The work begins to feel not only productive, but beautiful.

For now, enjoy the ease that comes from order. The holiday season feels entirely different when your world is set up to support you rather than sabotage you.

Gia Pirelli—Former salon owner, group fitness instructor, competitive cyclist and triathlete. These days she’s trading blow-outs for balance, and endurance for infinity as a certified Yoga and Mat Pilates instructor, Sound Healing Practitioner, Breathwork & Meditation Guide, and inner & outer beauty consultant. She blends physical, mental, and spiritual wellness with creative pursuits like jewelry design and painting. When she’s not guiding clients toward balance and beauty, she’s exploring the world, chasing waves, riding motorcycles, and saying “yes” to life—and Tank, her Pitbull PIC, is almost always along for the ride.

Follow her on socials: https://www.instagram.com/gia_pirelli/, <https://www.youtube.com/@GiaPirelli>, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582789143474>

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for guest suites, home offices, or creative

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CEDAREEDGE COUNTRY FLORIST DELIVERS JOY

Special to the Mirror

CEDAREEDGE-Lon and Julie Anne Helmick are no strangers to the florist industry. The Cedaredge couple operated an Idaho flower shop more than two decades ago. Both had retired from busy careers. But they couldn't resist the opportunity when one of the town's premier businesses became available. After many years of success, long-time resident Joan Woolley elected to retire her Gazebo Florist Boutique, so Lon and Julie Anne found themselves at the right place at the right time. That right place is the recently-refurbished Apple Shed at 250 South Grand Mesa Drive (Highway 65) just southeast of downtown Cedaredge. The newly-christened Cedaredge Country Florist is the latest member of the Grand Mesa Business Guild, and the Guild recently sponsored a ribbon cutting for the fledgling business. Speaking to a crowd gathered to mark the occasion, Julie Anne said, "It's fun to be around flowers that God created. We deliver joy."

Lon is a photographer, and Julie Anne is a watercolorist, therefore prints and cards featuring their work are also on display. Certain cards are produced by Julie Anne's imprint: Anne Monroe Designs. Their employee, Amber Henrie, works as the shop's plant wrangler and her unique Bear Paw Prints appear on shirts for sale at the shop.

In addition to custom floral arrangements, the new shop offers house plants, jewelry, plush animals, Soap Rocks, and Enstrom Toffee as well as Solmate Socks and other apparel. The shop also carries books written by local authors.

The shop's hours of operation are Monday-Friday 10 am-4 pm (closed for lunch



This month's Cedaredge Country Floral ribbon-cutting ceremony featured (from left) plant wrangler Amber Henrie and proprietors Julie Anne and Lon Helmick. Photo by Donna Marie Benjamin.

from 1-2 pm). They are also open on Saturdays during holidays and for local events. For more information, call 970-856-3536 or visit their website at www.cedaredgecountryfloral.com.



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MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE REVIEW

"ONE OF THE BEST CHILDREN'S THEATER PERFORMANCES I'VE SEEN IN COLORADO"

by Art Goodtimes

MONTROSE-I caught the Nov. 23 Sunday matinee in Montrose of the Magic Circle Players production of Roald Dahl's musical Matilda directed by Bethany Ward, and it was delightful. One of the best children's theater performances I've seen in Colorado.

Dahl's play with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin is a simple but powerful tale of a brilliant young girl trapped in a ridiculously terrible family and sent to an outrageously run school headmastered by the dreadful Agatha Trunchbull. In the end, she's rescued by Miss Honey her loving teacher, a devoted librarian, and her own love of books. In fact, it's really a morality tale about the redemptive power of books. But most of all it was broad farce and great fun.

The precocious Brielle Hatch did an amazing job as Matilda – singing, dancing and acting her way into our hearts. Gaia Bailey as Lavender and Luke Blankmeyer were standouts among a large cast of children of all ages. Rarely have I seen so many youngsters who danced and sang so well on stage. The choreography was really outstanding, and the kids performed excellently.

For me Shannon Rediger was the heart of the show. She did a great job as Miss Honey, being meek to begin and then transforming into an actively engaged heroine. Her singing was perhaps the most compelling of the afternoon. She has a beautiful voice. But even beyond her skilled performing, she was part of seven-person Collaborative Creative Team assisting the directing of the production AND one of the trio responsible for the choreography. Lauren Stenele was hilarious as the wildly self-serving Mrs. Wormwood, as was her used car dealer consort and general meanie Chris Walsh. Jason Kendall did a Mrs. Doubtfire/Robin Williams-level performance as Agatha Trunchbull, the evil headmistress of the school where most of the action takes place.

Honestly, the entire cast was believable, funny and entertaining.

The set was a work of art, the props simple but very effective. I particularly liked the puppet show segments that carried the story along. And the costumes were terrific. I was delighted to see that my old Telluride friend Luci Reeve has involved there, as she often was in Telluride theater productions.

Lighting, sound, stage management –

everything worked very well.

The only problem I could see was making everyone adopt British accents. It worked for the adults, but not so much for the children. Several folks I talked to couldn't make most of the words that Matilda sang (or even said). Luckily, she did such a good job acting that it didn't matter all that much not making out the words (although Dahl is such a master I would have loved to have understood more). Hatch herself and the action of the others carried the movement of the musical and I never felt lost.

A small quibble for a masterful production.

Matilda will have two more performances before their Christmas show next month: Thurs. Nov. 28 and Friday Nov. 29.

Art Goodtimes is a performance poet, former Poet Laureate of the Western Slope and director of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program. His dad was an actor out in California and he grew up immersed in theater. He was once an usher at the Schubert Theater in New Haven (Conn.) back in the '70s and he served as a theater critic in Telluride for many decades.



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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
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 day of the month we celebrate a potluck
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BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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: Tuesday - Thursday 9 am - Noon and by Appointment
Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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:

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, montroseumc.org

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

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

Pastor: Interim Pastor Ian Hyde
Services Sunday: Worship 10:30 AM, Discipleship Hour: 9:30 AM. Discipleship Hour has classes across all age groups. Nursery for children UNDER 3 is available during Worship.
Mission Statement: Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make

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

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

roseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
Worship service times:
9:15 AM to 10:15 AM: Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.
10:30 AM: Sanctuary & Virtual Worship
Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

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

Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available.
Worship service times: From November 9 -December 14, the regular Sunday gatherings will meet from 9:30-11 am for a six-week SAC/Meditation program with Sangdrol Blanchard of Meditation Spaces. Meditation time and guest speakers are planned. Virtual services are temporarily cancelled. Chai Chats will continue to

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, 710 N. Townsend, Montrose.

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, meditation, and family and community projects.

People of all ages are welcome.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

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).

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.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

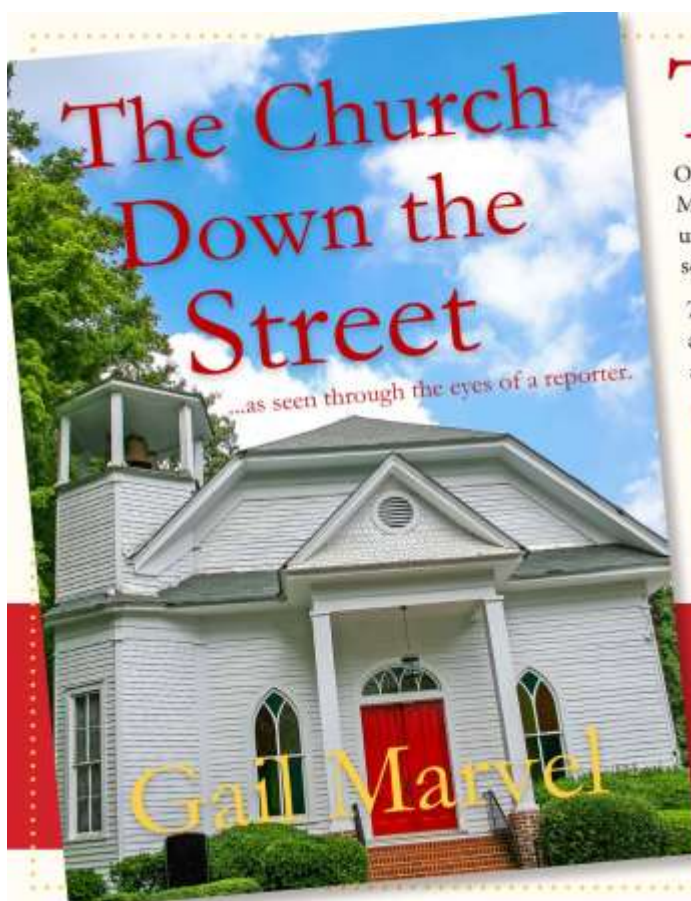
Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.

Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter





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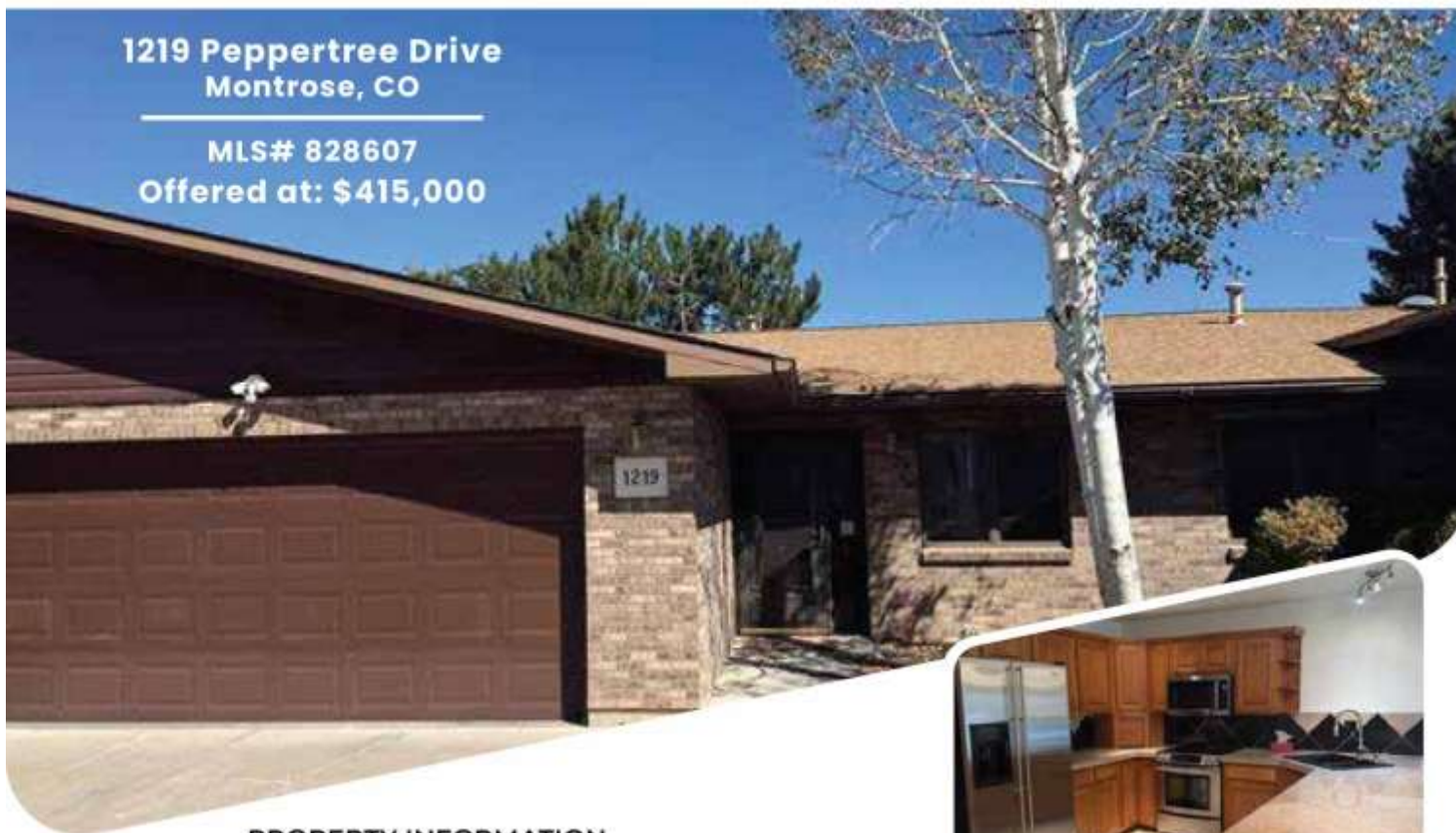
HOME FOR SALE

VIEW THIS LISTING ONLINE:



**1219 Peppertree Drive
Montrose, CO**

**MLS# 828607
Offered at: \$415,000**



PROPERTY INFORMATION

Great townhome located in the desirable Peppertree subdivision! This solidly built home features a classic brick exterior and quality finishes throughout, including beautiful solid wood doors. Step inside to a spacious tiled entryway leading to a large living room with a cozy gas fireplace. The kitchen is well-appointed with a new stainless dishwasher, Jenn Air stove/oven, refrigerator, and plenty of storage. This home offers 2 oversized bedrooms with huge closets and 2 bathrooms, providing comfort and convenience. Large hallways and zero clearance for entry that eliminates steps. Additional features include newer carpet, a newer roof, a newer forced-air heating unit, and central air conditioning for year-round comfort. Washer and dryer are also included. Enjoy the private covered patio—perfect for relaxing or entertaining. The location is ideal, close to a public golf course and centrally located near all the amenities Montrose has to offer. Another perk of this townhome is the HOA takes care of grounds and snow removal!

FEATURES

- 2 Bedrooms
- Dining Room
- 2 Baths
- Great Room
- 1610 Square Feet
- Patio

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Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Britany Butler.....970-209-4388
Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

ALTRUSA INT'L believes in "Leading to a Better Community" and is always looking for new members. We meet in Montrose on the first three Tuesdays a month at the Field House: 25 Colorado Ave, 12-Noon. Pick a day that works for you & please join us! Through our local Altrusa Club, members unite their varied talents in service to others, achieving as a group what individuals cannot do alone." <https://www.altrusamontrose.org/> P: 970-765-7666 E: Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY provides a monthly program on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Montrose Field House, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. blackcanyonaudubon.org

Tuesday - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays-Black Canyon Audubon Society hosts monthly birdwatching field trips in the Montrose area on 1st Tuesdays of the month and in the Delta area on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Check out the website for field trip details at blackcanyonaudubon.org.

COLUMBINE QUILTERS meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. 1st Saturday except for July at 9 am.

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

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 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.

MONTHLY

Nov. 28-29- 50th Basement Boutique Craft Show. Montrose Pavilion. 9am. To 4pm.

Nov. 28- Christmas Tree Lighting 5:30 p.m. in front of the historic Montrose County Courthouse located at 320 S First Street.

Dec. 3- On Wednesday, Dec. 3 5 – 9 p.m. Uncompahgre Nordic Association Winter Stoke and Ski Waxing Party. Enjoy and night of comradery with other Nordic skiers at the UNA season kick off (fundraiser) soiree. Beverages, chili and desserts will be available while you get you cross-country skis waxed. UNA will also have a silent auction and an area to sell used Nordic ski gear. Montrose Surf & Cycle (245 W Main). Skis to be waxed can be dropped off earlier that day.

Dec. 6- Montrose Parade of Lights.

Dec. 10- Wednesday Dec. 10 5-8 at The Association (39 W Main) Holiday gathering for environment. Appetizers. music, conversation on community. Sponsored by Citizens' Climate Team. info at wurbon@gmail.com.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

MONTROSE—At right, B. Slate braved the cold to snap this image of seasonal pumpkins, gourds and a traditional corn shock as Thanksgiving approaches. Happy 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 and
wingedpublications.com.

