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COULD TELSki SLOWDOWN HIT REGIONAL ECONOMY?

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-When Colorado Flights Alliance (CFA) Executive Director Matt Skinner presented the CFA update to the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 17, his presentation was a marked departure from the positive outlook that he has embraced in past discussions.

Colorado Flights Alliance is a non-profit 501c6 organization that promotes the economic vitality of the Western Slope. The organization's stated mission is to create economic vitality and sustainability for Colorado's Western Slope, through air service development and supporting programs.

Skinner used [slides to convey talking points](#), and said that 2025 has been "a pretty crazy year."

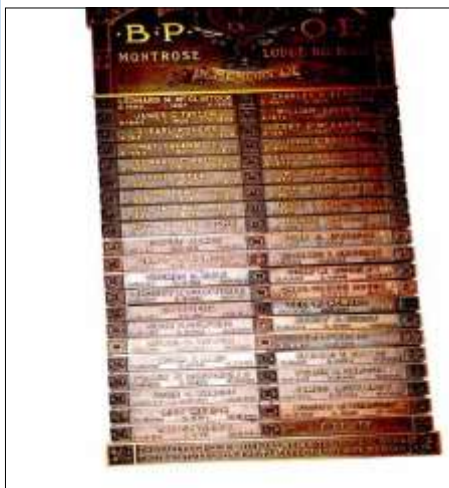
"....The air service is the lever for the region," Skinner said. "At the end of the day it is a regional interconnected project and a regional economy that we work towards..."



Photo courtesy Colorado Flights Alliance (CFA).

Continued pg 17

LEST WE FORGET



The first memorial plaque, bearing the names of the four WWI veterans, was nearly lost in the move when the Montrose Elks Lodge moved from its downtown building to the building on Hillcrest Avenue. It now hangs in the ante room of the current lodge. Photo by Bob Cox.

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-Officially, World War One ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The day became known as Armistice Day. It was not until 1938 that it was declared a national holiday. On June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill designating the day as Veteran's Day in honor of all veterans.

The Germans actually surrendered several days before that famous armistice was signed in Compiègne, France, and the world responded quickly. After receiving telegraph messages regarding the surrender, Montrose, Ouray and Silverton news agencies let their population know as quickly as they could. The reaction was amazing. While little was said about Ouray's reaction, *The Silverton Miner* reported in their October 18, 1918 edition that they received word from the *Ouray Herald* that Germany had surrendered unconditionally. The town responded with a spontaneous celebration. The lengthy article describing the celebration, in part, read as follows:

There was not a man, woman or child in Silverton that was able to be out of doors that did not take part in the doings in some manner or other. The business houses all closed their

Continued pg 22

[Red Hawks Fall in 4H Semi Final:](#)
[By Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Photos from Basement](#)
[Boutique Crafts Show!](#)

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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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Looking for a book club?

The next meeting of the
Montrose Library Book
Club
will be **Saturday,
December 6**
at **9:00 a.m. in the Library
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The book to be
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The Montrose Library Book Club for adults
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORY OF THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES TO COLORADO'S RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Historical Society presents Mrs. Kay Jensen, an invasive species specialist with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department of Natural Resources. Her topic will be the history of the introduction of invasive species to Colorado's rivers and mountains, as well as methods to control the spread of the various species.

The public is welcome to attend this free program. Wednesday, December 3rd, at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104. Light refreshments are provided.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SUPPORT TRENT SHROCK! TAP NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Our incredible community is coming together to support **Trent Shrock** in his fight against Epithelioid Sarcoma. Let's show the Shrock Family our love!

Event Details

-When: Tuesday, Dec. 16 | 11 AM – 9 PM

-Where: **Horsefly Brewery** and **Phelanies** on Mainstreet

-What: Tap Night, Live Entertainment, and

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-Proceeds: Everything benefits the Shrock Family.

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2.Bid Digitally! Access the Silent Auction online, even if you can't be there in person. (Link will be released at a later date) Montrose is a community that cares—let's make a difference together!

Interested in Donating to the Silent Auction?

Contact Joel Bierma at joel.bierma@gmail.com

See you on Dec. 16th!

#MontroseStrong #TrentsTapNight

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH PEDIATRICS EXPANDS HOURS TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR FAMILIES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health Pediatrics is pleased to announce expanded operating hours beginning Dec. 1, 2025, offering families more flexibility to schedule appointments—especially as cold and flu season ramps up.

Starting Dec. 1, 2025, Delta Health Pediatrics will be open:

-Monday–Wednesday: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

-Thursday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

These expanded hours are designed to provide enhanced access to care, giving families more early-morning and evening appointment options for pediatric illnesses.

“We know how challenging it can be for families to get timely care,” said Julie Huffman, Delta Health Interim CEO and Chief Legal Officer. “Expanding our clinic hours is an important step in meeting the needs of our patients and supporting the overall health of our community. This effort aligns with our upcoming expansion of Urgent Care, which will further strengthen access to care for children and families when they need it most.”

Delta Health Pediatrics continues to accept all insurance plans, ensuring that families across Delta County can receive high-quality pediatric care without barriers.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Delta Health Pediatrics at 970-546-4000.

About Delta Health – Delta Health (DH) is a nonprofit, county-wide healthcare system with a 49-bed hospital and additional clinic locations throughout the southwestern region of Colorado. DH’s mission is to inspire hope in a healing environment by providing remarkable care. Established in 1913, Delta County Memorial Hospital, now doing business as Delta Health, has been serving the region for over 100 years. DH continues to provide compassionate, quality healthcare that the community can trust. For more information go to deltahealthco.org, like our [Facebook page](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) @DeltaHealthCo.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AMERICA IS UNDER THE FINAL WAVE OF ATTACK

Dear Editor,

America is under the final wave of attack on our constitutional country by six unfaithful lawmakers, including Representative Jason Crow (D-CO).

Those who teach to regard lightly the Constitution of the United States sow disobedience to reap disobedience. Let the restraints imposed by the law be wholly cast aside, and human rights will soon be disregarded. These lawmakers are ready to trample upon the statutes as a hindrance to presidential powers; but the results will be such as they do not anticipate since America is already under infiltration by non democratic souls. If the Constitution is not binding, why should any fear to transgress?

America is no longer safe as these lawmakers have cast the first stone. Life itself is not respected and their act will foment murder. The Constitution will no longer stand as a sacred bulwark to protect Americans. These 6, who have the power, will, if they desire, take their constituents rights by violence if by doing so they can destroy the duly elected president for their corrupt purposes. The civilized world will become a horde of robbers and assassins; and peace, rest, and happiness will be banished from the United States, and as goes America, so goes the world.

Already the doctrine they have released from faithfulness to the Constitution has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the country, followed by murder of a precious National Guard soldier.

Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide. Evil is waving its banner. There is envy, hypocrisy, estrangement, strife and betrayal of trust cast open. The whole system of principles and doctrines, which formed the foundation and framework of American life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin.

The illegal immigrants, when charged for their offenses, are made the recipients of gifts and attention as if they had attained an enviable distinction. Great publicity is given to their character and crimes. The press happily publishes the revolting details of vice, thus initiating others into the practice. The infatuation of vice and the terrible increase of intemperance and iniquity of every order and degree, should arouse all who fear God, to inquire what can be done to stay the tide of evil.

Courts and justices are corrupt, lawmakers are actuated by desire for power. Dishonesty of every sort, is represented among those who administer.

Would we know the result of making void the laws of the constitution? The experiment has been tried. Terrible are the scenes enacted in third world countries. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints of the constitution is to accept the rule of the power drunk and enviable hate filled with derangement syndrome.

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE MOST ETHICALLY CHALLENGED COMMISSIONER IN MY 21 YEARS IN MONTROSE

Editor:

Over the course of 72 years that I have been voting I have supported and worked for innumerable candidates for public office. Of those that were elected the most disappointing one has been Sue Hansen. Like far too many politicians today Hansen operates with a dual persona. One projects a "goody two shoes" version publicly while the second is hidden behind the backroom doors of government.

In the Mirror last week, Michael Badagliacco, highlighted multiple instances of Hansen violating the Colorado Code of Ethics. In addition to that, in 2024 she violated a County Resolution that she herself had voted for, involving support of conflicting candidates. With one year remaining in her final term of office, Hansen seems well on the way to becoming the most ethically challenged Commissioner in the 21 years that I have lived in Montrose.

Dee Laird, Montrose

TRUMP'S BIG PLANS

Dear Editor,

Trump's 'big beautiful bill' will add 3.3 trillion dollars to our nation's debt. Does that make those of you who voted for him happy? People are hungry, can't afford health care insurance, losing their homes, prices of almost everything going up incrementally. We're going to have a three billion dollar golden ballroom in replacement of the east wing of the capitol. Billionaires are getting huge tax breaks, while the rest of us faithfully pay our income taxes every year. If we don't do something to stop this 'freight train' of greed and ego destroying our country, we will soon find ourselves serving a dictator. That's Trump's dream. It is time to wake up America and see what is really happening to our democracy.

Holly von Helms, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COPELAND SWORN IN AS MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 1

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Kirstin Copeland has been officially sworn in as the County Commissioner for District One following the November 4th recall election of former Commissioner Scott Mijares. The recall was conducted pursuant to C.R.S. 1-12-116, under which a recall is deemed sufficient when the majority of votes cast are in favor of removal. The certified results show that a majority of Montrose County voters cast “yes” ballots, thereby removing Mr. Mijares from office.

The election results became official upon completion of the Canvass, a formal review process conducted by the Canvass Board, which is comprised of representatives from the two major political

parties and the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder. The Canvass was completed, and the final official election results were published at the end of the day on Thursday, Nov. 21.

Kirstin Copeland

was sworn into office by the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder on Monday, November 24, and has officially assumed the responsibilities of District One Commissioner.

“It is an honor to step into this role and serve the people of District One. I am committed to representing our community with transparency, integrity, and a strong sense of purpose. I look forward to collaborating with residents, county staff, and fellow commissioners as we work together to move Montrose County forward,” said Commissioner Copeland.

Copeland, a retired state park manager and long-time Montrose County resident, brings more than two decades of public service experience to the commissioner role. She began her career as a ranger at Ridgway State Park in 1998, later becoming the park’s manager and serving as a fully commissioned peace officer and EMT. Copeland retired from Colorado Parks and Wildlife in 2022 after overseeing complex operations, budgets, public safety, infrastructure, and community partnerships, experience she says mirrors the responsibilities of county government.

The public is invited to attend a ceremonial swearing-in for Commissioner Copeland during the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 9 a.m. at the Historic Montrose County Courthouse. All community members are welcome.



Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes and Commissioner Kirstin Copeland. Courtesy photo.

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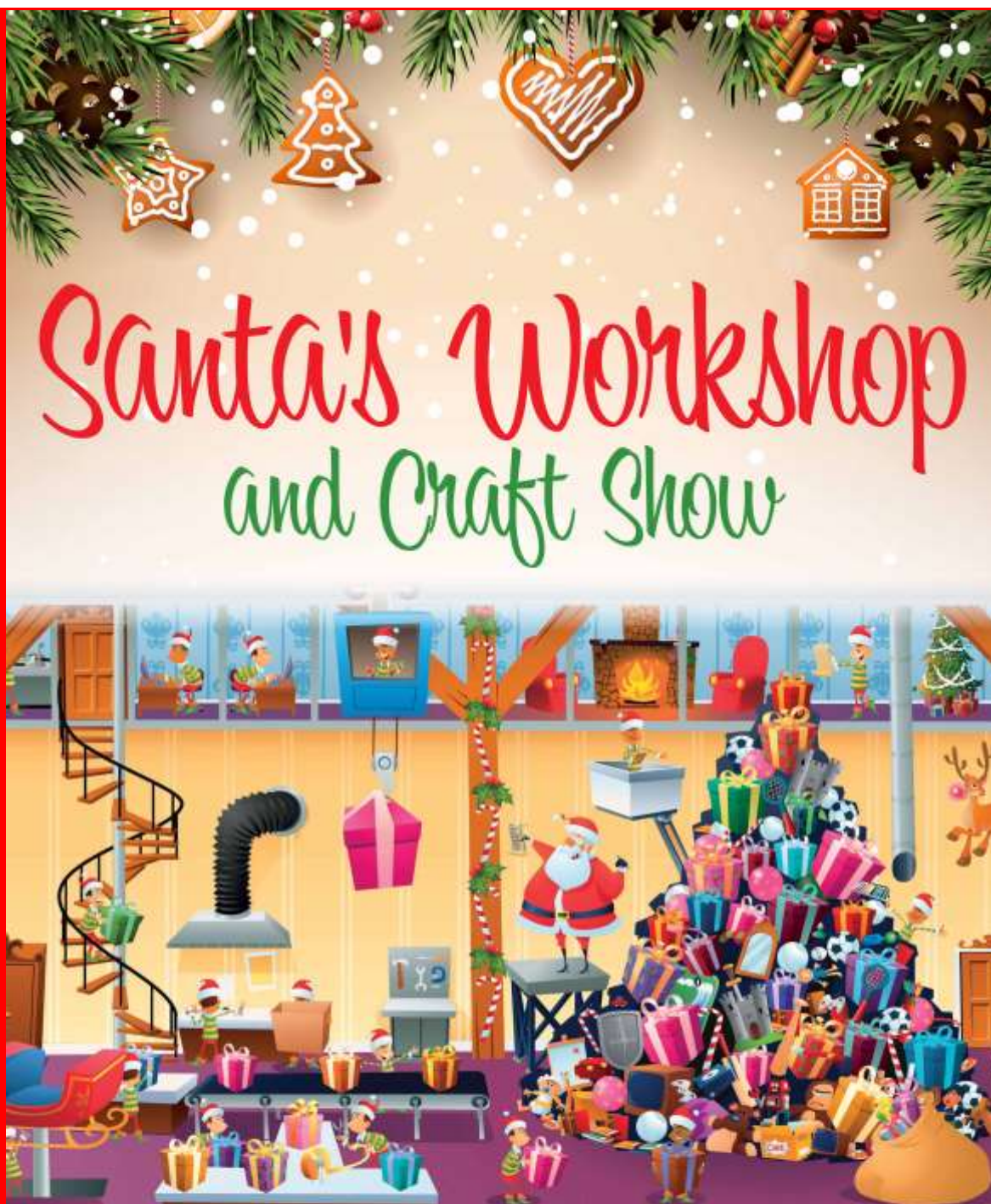
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ONE PERSON DEAD, ONE INJURED – THREE INDIVIDUALS SOUGHT

Montrose County Sheriff's Office

MONTROSE-On Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, shortly before midnight, an altercation involving numerous individuals occurred in the Hidden Lakes community located at 62650 LaSalle Road.

During the incident, one person was shot and killed. A second individual, injured during the altercation, was transported to Montrose Memorial Hospital.

Three individuals involved in the incident fled on foot into a field surrounding the trailer park.

A tracking K-9 search and a heat-seeking drone sweep were conducted, but did not result in locating the individuals.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office established a perimeter with assistance from the Montrose Police Department and the Colorado State Patrol. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation has also been requested to assist.

At the time of this release, the whereabouts of the three individuals who fled the scene remain unknown.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's assistance. If you have any information regarding this incident, please contact WestCO Dispatch at **970-765-5420**.

Additional information will be provided as the investigation unfolds.



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COULD TELSki SLOWDOWN HIT REGIONAL ECONOMY? *From pg 1*

Skinner said that the recent government shutdown had a minimal effect on local air travel. "I don't think we lost a single flight—we certainly had some delays...at the end of the day it was handled very well... Lot of ups and downs...we've weathered it fairly well...we've been pretty happy moving through to the end of this year..."

CFA's funding is around \$5M per year, Skinner said, and thanked the City of Montrose for their support over the years. Flights generate around 1,400 local jobs, bringing around \$235M in tourism economic impact to Montrose every year. Summer flights have continued at an even pace, Skinner said, but Winter flights are running flat. "Each of the last two years we've kind of stepped down a little bit..."

Destination skier visits have continued to drop off, he said. Two of the airlines serving the region had tried to back down on mainline jets serving two of CFA's current routes, including Dallas and Houston, Skinner said, noting that the same issue had arisen with Chicago. "We had to go to bat to fight those...we kept all those mainline jets...they flat told us, look at last March, you're not keeping pace with your comp set..."

"That's new for us," Skinner said, noting that CFA at this point is "carrying the load."

"We and the Tourism Board do all of the marketing in the destination," he said. "There's no help from the ski resort. They have eliminated international sales, domestic sales, they've eliminated their group product, hotel products, and really have ramped all the way down to a small amount of group and little bit of an effort at corporate group without much material action."

"We saw this really hurt us last year," Skinner said. "...In early December and in January...they ended all their marketing right as Bill Jensen left about five years ago."

Skinner said that competing resorts include Aspen, Vail, and Jackson Hole.

"We're fighting some pretty big dogs out there...we can specifically see the results of that lack of help right now in the marketplace..."

While other resorts invest in improvements to the guest experience, "We have

put in two chair lifts in 18 years," Skinner said. "And we have one of our key restaurants sitting in Tyvek, wrapped at the top of Chair 9 right now, that's been there for two years."

Skinner said that Telluride Ski Resort has dropped in the ratings as well.

"*Conde Nast Traveler*, we were ranked Number one for multiple years in the teens, we are off the top ten list at this point. *Forbes*, we were Number Two in 2019, off the list on that one as well. *Ski Magazine*, where we had been perennially in the top ten, we dropped five spots to Number 12 this year...we are hearing from the customer that we are not the shiny new thing right now...somebody in kind of the younger ski bum generation (said), 'Telluride's not the cool place to ski anymore...if that's the case we're bleeding market share to our competitors...'"

Overall, "We're okay," Skinner said, "But we see the winter boat leaking and it's concerning at this point..."

He discussed new summer flights, noting the bright side of the market. "...Our summer is about 77 percent of our winter, which is really high for mountain destinations..."

Following the CFA presentation, Council spent time in discussion.

Said Councilor Judy Ann Files, who sits on the Montrose Regional Airport Advisory Board, "I think it's important to note that CFA's doing really well. CFA 's right where we want it to be. What isn't doing well is the Ski Resort. And if the ski resort doesn't do well, it's going to affect Montrose directly. As well as CFA. Maybe we're going to need to look into what we can do to help Matt and other people encourage the ski resort to do better."

Still, encouraging Telski Owner Chuck Horning may be an uphill battle. In recent months Horning has been the focus of articles in the Telluride Daily Planet, the Denver Gazette, Denver Post, the Colorado Sun, and the U.K.'s Daily Mail, among others.

Perhaps the most glaring example of the bad press Horning has gotten is a web site dedicated entirely to disparaging him, "Chuck Chuck."

Telski employees are also expressing dissatisfaction with ownership, as reported in the Telluride Times on Nov. 28, with Ski Patrol threatening a Strike ahead of open-



ing day due to unsatisfactory contract negotiations.

Still, Horning remains at the helm of the ski resort he acquired in 2004 and has acquired properties in Montrose as well.

"It is an interesting time," Matt Skinner said, when contacted by the *Mirror*. When asked how Montrose residents could show support for Telluride, which is itself an economic driver for Montrose, Skinner said, "Continue the air program, and encourage our regional tourism operators to operate their destinations to a level commensurate with our destination and our history."

The *Mirror* also reached out to Montrose County, as the entity that owns Montrose Regional Airport. Interim County Manager David White said, "According to Lloyd Arnold, Aviation Director, we're anticipating being down a bit in enplanements from last year but have been able to secure Delta, Breeze, United, American and Southwest for direct Winter Air Service during the 2025-2026 season with trial nonstop service between Austin and Nashville and Montrose. The partnership with the Telluride-Montrose Regional Air Service Organization and Telski is vital to the success of the Montrose Regional Airport. We work hard to support both entities and look forward to more years of a successful business relationship. With the [announcement of the \\$1 billion dollar Four Seasons Resort and Residences coming to Telluride in 2028](#), the future of the relationship with our airport and Telluride is a bright one."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, shortly before midnight, an altercation

involving numerous individuals occurred in the community located in the 62000 block of LaSalle Road.

During the incident, one person was shot and killed, while a second individual was injured.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office is asking for any assistance and information that could lead us to identify the three individuals who took part in this fatal shooting.

If you know any of the individuals or have some information that would lead to an arrest, please take a moment to reach out. Even the smallest of details can move this investigation forward.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at (970)249-8500, use the app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3Tips.com. Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity.

Your information stays confidential, and your willingness to speak up truly makes a difference.

If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash reward.

For additional information, please view our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers>. Crime Prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

Thank you for standing with us and helping keep our corner of Colorado safe.

Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our alerts, by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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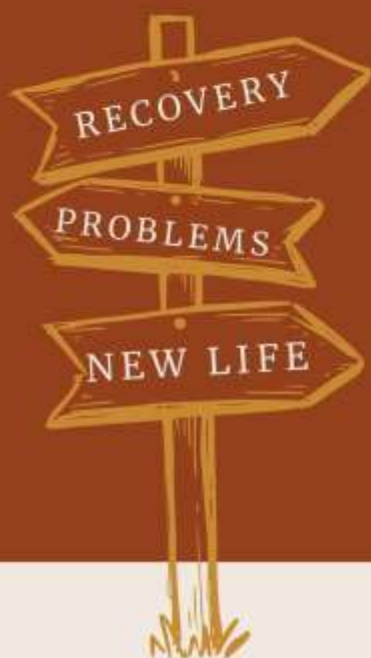
Residents or workers in Montrose, Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties can apply for a Recovery Access Fund (RAF) scholarship.

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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

NRCS LAUNCHES OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEFS

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) today announced the launch of the Office of the Assistant Chiefs (OAC) — a strategic realignment designed to modernize regional leadership, strengthen accountability, and put decision-making closer to the producers and partners NRCS serves.

This new structure replaces the Office of the Regional Conservationists (ORC) and represents a key step in Chief Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt's vision to make NRCS more agile, field-focused, and accountable to America's farmers, ranchers, and private landowners. The OAC structure reduces layers of bureaucracy while enhancing communication, consistency, and decision-making at the regional and state levels. Each Assistant Chief will oversee regional operations and work directly with State Conservationists to ensure consistent, science-based, and producer-driven program delivery.

"This modernization puts leadership where it belongs — in the field, side-by-side with the producers we serve," said Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. "We are streamlining operations, improving accountability, and ensuring that every NRCS employee has the tools, support, and leadership they need to deliver conservation results that matter. This is about putting farmers first, cutting bureaucracy, and delivering better outcomes for rural America."

This effort reaffirms NRCS's commitment to "Helping People Help the Land" and aligns with the Administration's broader reform agenda and ensures taxpayer resources are managed responsibly, outcomes are measurable, and every NRCS action reinforces its mission to support voluntary, locally-led conservation on working lands.

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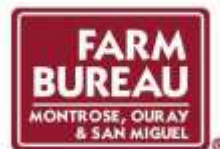
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LEST WE FORGET From pg 1

doors and suspended for the rest of the day. And fire bells, engine whistles and any manner that could be for the making of noise was brought into use. A grand parade was one of the big features, headed by several of our prominent people carrying flags, followed by automobiles appropriately decorated. And, as a fitting climax, the affair was brought to an end by a big bonfire and concert.

The celebration in Montrose was much different. The headline in the November 8, 1918 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press* read, 'MONRTOSE CELEBRATES THE JOVIAL NEWS.'

Today, it would most likely be called a riot. The opening paragraph of the article read: ***When the news was flashed to the city yesterday on the Western Union wires to the Daily Press that Germany had surrendered, and the war was over, Montrose broke into a pandemonium of joyous celebration, such as never been equal in the city's history.***

The article, consisting of several hundred words, described the utter chaos that existed in the streets of the city. Here are a few of the graphically descriptive excerpts from the article:

...The celebration reached a hight shortly after dinner when scores of autos, loaded with citizens with shotguns, rifles and anything that would explode or make a noise, raced up and down Main Street, banging away at their hearts content until about 2 o'clock. Shots had been fired, and every ammunition stock in town was almost entirely exhausted, and the streets were covered with shotgun shells that had been exploded...

Every whistle in town that could be blown blew as long as the steam lasted. Ordinances were disregarded. People went on the street for pure joy, clapping their hands and shouted until they were horse. Mothers walked the streets, crying softly, while the bellow of firearms, made the windows of the stores vibrate rapidly...

Someone fixed up a dummy of the Kaiser and quickly strung it between the Busy Corner and Joe Roebuck store, and hundreds of shots, riddled the dummy, which finally fell into the street where it was promptly roped by Hubert Heath and snaked through the mud and ooze on the street behind the heels of his speedy horse.

The article ended by pointing out that it was impressive that there had never been as many shots fired in the town before this 'joyous celebration.'

As soldiers began coming back home, there were many celebrations of welcome but, after traveling hundreds of miles to be reunited with loved ones, a freak accident almost put an end to their lives just a short distance from their destinations. A train derailed on Cerro Summit, injuring a number of people. The April 28, 1919 edition of the *Rocky Mountain News* reported the incident, including this description:

Among the injured were several soldiers returning to their homes after having been discharged in eastern demobilization camps. W. R. Tebbs of Dolores, Colorado a member of the Fifth Engineers, Seventh Division, after escaping from one year of service on the hardest fronts in France, was badly cut about the head and back. O. S. Major of Kansas City, returning from the officer's training camp at Louisville, Kentucky was badly burned by a stove, which overturned in one of the coaches. J. P. Deatherage of Paonia, Colo. was returning after serving with the Fourth Division, also was burned.

The Montrose Elks Lodge had been saving and planning for a new home for just over a decade when the United States entered the World War in April of 1917. The war was a major reason that the construction of a new home was tabled for so many years. The lodge was extremely dedicated to the war effort.

A total of 28 members were listed as having served during World War I. Four of those members were especially recognized on November 11, 1919; the one-year anniversary of the Armistice. The Armistice Day celebration brought a large crowd of Elks to Montrose. The Elks of Colorado West wanted to welcome home those who had been overseas during the war and they wanted to do it in style. The five western slope lodges, Montrose, Delta, Telluride, Ouray and Grand Junction, pooled their resources. The result was that 427 visitors came to Montrose, initiated several new members and recognized the veterans.

The names of those four deceased members were added to the Montrose Elks Lodge memorial roles during a very special event on Sunday, December 7, 1919.

While several other deceased members were added to the roles that day, the services were dedicated to those four veterans:

Thomas Hale. Very little information is available about Thomas Hale. The Elks Lodge was notified of his death just prior to the December celebration and no background information was provided.

John O. Atkinson. John O. Atkinson was the son of Joe Atkinson, a pioneer of Montrose. Corporal Atkinson died from the influenza at an Atlantic camp in Morrison, Virginia. He was born on January 11, 1891. He died on October 11, 1918.

John W. Buckley. Buckley was the only one of the four who actually lost his life as a result of his action overseas. He enlisted on May 13, 1917 into the aviation service and received his ground training at Columbus, Ohio, in October, 1917. He reached France after being promoted to lieutenant early in 1918. In France he was the instructor at an aviation school for the government near the front lines. On November 8, 1918, he was sent up on the photographing observation mission. He was never seen alive again.

Charles Creigh Moore. Charles Creigh Moore, who often was known as Creigh Moore, was possibly one of the best known of the four veterans. Moore graduated from the Montrose County High School in 1913. Based on various news reports at the time, he excelled in athletics and was the focus of several sports articles written by J. Guy Baily, who was a prominent Elks Lodge member. He was the Exalted Ruler in 1921-1922, and according to some lodge records of the time, was instrumental in getting a small park named in honor of Charles Creigh Moore.

The Charles Creigh Moore Park was part of the Montrose County High School campus, the entrance being at the corner of South 9th Street and Cascade Avenue. It has long since been removed. The corner is now part of the Pomona School campus.

These four individuals serve to remind everyone that we should recognize those brave men and women who served and are serving in the various armed forces, and that we should reach out and thank them while we still can; before that star is placed next to their names.



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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 & grandma'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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLUMBINE QUILTERS TO MEET SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource **4 Hillcrest Plaza Way**, Montrose. Social time is at 9, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell. We will be collecting socks, for all ages to donate to Sharing Ministries. We will be playing some fun games and having a pot Luck lunch. Visitors are always welcome. For more information: Paula millsappscoi@gmail.com or Cheryl 970-462-3849

CPW'S AMY SEGLUND TO DISCUSS PINYON JAY BEHAVIOR, HABITAT USE & THREATS TO BREEDING BIRDS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Thursday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Amy Seglund, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Species Conservation Biologist. She will discuss pinyon jay behavior, habitat use, and threats to breeding birds as well as Conservation strategies to help reverse their population declines in Colorado. The Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubonsociety.org.



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MAJOR NARCOTICS SEIZURE IN LA JUNTA: SUSPECT ON PROBATION FOR WEAPONS OFFENSE ARRESTED

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

CBI – LA JUNTA, CO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the La Junta Police Department conducted a search warrant Thursday November 20th in the 600 block of Santa Fe Avenue in La Junta, Colorado, in connection with a narcotics distribution investigation.

As a result of the warrant, investigators arrested Elijah Archuleta (DOB: 05/19/2002) for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl and cocaine. During the search, officials seized a significant quantity of illegal narcotics and cash, including:

- Approximately 110 grams of cocaine
- Approximately 273 grams of fentanyl pills (roughly 2,730 pills)
- \$1,680 in U.S. currency

Mr. Archuleta was on probation for a weapons offense at the time of his arrest and has the following past convictions:

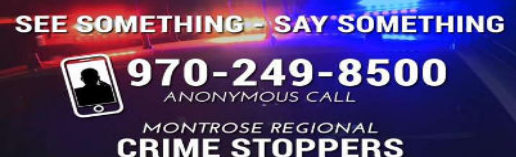
02/25/2023: Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft (Rocky Ford, CO)

06/04/2025: Assault Menacing with a Weapon (Rocky Ford, CO)

Authorities stress that individuals involved in illegal drug distribution and possessing a violent criminal past pose a serious threat to public safety. This operation underscores the commitment of the La Junta Police Department and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to disrupting the narcotics supply chain and ensuring the safety of all residents.

Further details regarding the ongoing investigation will be released as they become available.

All suspects are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY MEETINGS MOVE TO COURTHOUSE BEGINNING DEC. 3

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Beginning the week of Dec. 3, all Board of County Commissioners meetings will be held at the newly renovated Historic Montrose County Courthouse, located at 320 S. 1st Street in Montrose.

A work session is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m.

The following morning, Thursday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m., the Board of County Commissioners will convene for its regular meeting, which will begin with the swearing-in of Commissioner Kirstin Copeland by Judge Jackson.

Reflecting on the significance of returning public meetings to the building, Commissioner Sean Pond said, "This courthouse has served generations of Montrose County residents, and it's an honor to bring our meetings back to a space that reflects our history and our values."

"It's incredibly exciting to move back into the Historic Courthouse and continue serving the community from a place that means so much to Montrose County," said Commissioner Sue Hansen. "This building brings our public meetings closer to the heart of the community, and we look forward to welcoming residents into a space that truly belongs to them."



The Commissioners' meeting room in the Montrose County Courthouse. Courtesy photo.

The reopening of the courthouse for county meetings marks the beginning of its next century of public service. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or watch via livestream. For those attending in person, please utilize parking on

South 2nd Street or on nearby side streets, and avoid parking in staff-designated areas.

All work session and BOCC meeting dates and agendas can be found on the Montrose County [website](#):



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- Over 300 bibles have been distributed in our schools to date!
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TURNING THE CENTENNIAL STATE CRIMSON: LESSONS FROM SHAD MURIB'S BLUEPRINT

Editor:

Colorado Republicans cannot simply wait for voters to grow tired of one-party rule. They must **earn** their way back to majority status the old-fashioned way: through relentless grassroots advocacy, door-to-door conversations, and a laser focus on the everyday struggles of working Coloradans.

While Democrats boast about their volunteer armies and data-driven turnout machines, the Colorado GOP's most powerful weapon remains the authentic voice of neighbors talking to neighbors about skyrocketing housing costs, failing schools, and a government that too often feels distant from the kitchen-table concerns of families.

Exposing the Dark Money Advantage That Fuels the Blue Machine

Colorado Democrat Party Chair, Shad Murib's success did not happen in a vacuum. Behind the polished messaging and the "army of volunteers" sits an avalanche of **out-of-state dark money** that has tilted the playing field for years. Independent expenditure committees **tied to George Soros's Open Society network**, the Sixteen Thirty Fund, and other far-left national organizations poured **tens of millions of dollars into Colorado races between 2018 and 2024 alone**. These shadowy groups (often registered at shared Washington, D.C. mailboxes) funded attack ads, mailers, and digital campaigns that dwarfed Colorado GOP spending in battleground districts.

In the 2024 cycle, for example, *one Soros-linked entity spent more than \$4.2 million on a single state Senate race in Jefferson County*, while similar national progressive funds propped up school-board and municipal candidates who ran as "nonpartisan" moderates. Local Democratic organizations then laundered credibility through coordinated turnout efforts, giving the appearance of a purely grassroots movement when much of the fuel came from coastal billionaires and Arabel-

la Advisors (Now Sunflower Services)-managed pass-throughs.

Republicans must make this financial asymmetry a central campaign theme. Every town hall, every county fair booth, and every door knock should include a simple contrast: **"Our campaign is funded by Colorado families who live here, pay taxes here, and raise their kids here. Theirs is bankrolled by out-of-state billionaires who will never set foot in Pueblo, Grand Junction, Montrose, Durango, Walsenburg or Alamosa."**

A Grassroots Rebuild: Earning Trust One Conversation at a Time

The path back to power runs through living rooms, VFW halls, and high-school football games, not just television studios. Here is the updated five-pronged plan, now explicitly anchored in grassroots authenticity and exposure of dark-money influence:

Strategy #1: Train 10,000 volunteer "kitchen-table captains" by mid-2026. Goal: 500,000 earned voter contacts through personal conversations, not paid phone banks.

Why it Works and How it Counters the Democrats: Replaces dark-money air cover with genuine human connection; **voters trust neighbors more than slick ads funded from Manhattan.**

Strategy #2: Launch **"Follow the Money CO"** website and mobile app that tracks every out-of-state dollar in real time, with county-by-county breakdowns and printable flyers.

Why it Works and How it Counters the Democrats: Turns Democrats' financial advantage into a liability; independents hate the idea that their vote is being bought by outsiders.

Strategy #3: Invest first dollars and volunteer hours in school boards, city councils, and sheriff races. No paid consultants until grassroots infrastructure is in place.

Why it Works and How it Counters the Democrats: Blocks further leftward drift at the most local level while proving Republi-

cans show up and listen before they ask for votes.

Strategy #4: Tie every policy proposal (parental rights, school safety, tax relief) to the question: "Who does this actually help: Colorado families or out-of-state billionaires?"

Why it Works and How it Counters the Democrats: Frames the cultural fight as an economic fight; resonates with unaffiliated voters who feel priced out and culturally ignored.

Strategy #5: Monthly **"Heartland Listening Tour"** featuring GOP legislators and candidates working a shift at feed stores, diners, and factory floors across the state. Live-streamed, no script.

Why it Works and How it Counters the Democrats: Demonstrates humility and work ethic; directly contrasts with Polis flying in on private jets to ribbon-cuttings funded by the same dark-money network. The message is straightforward and repeatable: **"We don't have George Soros's checkbook, but we have Colorado values, Colorado neighbors, and Colorado grit. And that's enough."**

Coloradans are fair-minded and fiercely independent. When they see one side fueled by unlimited national dark money and the other side powered by volunteers who shovel their own sidewalks, the choice becomes clear. Republicans don't need to outspend the left; they need to **out-work** and **out-truth** them, one front porch at a time.

The red revival will not be gifted. It will be earned, conversation by conversation, until the Centennial State remembers who has always had its back.

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.

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 Black Canyon FCA

***FCA cannot offer tax advice. Please contact your tax professional.**

UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORY OF THE NRCS AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Special to the Mirror

UNITED STATES-The first soil conservation district was organized in the Brown Creek watershed in Anson County, North Carolina, on August 4, 1937. Today, there are over 3,000 conservation districts in all 50 states that not only address soil conservation, but also water, forests and wildlife.

Hugh Hammond Bennett, the first Chief of NRCS, was born in 1881 in Anson County, North Carolina, where he and his eight siblings grew up and worked on his father's cotton plantation. Bennett helped his father lay out terrace lines in the land – digging channels in hilly ground to help keep the water in the soil. The story goes that he asked his father why they had to do such difficult work, and his father replied, "Boy, it's to keep the soil from washing away!" His father's reply stuck in his mind and guided him throughout his career in soil conservation.

Around 1935, while Bennett was Chief of the Soil Erosion Service (SES), he and other managers began to search for ways to extend their soil conservation message and assistance faster. They had already set up projects to demonstrate the benefits of conservation practices, but they needed to expand their reach nationwide. They believed the solution was to establish democratically organized soil conservation districts in the states to lead the conservation planning effort at the local level.

Creating a Conservation District Framework

To create a framework for districts to manage local conservation efforts and implement soil erosion control projects,

the USDA drafted the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Law in 1936. Following the devastation of the Dust Bowl, the President urged the states to adopt this legislation and sent it to the governors of all the states in 1937. The goal was to involve local citizens in voluntary, community-based conservation planning and for districts to function as local units of government to develop and carry out local erosion control plans district wide.

Shortly thereafter, the first soil conservation district was organized in the Brown Creek watershed in Anson County, North Carolina – the place of Bennett's birth and childhood – on August 4, 1937. That soil conservation district covered about 120,000 acres of land, much of it badly eroded, including the plantation where Bennett grew up. Local farmers petitioned and voted to create the district, and local participation by farmers and landowners ensured its success.

A Model for the Future

The Brown Creek District became the example for other conservation districts in other states. By July 1, 1945, all 48 states had passed district-enabling acts. Today, there are over 3,000 conservation districts in all 50 states that not only address soil conservation, but also water, forests and wildlife. They coordinate assistance from all available sources—public and private, local, state and federal—to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resources concerns. They provide landowners with technical assistance, resources, education, and sometimes funding to implement conservation practices and promote sustainable land use.

But the ultimate success of the soil conservation district program is due to the voluntary participation by local farmers and landowners. Without their participation, the program would not work.

Hugh Hammond Bennett once said: *"One of the best, and certainly the most promising, of the devices yet invented by man for dealing democratically and effectively with maladjustment in land use, as well as for carrying forward positive programs of desirable conservation, and for maintaining the work, is the soil conservation district."*

Additional Resources

To learn more about NRCS history and Hugh Hammond Bennett, see these additional resources:

Interactive Timeline of NRCS History:

<https://arcc.is/1LPvz83>

NRCS History Page: [https://](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/history)

www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/history

90 Years of Helping People Help the Land

(Video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seniiWcOzIM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G78ihulTx1k>

Hugh Hammond Bennett: The Story of America's Private Lands Conservation Movement (Video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G78ihulTx1k>

After Setting Roots 90 Years Ago, NRCS Continues to Grow Its Conservation Legacy (Blog): <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/our-agency/news/after-setting-roots-90-years-ago-nrcs-continues-to-grow-its-conservation-legacy>

NRCS: The Origin Story (Recorded Presentation): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkpVLni5JHM>



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HOW ONE GENERATION'S SELFISHNESS DOOMED THE NEXT

Editor:

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, my 31-year-old son, who attended the prestigious **London School of Economics**, unloaded a verdict that stunned even this jaded Gen Xer. To Millennials and Gen Z, *Baby Boomers are not heroes* who surfed a postwar boom. They are the most selfish, self-serving generation in American history. What follows is his case, backed by cold numbers.

The Greatest Heist in History: Wealth Hoarding on Steroids

In the third quarter of 2024, Americans born between 1946 and 1964 ("**Boomers**"), roughly 20 percent of the population, **controlled 51.6 percent of the nation's \$160 trillion in household wealth**. Millennials, a larger cohort, held barely 10 percent. The Silent Generation, at the same age Boomers are now, controlled only 23 percent of wealth. This is not organic success. **It is extraction.**

Boomers bought homes when the median price was three times the median income. Today the ratio tops seven. *They now own 28 percent of homes with three or more bedrooms while often living alone or as couples.* First-time buyers are no longer 29-year-olds. The average is 40. **Gen Z reports delaying marriage and children primarily because they cannot afford shelter.** Fully 84 percent cite **housing costs** as the reason.

Debt Serfdom: The Gift That Keeps Taking

Total student debt stands at \$1.77 trillion and burdens 42.5 million borrowers, almost all Millennials and Gen Z, with an average balance of \$39,000. Boomers attended state universities for a few hundred dollars a semester or left with tiny loans they repaid in two years. They then systematically defunded public higher education and deregulated private lending, turning college from a public good into a profit

center.

Meanwhile, they cut their own taxes fourteen times since 1980 and exploded the national debt from \$900 billion to now exceeding \$38 trillion. Interest payments alone now exceed the entire defense budget, a bill their grandchildren will pay.

The Social Security Cash Grab

Social Security was sold to the public as a safety net for the retired poor. Boomers turned it into a middle-class and upper-middle-class entitlement. In 1983, they raised the payroll tax but also locked in generous benefits indexed to wages, not prices, and allowed early claiming at 62 with only modest reductions. Today the average retired Boomer couple collects over \$40,000 a year tax-free or lightly taxed, *even if their household assets exceed \$2 million*, rather than ensuring it is there for those who need it.

There has never been a real trust fund, only IOUs in a filing cabinet. It has always been a direct transfer: today's workers pay today's retirees. *When Boomers entered the workforce, the payroll tax rate was 5.4 percent total and there were five workers per retiree. Today the combined rate is 12.4 percent with only 2.7 workers per beneficiary*, and that ratio falls to 2.1 by 2035. Boomers paid the low rates their entire careers yet will collect every promised dollar at full value. The Congressional Budget Office projects by 2034 the program will be forced into automatic 21 percent benefit cuts unless payroll taxes rise again or benefits are slashed, cuts that will fall almost entirely on younger generations already drowning in other Boomer bills.

The Paper-Tiger Economy

Cheap oil, offshoring, financial deregulation, and NIMBY zoning created the illusion of endless growth. Decades of underbuilding housing (to ensure *their*

property values skyrocketed of course) and starving infrastructure spending left the supply side parched. When the music stopped in 2021, inflation hit 9.1 percent, the highest in four decades, precisely because *the economy had been rigged to protect Boomer asset values at the expense of everything else*. The young now pay the price in stagnant wages, sky-high rents, and a shrinking middle class.

The Verdict

Economist Bruce Gibney called it in his 2017 book *A Generation of Sociopaths*: Boomers engaged in "generational plunder," maximizing short-term consumption while minimizing investment in the future. The \$84 trillion wealth transfer now underway is the final act. Money is moving from the old to the old, not to the society that will need it most.

The Boomer legacy is not Woodstock and moon landings. It is gated communities, locked-up housing stock, gutted universities, a raided Social Security system, and crushed dreams for our future generations.

Release the homes. Tax the estates. Means-test the entitlements. And accept the judgment already rendered by your children and grandchildren: *you were handed the greatest economy in history and chose to eat the seed corn.* It is no wonder the children of today are more angry than ever and have so little hope in the future of America. You owe it to them to right the ship you ran ashore.

History will not be kind and it shouldn't be.

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.*

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RED HAWKS FOOTBALL

RED HAWKS FALL IN 4A SEMI-FINAL



Red Hawks Playoff Football. Photo by Cliff Dodge.



Red Hawks get set to take the field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE—The Montrose Red Hawks magical football season came to an end last Saturday afternoon as the Palmer Ridge Bears squeezed out a 31-29 CHSAA 4A semi-final victory on a sun-drenched Montrose stadium before a sell-out crowd. The two teams, both undefeated, both with 12 wins, pounded each other for the full 48 minutes before the visiting Bears held on for a 2-point 31-29 victory and date with Dakota Ridge next Saturday at Canvas Stadium on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and elected to receive the second half kick-off. The contest started out in the Red Hawks usual fashion as the Bears first play from scrimmage resulted in an interception by the Red Hawks and a first down at the Bears 13-yard line. It took the Red Hawks 4 plays from scrimmage to take an 8-0 lead as Maverick Powers scored on a 5-yard touchdown gallop.

The script changed as the Bears hit a long

pass play and scored in seven plays to pull within a point of the Red Hawks with a one-point conversion to trail 8-7. The Red Hawk's Owen Evans returned the ensuing kick off from near his own goal line to inside the Bears territory to give the Red Hawks offense a short field. The Red Hawks drove for their second touchdown in eleven plays as Elijah Womack hit pay-dirt from 5 yards out to increase the lead to 14-7.

Both teams had a possession as the first quarter dwindled down with neither team hitting the scoreboard. The Bears really got their offense in gear as the second quarter unfolded. It took the Bears thirteen plays to score their second touchdown, this time a 10-yard pass for the score, knotting the contest at 14-14.

The Red Hawks then returned the favor by driving 67 yards in 11 plays as quarterback Cade Saunders rolled right and fired a 10-yard touchdown strike to Chase Mehan to increase the Red Hawks's lead to 22-14.

The Bears would not be denied as they cranked up their offense once again and consumed the rest of the quarter with an eight play, 74-yard scoring drive to pull within two points of the Red Hawks, 22-20 as the quarter came to an end.

The third quarter proved to be a turning point in the contest as each team possessed the football twice. The huge difference was that the Bears scored on one of their possessions and the Red Hawks turned the ball over on downs twice. As

the two teams headed into the fourth and final quarter, the Bears led by the score of 28-22. The fourth quarter did not prove to be friendly to the home team. The Bears drove 65 yards in ten plays to face a 4th and goal at the Red Hawks 2-yard line. The Bears then added 3 points to their total by successfully kicking a 23-yard field goal to increase their lead to 31-22.

The Red Hawks were not done yet as they rode the sturdy legs of Elijah Womack for a 5-yard touchdown rumble to close the gap to two points, 31-29.

The Bears took possession of the football with just over 5 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter and drove to the Red Hawks one yard line with just under a minute left to play. The Bears then took two snaps in the victory formation and preserved their ticket to the 4A championship game in Fort Collins next Saturday.

The Red Hawks, while disappointed, played an outstanding season with a dozen straight victories and dispatching all comers by double digit scores. This allowed head coach Brett Mertens to play his underclassmen in virtually every game which gave varsity experience with an eye to the future. Given the success of both the JV squad and the freshman squad, the future indeed looks bright. Coach Mertens and his entire coaching staff at all levels deserve the high praise for a job well done. The continuing success year after year is a tribute to the coaches, the players, school administrators, and a supportive community.

LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS

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Whether you're after a spacious primary suite, an expanded living area, or the ultimate craft or hobby studio, this floorplan is ready to adapt. The main living space includes two bedrooms, a 3/4 bathroom, kitchen, dining area, and a convenient laundry center. Three large additional rooms two of which have some cabinetry and sinks (one includes a half bath)—make ideal spaces for guest suites, home offices, or creative workspaces. For vehicle or equipment storage, the oversized attached garage easily fits 5–6 cars or projects. A detached garage handles up to four vehicles or a large RV, trailer, or toy hauler. Equestrian-Ready: This property once produced certified hay and has the acreage, layout, and access to become a premier horse property. Add a barn, riding arena, or paddocks and take full advantage of nearby public lands and miles of riding trails just minutes away.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ONCE-GREAT DEMOCRACIES HAVE IMPLEMENTED THE SAME DESTRUCTIVE POLICIES THAT DEMOCRATS WANT TO IMPLEMENT IN THE U.S.

Editor:

The seven principles of journalism are: truthfulness, impartiality, independence, transparency, humanity, minimizing harm, and acting as a public watchdog. In today's media world, those principles are little more than a joke. For decades, most of the media have believed their function is to support Democrats and their far-left policies and to destroy Republicans and their common-sense policies of less government. A real journalist strives to inform the public. Today's "journalists" do everything possible to keep the American people in the dark. Otherwise, they would rarely, if ever, elect Democrats. This past week, a famous rapper was sentenced to 14 years in prison for illegally funneling millions of dollars from a Malaysian billionaire to Obama's 2012 election campaign, but you won't see that story in the media. A south Florida Democrat congresswoman was charged with stealing \$5 million in FEMA funds and making illegal campaign contributions. The media was too busy campaigning for California's Newsom to give the story of corruption in his inner circle any coverage. Newsom's former chief of staff was indicted on public corruption charges. For years, the media / Democrats ensured the public saw little honest coverage of Biden's diminished capacities and his sheer incompetence, and then for the equally incompetent Kamala Harris. They also never cared about the corruption Joe and family participated in as they lined their pockets with kickbacks from around the world. Journalism has been replaced by Democrat silence, lies, and distortions. That same subterfuge has hidden the demise of Canada, Great Britain, and the rest of Western Europe from the American public. Those once-great democracies have implemented the very same destructive policies that Democrats want to implement in the U.S. In Canada; a decade under liberal Justin Trudeau has reduced a first-world country to a failing state. Its most urgent self-inflicted prob-

lem is their stagnant economy. The current liberal government plans on running huge deficits for at least the next four years. The government is bloated, with government employees (who have an unbound sense of entitlement) now making up nearly a quarter of the population. Canada is now nearly unaffordable for most of its citizens. Another failure is its snarled, inept justice system. Speech deemed hateful can lead to years in prison, but actual assaults and murders often result in a slap on the wrist. A person involved in the bombing of the Air India flight that killed 329 people received only a six-year prison sentence. Like Europe and the U.S., Canada also opened its borders to a rapid flood of immigrants, leading to the same negative consequences. I read an informative article titled "A Farewell to Europe" by Dr. Cheryl Benard on the effects of Europe opening the immigration floodgates. The title is a clue to how serious the situation in Europe is. The author compares the successful integration of prior immigrant groups like the Bosnians and Ukrainians, who are generally doing well, with the current influx of Afghans, Pakistanis, Syrians, Iraqis, Chechens, and Somalis, who, to say the least, are not doing well. "If your country is suddenly populated by people from an entirely different background, ... who are the products of a completely different history and culture, ... express hate or contempt for you, are committed to an expansionist religion that believes in conversion or death, and have principles very different from yours on basic matters such as dress, behavior, and status of women. If they are determined and able to enforce your compliance with their principles, then you have not been joined by immigrants. You have been invaded by an occupying force."

Europe's new migrant neighborhoods are much different than earlier immigrant neighborhoods. There are dangerous no-go zones in Paris where even the police fear going. Multiple city districts of Vien-

na, Stockholm, Frankfurt, and Oslo are zones of hostility, populated by gangs of violent young immigrant men. These immigrants show a pronounced disinclination to join European society, to adapt, integrate, or be productive. They are averse to work and prone to crime. Instead of trying to understand and abide by the rules, they are focused on learning how to cheat the system. In Austria, where the average pension for citizens retiring after a lifetime of working is 2,500 Euros per month, Austrians were astounded to learn some migrant families were getting an income of 9,000 Euros per month, with not a single wage earner among them, simply by gaming the welfare system. The German police keep data showing how many individuals out of 100,000 committed violent crimes in a particular year. For native Germans, the number was 163. For Iraqis the number was 1,606; Afghans 1,722; Syrians 1740; Moroccans 1,885. Worse yet, is the damage to European life and values with the astronomical rise in violent sexual crime, including molestation, rape, and gang rape. European women no longer feel safe in train stations, public transportation, parks, or public swimming pools. In other words, the migrants have succeeded in dictating where their host countries' female citizens can and cannot go in their own cities. The same liberal politicians that created the invasion that is destroying the European way of life know what is going on, but excuse and defend anything associated with migrants. They actively conceal the facts and try to explain away the problems. In complete denial, they provide "helpful hints" to girls who don't want to be molested or gang raped such as "try to find a seat near the driver."

Because American liberals and their media stooges advocate for the same policies that are undermining the European civilization, they have to keep the American people in the dark about what is going on there. Their goal is to convince the

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS From previous pg

ONCE-GREAT DEMOCRACIES HAVE IMPLEMENTED THE SAME DESTRUCTIVE POLICIES THAT DEMOCRATS WANT TO IMPLEMENT

convince the American people that their country is racist, misogynistic, homophobic, and systematically unjust. They think we are too stupid to recognize the contradiction between their notion that this nation is irredeemable, but also being obsessed with protecting illegal alien criminals from being deported. If this country is so bad, wouldn't Democrats help illegals escape back to their home countries? Their hypocrisy only confirms that America is still the land of opportunity and remains the hope of the world. It also emphasizes the urgency of preventing Democrats from destroying our culture and nation in the same way like-minded leftists have destroyed Canada and Europe.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

WHAT HEGSETH IS ORDERING ARE CLEAR EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS ILLEGAL

Editor:

On November 29, 1864, one hundred sixty-one years ago, one of the worst moments in Colorado history occurred. Colonel John Chivington led approximately 675 men to a peaceful encampment of Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek, in the southeastern part of Colorado Territory. Black Kettle, the aging chief of the Southern Cheyenne, flew an American flag along with a white flag over his lodge, to show they were peaceful.

Regardless, Chivington that morning gave orders to attack. Two officers, Captain Silas Soule and Lt. Joseph Cramer, refused to obey and told their men to hold their fire. Chivington later claimed over 500 warriors were killed. In truth, from eyewitness accounts, over 100 Cheyenne and Arapaho were killed, mostly women, children, and older men. Mostly unarmed. Their bodies were mutilated and body parts were displayed by some of Chivington's men when they returned to Denver.

Later, when information came out about the massacre of innocent Native Americans, an investigation was opened by the military to address Chivington's actions. Captain Soule was murdered in Denver, allegedly by one of Chivington's men, when he offered to provide testimony against the colonel.

March 16, 1968, fifty-seven years ago, the My Lai massacre occurred in Vietnam. Approximately 500 civilians; almost all women, children, and elderly men, were murdered by US Troops. Similar to Sand Creek, bodies were mutilated and women and young girls (children) were gang raped. Only one soldier was convicted of any crimes. Lt. William Calley, Jr.

One man, Hugh Thompson, Jr., a warrant officer and helicopter pilot, helped stop the massacre. He landed his chopper and told his crew to fire on the American troops unless they stopped and ceased their carnage. He and his crew safely escorted several of the civilians away from the village. Thompson later testified against those charged with these War Crimes. Thompson was not murdered like Captain Soule, but he was condemned and ostracized by many individuals in the US military and government, as well as the public, for his role in stopping the massacre and his testimony at the trials.

Both Captain Soule and Warrant Officer Thompson disobeyed what they considered to be ILLEGAL orders. Their lives and careers were destroyed.

What has happened, and is happening in the Caribbean near Venezuela, is an UNLAWFUL order. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Adm. Mitch Bradley both need to be held accountable. The order to "kill them all," why was this needed? The survivors were no longer "threats". Once the boat was neutralized, the survivors should have been picked up. The "drug Smugglers" were not enemy combatants. They were not attacking the United States. They were not terrorists. Even conservative Republicans and conservative commentators are speaking out. Hegseth is acting as judge, jury, and executioner. For years I have applauded the work of the Coast Guard, who are trained to stop and board vessels and arrest and confiscate illegal contraband. They do so LEGALLY. One of the jobs of the Navy SEALs in the Persian Gulf was, and is, to board suspected enemies' boats and ships. Unless fired upon, they know how to de-escalate and detain/arrest pirates and combatants. They do so LEGALLY.

Do you want to know the definition of ILLEGAL orders? What Hegseth is ordering are clear examples of what is ILLEGAL.

Jon Sering (former Montrose resident)

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2025 PARTNERS CHILE BOWL FUNDRAISER



Mirror staff photos

MONTROSE—it has been almost 12 years since the former Masonic Temple at 511 East Main Street began its restoration journey, with then owners Harris and Yvonne Meek embarking on a large-scale effort to save the iconic facility that included restoring the stained glass skylight in the upstairs ballroom. Today, the building is home to The Temple Events Center. It has been 17 years since Partners held the first Chili Bowl Fundraiser at the Around the Corner Art Gallery; the event has now been held at the Temple Building for more than a decade. On Saturday, Nov. 29, the annual Partners Mentoring Chili Bowl Fundraiser returned to the iconic building. Partners Mentoring Development Officer Lissette Riviere (below left) has organized the event from its inception, and has watched it become a cherished local tradition that supports Youth Mentoring programs.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL LAUNCHES 'WINTER READY' CAMPAIGN

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Given that I-70 is the main route for delivering goods to the Western Slope communities and providing access to recreation in the Rocky Mountains, it isn't surprising that proactive and reactive enforcement activities launch this roadway into the top spot for chain law violations. However, Port of Entry officers and troopers also enforce chain law on other highly traveled highways.

In fact, in August 2024, Senate Bill 24-100 expanded Colorado's mandatory carry chain law to include many essential roadways. Each year, all commercial motor vehicle drivers are required to carry chains from September 1 to May 31. This applies to vehicles with a combined weight exceeding 16,000 pounds used in commerce or as a means of transport for at least 16 passengers (including the driver) on public highways.

Commercial vehicles and buses have a larger footprint on roadways where chains are required. CMVs must carry chains or ATDs on all the following roads regardless of current weather:

- I-70 west of milepost 259 (Morrison) to the Utah border.
- Colorado Highway 9 milepost 63 to milepost 97 (Frisco to Fairplay).
- Route 40 milepost 256 (Empire) to the Utah border.
- U.S. Route 50 milepost 225 (Salida) to the Utah border.
- U.S. Route 160 milepost 304 (Walsenburg) to the New Mexico border.
- U.S. Route 285 milepost 250 (Morrison) to the New Mexico border.
- All of U.S Route 550.

Looking at data over the last four years (2021-2024) for chain law violations, the five most common roadways that troopers issued the citations were:

- 1.I-70
- 2.Highway 160
- 3.Highway 50
- 4.Highway 255 and Highway 550

The Colorado roadway with the largest number of CMV-related crashes remains I-70. The I-70 mountain corridor is the most significant area of focus for enforcement, education, and safety checks. In fact, a review of runaway truck ramp usage on I-70 revealed that 65% of drivers who had to use a truck ramp had five years or less of driving experience. Crashes and runaway truck ramp usage pointed to driver inexperience and a lack of familiarity with driving on this interstate corridor.

CSP partners closely with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the trucking industry through organizations like the Colorado Motor Carriers Association (CMCA) to enhance road safety. A key example of these cooperative efforts was the creation of the **Mountain Rules**, a campaign designed to provide truck drivers with important information to help them safely navigate Colorado's mountains.

The Colorado State Patrol wants residents and visitors to be 'Winter Ready' during our cold, snow, and ice season. This campaign aims to educate drivers on the most common behaviors that lead to serious injury and death during the winter months on Colorado roadways.



Colorado State Patrol courtesy photo.



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In short, working with an ABR-certified agent provides specialized expertise, better representation, and a smoother home-buying experience.

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- .17 ACRE LOT
- BUILT IN 1904
- FENCED BACK YARD
- 4 BEDROOMS (1 is nonconforming)
- 1.5 BATHROOMS
- NEW ROOF
- ORIGINAL WOOD TRIM



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DON'T LET YOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS OVERLOAD YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE-The holiday season brings warmth, joy and plenty of festive lighting. While those bright Christmas lights can make your home feel magical, they also place an extra strain on your electrical system. Overloaded circuits are one of the most common causes of holiday electrical issues, leading to tripped breakers, damaged wiring and possibly fires. Fortunately, a few simple precautions can help you decorate and celebrate safely.

Applewood Plumbing Heating & Electric recommends you first understand your electrical limitations. Every household circuit can only handle a certain amount of voltage. When too many lights, inflatable decorations and appliances operate

on the same circuit, you risk overloading it. If you notice your lights flickering or your breaker tripping, that means you are pushing the limits. Spread your décor among different circuits to reduce risk of electrical overload and fires.

If you are still using incandescent holiday lights, upgrading to LED strands can dramatically decrease your risk of overloaded electrical circuits. For example, a 100-count string of incandescent lights uses 40 watts, but LEDs use about 4.8 watts. LEDs are energy efficient, longer lasting and cost less to run over time.

If you are planning to decorate like the Griswolds, plug outdoor lights or decorations directly into an outlet whenever possible. Don't plug lights into power

strips that are plugged into extension cords that are plugged into outlets. Multiple cords can overload a plugs and result in sparks, arcing and potential fires.

The reality is, unless you pull a Griswold, you're probably not in danger of circuit overload from holiday lights. Most residential circuits can carry 15 to 20 amps, which means you would have to plug in at least 90 strands of LED lights into a single circuit before you reach the breaking point.

To ensure your home's safety, an inspection of your breaker box can identify potential issues. Applewood recommends certified electricians assess your electrical capacity. For more information visit www.applewoodfixit.com.



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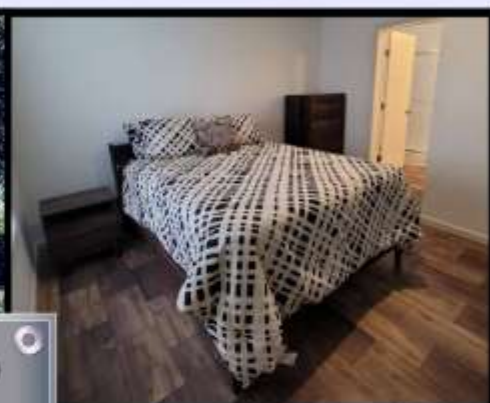
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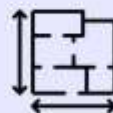
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

I-70 GLENWOOD CANYON BRIDGE JOINTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PAUSES FOR WINTER

Special to the Mirror

GARFIELD AND EAGLE COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation and contractor KSK, LLC will pause work on the I-70 Glenwood Canyon Bridge Joint Improvement Project for the winter on Wednesday, November 26.

During the 2025 season, crews completed five of the eastbound and westbound I-70 bridge joints near Exit 129 at the Bair Ranch Rest Area, as well as one of the larger bridge-joint structures at Exit 123 near Shoshone Power Plant. These improvements allow for the roadway expansion and contraction and provide a smoother driving surface for motorists.

"The team has made great progress on this section of this critical I-70 Mountain Corridor project ahead of winter," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "Maintaining the health and safety of I-70 through Glenwood Canyon is essential not only for travelers, but for Colorado's economic vitality. This corridor is a backbone for commerce and tourism, and keeping it safe and reliable is fundamental to supporting communities and businesses across the state."

Winter Travel Impacts

To safely move the project into its winter shutdown, the following steps have been taken to demobilize operations:

- I-70 in both directions will return to its standard configuration with two lanes of travel in each direction.

- To avoid interfering with winter travel, as well as snow removal and maintenance operations, no scheduled lane closures are planned and

motorists can expect typical lane and shoulder widths throughout the winter.

- No construction activities, aside from necessary maintenance, will take place during the winter shutdown period.

- All roadway surfaces where bridge joints were replaced have been paved.

- New this winter season, CDOT has launched an online hub dedicated to the I-70 Mountain Corridor—a one-stop resource for winter driving information, road conditions, and tips for smooth, safe mountain travel. This resource brings together the best tools from COTrip.org and the COTrip Planner app in one centralized location: codot.gov/i70mountain.

2026 Scheduled Improvements

Remaining work, which is expected to resume in spring 2026, includes replacing 18 bridge joints, completing guardrail improvements, performing asphalt paving from Mile Point 116 near Glenwood Springs to MP 133 in Dotsero.

Project Benefits

Bridge joints connect the roadway to elevated bridge structures, allowing for expansion and contraction as vehicles travel over them—an essential function for maintaining safe roadways. The 18 remaining structures in Glenwood Canyon scheduled for work in 2026 are located at or near the following areas: Exit 119 at No Name, Exit 122 at the Grizzly Creek Rest Area, and Exit 125 at the Hanging Lake Trailhead.

Project Information

For additional information about this project:

- Call the project information line at 970-



Project teams work on a bridge joint as part of the I-70 Glenwood Canyon Bridge Joint Improvement Project in Glenwood Canyon. CDOT courtesy photo.

896-6953

- Email the project team at: I70Glenwood-Canyon@gmail.com

- To sign up for project updates please click on this link: subscription.cotrip.org

- Visit the project website at: codot.gov/projects/i70glenwoodcanyonbridge

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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

RURAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TAKE ON BIG PBM GIANTS: MARK CUBAN BACKS CCA RX'S MISSION TO SLASH PRESCRIPTION COSTS

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— In a major validation of the grassroots fight against pharmaceutical industry price gouging, **Mark Cuban's Cost Plus Drug Company has partnered with CCA Rx**, the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) governed by rural healthcare providers through Community Care Alliance (CCA).

This strategic alliance arms rural America with the same cost-saving weapons that Cuban has championed nationwide—and the results are already proving transformative.

"CCA Rx is a critical resource for Memorial Regional Health (and other self-funded employers) in managing prescription plan costs," said Kyle Miller, PharmD, Chief Operating Officer for Memorial Regional Health.

"The timing is ideal as medication costs continue to rise and drive a larger percentage of expense to the overall health benefits plan. The CCA Rx offers complete transparency, autonomy and control of your prescription plan while returning 100% of earned rebates back to the employer. It's a game changer when compared to a traditional PBM model!"

David vs. Goliath: Rural Providers Refuse to Be Exploited

For decades, massive PBMs have held rural healthcare systems hostage with opaque pricing, hidden rebates, and costs

that bear no relationship to actual drug prices. The CCA said enough is enough.

Formed in 2015 by Western Healthcare Alliance (WHA), a rural healthcare network serving some of Colorado's most underserved communities, the CCA has evolved from a population health initiative into a full-fledged rebellion against the PBM status quo. When these rural providers realized they were being financially bled dry by middlemen, they took the radical step of creating their own PBM: **CCA Rx**.

"We anticipate healthcare insurance prices to increase dramatically," said Angelina Salazar, CEO for WHA. "CCA Rx provides an avenue for self-funded employers to significantly reduce their prescription costs. We're not just talking about modest savings, we're seeing 34-49% savings compared to traditional PBM arrangements."

Mark Cuban's Endorsement: A Game-changer for Rural America

Mark Cuban's Cost Plus' mission is to expose the pharmaceutical industry's pricing scams and deliver drugs at transparent, fair prices, which aligns perfectly with CCA Rx's provider-led model. This partnership brings Cuban's revolutionary pricing directly to rural communities that have been exploited the longest.

The combination is impactful: CCA Rx's provider governance and flexibility meets Cost Plus Drug Company's radically trans-

parent pricing. No games. No hidden fees. No inflated costs.

How CCA Rx Is Different — And Why It's Winning

-100% Provider-controlled: Governed by rural healthcare providers who actually understand patient needs, not Wall Street executives focused on quarterly profits.--

Complete Transparency: Every dollar is accounted for. No spread pricing. No hidden rebates kept by the PBM.

-100% Rebate Pass-through: Unlike traditional PBMs that pocket manufacturer rebates, CCA Rx returns every penny to plan sponsors.

-Custom Formulary Management:

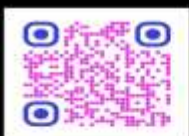
Through their Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, CCA Rx builds drug plans tailored to the actual needs of employees and families — not what's most profitable for the PBM.

-Partnership with FairScript: Advanced pharmacy technology without the corporate greed.

The Stakes: Self-funded Employers' Survival

With prescription drug costs spiraling and traditional PBMs offering zero transparency, self-funded employers, especially in rural areas, face an existential threat. CCA Rx offers a lifeline: real savings, real transparency, and real control.

The message to big PBMs is clear: **Rural providers won't be exploited anymore.**



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN PRESENT 2025 CIVIC AWARDS HONORING LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Republican Women honored volunteers during its 2025 Giving Thanks Civic Awards Ceremony. The 9th annual celebration to say thank you and honor five local citizens who go above and beyond their daily lives and volunteer to not only help improve individuals lives, but make the community a better place to live.

MRW President Kerri Catlin spoke of how these volunteers use their gifts and talents in selfless service. "They are here to nourish the body, mind and soul. With a soft touch, a whisper, a stroke of a brush, or the sprinkling of seeds that grow into a beautiful garden — this is what we call family and community."

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

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

The 2025 MRW Civic Award Recipients: Margaret Musselmann volunteers her time helping to obtain funding for the Montrose Elks Lodge Scholarship fund and with organizing weekly BINGO game night. She is a prominent volunteer with both the Montrose Cattle Women and Montrose Republican Women. Presented by MRW 1st Vice President Marti Barnes. Watercolor artist and instructor, Jodine Broskovak was instrumental in founding the Montrose Center for Arts in 2015, with help from fellow area artists. She has been involved with MCA in many different roles, as well as fundraising events. She also gives her time as an art instructor. Presented by MRW member Pat Brown.



Montrose Republican Women 2025 Civic Awards Recipients with Presenters
R to L: Silke Printz, VP Cherie Whiteford, MRW Pat Brown, Jodine Broskovak, Pres Kerri Catlin, Tracy Harrison, VP Marti Barnes, Margaret Musselmann, Louis 'Babe' Faussone & MRW Betty Hayes. Courtesy photo.

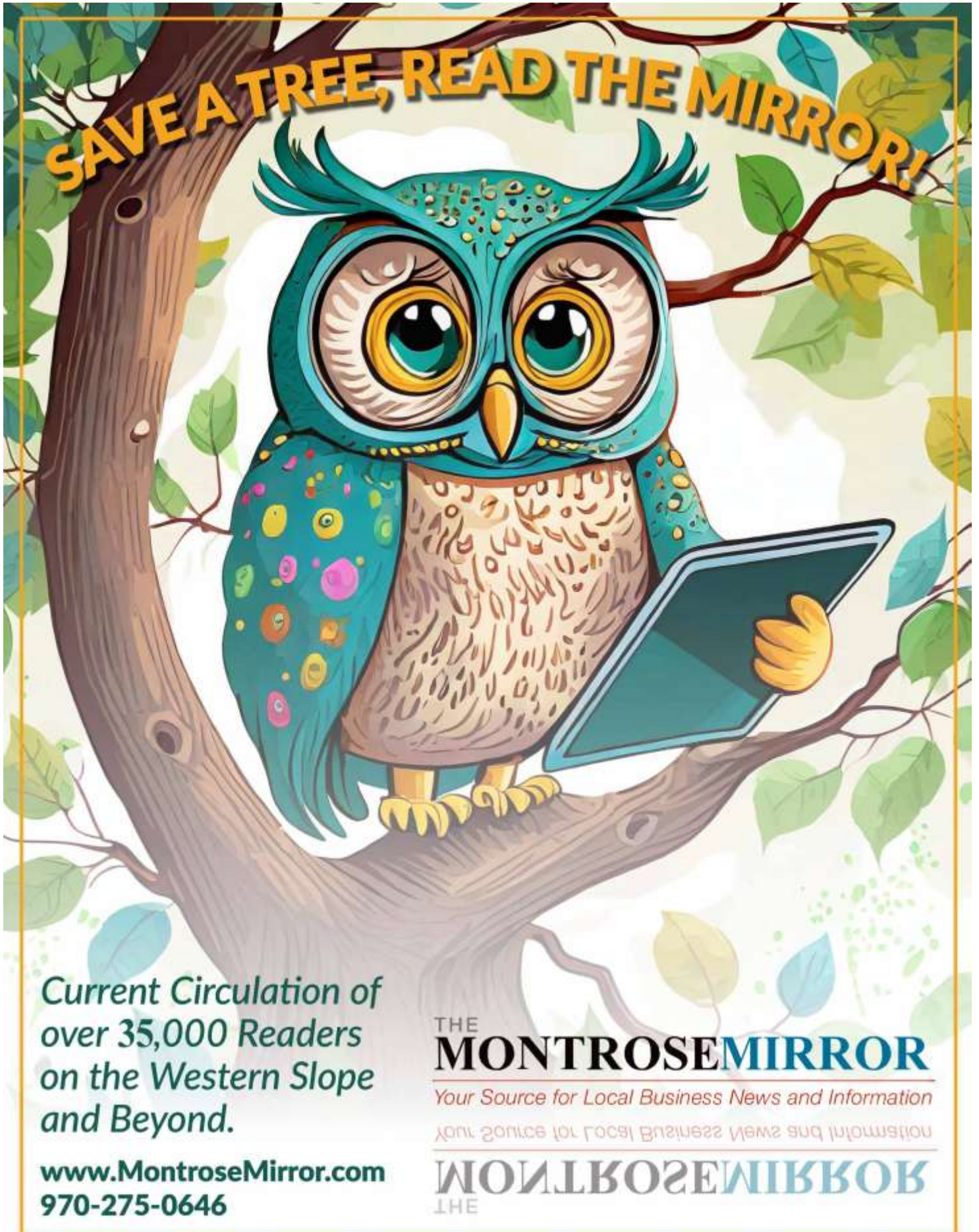
Born and raised in Montrose, Tracy Harrison's heritage has deep roots in this valley. As a Master Gardener, Tracy volunteers her time and talents with Montrose Botanic Gardens and its events. She has spent numerous years as superintendent of "Living Arts" for the County Fair and helped with 4-H, and on the Historic Montrose Downtown board. Her knowledge of local history was pertinent in the production of the book, "Montrose: Take a Closer Look" and helped with the 100 year Anniversary of the Gunnison Tunnel. Presented by MRW President Kerri Catlin.

As a Woman of Distinction, Silke Printz is involved as a volunteer in many community institutions and activities. Silke has used her talents in linguistics to teach in the adult education system and at Montrose High School, been on the ABC Board of

Directors, and the Montrose Community Foundation. She has worked with CASA, Magic Circle, the Chamber of Commerce and the Montrose Arts Council. She gives her time generously to the community and participates in many local activities. Presenter 2nd Vice President Cherie Whiteford.

Montrose Dairy Farmer and WWII Veteran, Louis "Babe" Faussone is a 102 year old WWII Army Veteran who served his country in Japan as a Sergeant. He and his brother were dairy farmers/producers in Montrose. Louis and brother Roy estab-

lished a scholarship for students with lower GPAs to receive funding for their higher education. The scholarship is obtained through the Montrose Community Foundation. Presented by MRW member Betty Hayes- our very own Rosie the Riveter.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SOUTHERN COLORADO HOSPITAL AND DOCTORS AGREE TO PAY \$650,000 TO RESOLVE ALLEGATIONS THAT THEY UNLAWFULLY PRESCRIBED OPIOIDS AND OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

US Attorneys' Office

DENVER—The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announced that Mt. San Rafael Hospital and Rural Health Clinic ("Mt. San Rafael Hospital") in Trinidad, Colorado, and three physicians employed by the hospital—Dr. Sheryll Castro-Flores, Dr. Joseph Jimenez, and Dr. Douglas McFarland—have agreed to pay a combined \$650,000 to resolve allegations that they violated the Controlled Substances Act by unlawfully dispensing controlled substances, including high doses of opioids and dangerous drug combinations, and violated the False Claims Act by seeking payment for many of those invalid prescriptions from Medicare and other federal health care programs.

The United States alleges that, between January 2016 and December 2023, Castro-Flores, Jimenez, and McFarland violated the Controlled Substances Act and the False Claims Act by repeatedly issuing invalid prescriptions for controlled substances, including opioids. According to the allegations, these prescriptions were not issued for a legitimate medical purpose or were outside the usual course of professional practice.

The United States further alleges that the physicians ignored numerous "red flags" indicating the prescriptions were improper or unsafe, including high daily opioid doses, dangerous drug combinations, signs of substance abuse, prolonged opioid use, cash payments despite insurance coverage, long-distance travel to obtain prescriptions, and repeated early refill requests.

These doctors were employed by Mt. San Rafael Hospital, which, the United States alleges, is also liable under the Controlled Substances Act for the illegal prescribing of its employees, and under the False Claims Act for causing claims for payment for these invalid prescriptions to be submitted to the government.

To resolve the allegations, the doctors and hospital have agreed to pay a combination of penalties under the Controlled Substances Act and damages under the False Claims Act as follows:

- Dr. Castro-Flores has agreed to pay \$112,500;
- Dr. Jimenez has agreed to pay \$112,500;
- Dr. MacFarland has agreed to pay \$100,000; and
- Mt. San Rafael Hospital has agreed to pay \$325,000.

The hospital has also issued new policies and implemented new protocols, applicable to all its employees, to disallow opioids prescribing for chronic pain management and to ensure that opioids prescribing for acute and sub-acute pain is done safely and meets state guidelines.

"Doctors and the hospitals who employ them must prescribe controlled substances carefully to protect patients and the community from the dangers of overprescribing," said United States Attorney Peter McNeilly. "When doctors write prescriptions for opioids despite red flags signaling that the prescriptions may be invalid, they place the patient at risk of harm and they increase the likelihood of illegal diversion. And, when doctors cause illegitimate prescriptions to be submitted to Medicare and other federal healthcare

plans, taxpayers pay for those illegitimate prescriptions. We will continue to hold doctors and hospitals accountable when they disregard these important obligations."

"DEA will continue to relentlessly pursue hospitals and practitioners who engage in egregious prescribing practices jeopardizing the health and safety of patients and the community," said DEA Rocky Mountain Field Division Diversion Program Manager George Taylor. "DEA, alongside federal and state partners, will not tolerate those that violate the trust of patients and will hold those parties accountable."

"Physicians who recklessly, illegitimately distribute controlled substances undermine ongoing public health efforts to address the opioid crisis and betray their professional responsibility to serve the health and well-being of the public," said Special Agent in Charge Linda T. Hanley of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG). "Working closely with our law enforcement partners, HHS-OIG will continue to investigate such allegations to safeguard our health care system's integrity as well as patient safety."

The claims against Dr. Castro-Flores, Dr. Jimenez, Dr. McFarland, and Mt. San Rafael are allegations, and in agreeing to settle this matter, they did not admit to any liability.

This matter was investigated by the DEA's Rocky Mountain Division, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Jacob Licht.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOHN MCLEOD HANCOCK

November 24, 1975 – November 24, 2025

JOHN MCLEOD HANCOCK passed away on November 24, 2025, on his 50th birthday. His passing marks the loss of a life that touched those who knew him through the relationships he built and the loved ones he left behind, which includes his five incredible children, Skyler Hancock, Desani Hancock, Destiny Hancock, Gage Hancock, and Mason Hancock.

Though his time was cut short, John is remembered with love by those whose lives intersected with his. The memories shared with him—whether moments of warmth, conversation, or quiet companionship—now stand as lasting reminders of his legacy.

In his final hours, John rededicated his life to God, finding peace and comfort in his renewed faith. Those who loved him take solace in knowing he is now in the arms of Jesus, embraced by eternal love and rest.

John is preceded in death by Christopher Brouhard, Jacqueline Hancock, Raymond Hancock, and Erban and Wilma Hancock.

A memorial service in John's honor will be held on December 6, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Redlands Community Center in Grand Junction, Colorado. All who knew him are welcome to gather in remembrance.

John McLeod Hancock will be missed, and his memory will be held close by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

JENNY KAVANAGH

JENNY KAVANAGH, 44, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on November 11, 2025. Jenny's life was defined by a profound devotion to the people she loved and the community that shaped her. A lifelong resident of Montrose, she carried her hometown in her heart wherever she went, and her presence was a constant source of warmth for those around her.

Jenny was a loving mother and aunt, someone who poured herself fully into her family. She had an unwavering habit of placing others before herself, offering comfort, and strength in ways that often went unseen but were always deeply felt. From her earliest years, Jenny shone with a gentle light - one that only grew brighter as she embraced adulthood, motherhood, and the responsibilities she welcomed with grace.

Her adventurous spirit found joy in exploring the world, whether through international travel or quiet days spent outdoors on the western slope. Jenny cherished the beauty of nature and the wonder of experiencing new places, but it was the time shared with friends and family that mattered most to her. She found pride in lifting others up, fighting for her family, and helping the people she loved find hope.

Jenny is survived by her son, Joey; her sister, Bree; and her mother, Cyndy.

Those who knew Jenny will remember her kindness, her quiet courage, and the way she moved through the world with love at the center of everything she did. Her loss leaves a void that cannot be filled, but her memory will continue to guide and steady those who were fortunate enough to be loved by her. We don't all get the miracles we hope for in life, but there is no better addition to the ranks of those now walking with our Lord, the ultimate Miracle Maker.

Jenny's memory and life will be honored: December 6, 2025 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church Montrose, 1840 E Niagara Rd, Montrose, CO 81401.



CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



ISSUE 550 Dec. 1, 2025

ART & SOL

IDAHO'S CMARIE FUHRMAN FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ON TUESDAY DEC. 2

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- Indigenous poet, writer and administrator CMarie Fuhrman will be the featured poet for the Telluride Institute's first Tuesday Talking Gourds' Bardic Trails virtual poetry and storytelling series Dec. 2nd at 7 pm MST.

Fuhrman is the author of *Camped Beneath the Dam: Poems* (Floodgate 2020) and co-editor of *Native Voices* (Tupelo 2019). She has published poetry and nonfiction in multiple journals including *Emergence Magazine*, *Platform Review*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Cutthroat a Journal of the Arts*, *Whitefish Review*, *Broadsided Press*, *Taos International Journal of Poetry and Art*, as well as several anthologies.

CMarie is a regular columnist for the *Inlander*, translations editor for *Broadsided Press*, Non-Fiction editor for *High Desert Journal*, and Director of the Elk River Writers Workshop. She is the Director of Poetry for Western Colorado University's MFA in Creative Writing Program where she also teaches Nature Writing.

She is also the 2021-2023 Idaho Writer in Residence and resides in the mountains of West Central Idaho with her partner Caleb and their dogs Carhartt and Cisco.

For those that like prompts, we are suggesting "Giving Thanks" although poems on any subject are welcome. Virtual attendees are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share each month after the featured reader, their own work or someone else's.

The Stories & Poems Norwood series at the Lone Cone Library will be shutting down indefinitely due to declining attendance and loss of funding, so no more Third Thursday live events in Norwood.

However, the Wilkinson Library and Talking Gourds will be starting a new Stories & Poems series at the all-purpose community room on the third Tuesday of every month starting in December with Montrose meta-physical poet Tracy Lightsey.

Talking Gourds' Scot Rasor (KOTO DJ Razor Blaze) is working with Telluride Arts to continue to bring poetry to Artwalk first Thursdays in selected galleries and is also working with a lot of local arts entities to start a monthly music and poetry event somewhere in town with the beginning of the new year.

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program hosts the free Bardic Trails virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month. The Wilkinson Public Library continues as our collaboration partner, with town support from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts & Special Events.

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

For more information, visit the Telluride Institute Talking Gourds website: tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds



CMarie Fuhrman. Courtesy photo.

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\$172,000

5% Down/25 Year Term

***ONLY \$2,024.00**

per month*

(\$1,348.00 mortgage plus
\$676.00 lot rent)

CONTACT DETAILS

970-249-0493

manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com

www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com

WAC. Estimated payment, rates and terms may vary based on credit history. Not all applicants will qualify. Subject to lender terms & conditions. Actual term, rate, APR, and loan amount may vary.



CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TELLURIDE ARTS ANNOUNCES ALL-NEW CREATIVE EXCHANGE & SALON NIGHTS: A FRESH SEASON OF ARTIST-CENTERED PROGRAMMING

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-Telluride Arts is excited to launch its newest programs, **The Creative Exchange** and **Salon Nights**, two fresh monthly series designed to support, connect, and celebrate local artists. Both programs are free and open to all, with the goal of strengthening artistic community, creative collaboration, and professional growth. Held at the Telluride Arts Headquarters at 135 W Pacific Ave.

CREATIVE EXCHANGE – MONTHLY, SECOND THURSDAYS

The Creative Exchange is a **brand-new, peer-led learning and idea-sharing series** where artists host conversations, demos, and professional development topics—ranging from creative process and business skills to storytelling, technique, and inspiration.

The inaugural session is hosted by **Tammi Brazee and friends**, leading an evening of idea-sharing and connection. Each month will feature a new group of artist hosts, each bringing their own creative lens and expertise.

SALON NIGHTS – MONTHLY, THIRD THURSDAYS

Salon Nights are relaxed, informal mixers designed to bring artists and the community together through conversation, collaboration, and creativity. No agenda, no formal programming—just a welcoming space for artists to meet, mingle, swap ideas, and spark something new.

“These programs are about creating space for artists and based on artist feedback about looking for more community, space to connect, and space to share,” said **Jessica Galbo, Executive Director of Telluride Arts**. “We are listening carefully to what the artist community is asking for, and this programming is a big step in expanding opportunities for the creative community in Telluride.”

Both programs will run monthly from December through the winter season, with additional dates and hosts to be announced - [stay tuned with our Telluride Arts HQ Event Calendar](#).

Artists are also invited to shape future topics and guest hosts through an [online survey](#).

The Creative Exchange and Salon Nights are part of Telluride Arts’ ongoing commitment to fostering creativity, connection, and cultural vibrancy in our region.

For more information, visit www.telluridearts.org or contact our team at: info@telluridearts.org.



Fiesta Guadalajara
Re-Opening 2025
970-249-2460

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227



Beer Barn II
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Pahgre's
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

STUDENTS AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN THANK VETERANS AT MRH



Veterans in Mountain View Therapy's community classes display the hand-written thank-you cards they received from Redeemer Lutheran School students. Courtesy photo.



Veterans in Mountain View Therapy's community classes display their thank-you cards alongside exercise physiologist and U.S. Army veteran Chris Borgard, center. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— In honor of Veterans Day, K-8 students at Redeemer Lutheran School in Delta, Colorado, created handwritten thank-you messages for 25 local veterans who attend community exercise classes offered through Montrose Regional Health (MRH).

The effort began when Chris Borgard, an exercise physiologist at MRH and a veteran himself, wanted to show appreciation for the veterans participating in Mountain View Therapy's community classes. He shared the idea with Lisa Althaus, a rehab technician at MRH.

Outside of her work assisting patients, Althaus also serves at Redeemer Lutheran School, which incorporates Christian teachings into its curriculum. When she brought the idea to teachers, they immediately embraced the project. Students wrote letters and drew pictures thanking veterans for their service and the freedoms they help protect.

"It was a meaningful learning experience for all our students to write a note of appreciation for the freedoms they enjoy in our country," Althaus said.

Montrose Regional Health extends its heartfelt appreciation to all veterans in the community and beyond. Their service

and commitment continue to inspire the compassionate care MRH caregivers strive to provide each day.

To learn more about Mountain View Therapy's community exercise classes, please call 970-252-2646.

About Montrose Regional Health
(montrosehealth.com)

Montrose Regional Health (MRH) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) healthcare system serving Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, Hinsdale, and San Juan counties. Licensed for 75 beds, MRH offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services, including cardiology, oncology, minimally invasive surgery, laboratory services, medical imaging, Mountain View Therapy, a Level III Trauma Center, an Acute Rehabilitation Unit, a Spine and Pain Center, advanced respiratory and pulmonary care, and a family birthing center. Known for adopting advanced technologies such as robotic-assisted surgery and UVC disinfection, MRH is the second-largest employer in Montrose County, with more than 950 employees and over 188 providers representing 32 medical specialties. MRH is recognized for its warm, personalized care and lives its tagline: "Caring for you like family."



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2 Bathroom



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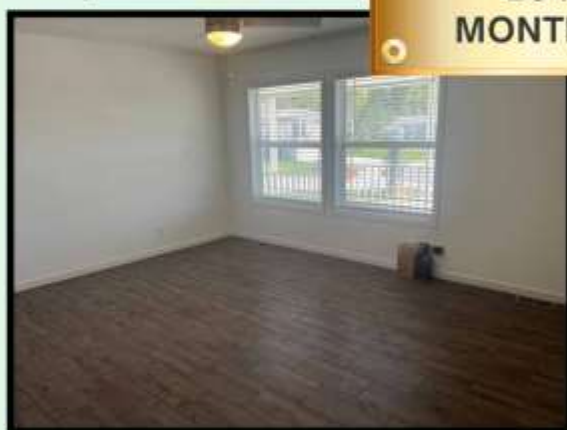
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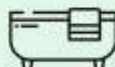
PROPERTY FEATURES



3 Bedroom



2 Bathroom



Garden Tub



1179 SF



8x8 Matching Shed

\$167,000

5% Down/25 Year Term

***ONLY \$1,985.00**

per month*

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\$676.00 lot rent)

CONTACT US

📞 970-249-0493

✉ manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com

🌐 www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com

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CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

BASEMENT BOUTIQUE CRAFT SHOW!



The Basement Boutique Craft Show celebrated its 50th year in style this past weekend, with Holiday fun and hand-crafted items including Christmas decor, beautiful pottery, fantastic wood carvings, wonderful resin art, tasty honey, jams, jellies, and live music from Lynn and George top right. At top left, Ken Huff helped to welcome shoppers to the Basement Boutique at the Montrose Pavilion.



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Address: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401.

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
<https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/> Rec-
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [pgor-](mailto:pgor-don@allsaintsmontrose.org)
don@allsaintsmontrose.org

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-week prayer and communion, Wednesday, Noon, Multi-denominational Community Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical Anglican Church committed to the ministry 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 Sunday service. We would love to welcome you here. Following the service, join us for snacks and conversation. On the third Sunday of the month we celebrate a potluck meal together.

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

worship Service: September-May at 10:15am **Discipleship Hour** at 9am

Worship Service: June-August at 9:30am
 Nursery available for 0-4 during worship service

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

Cedar Creek Church is a welcoming and friendly group of people that takes God seriously, but not ourselves.

We enjoy gathering for encouragement, meals, prayer and having fun!

Our mission is to exalt Jesus Christ by being a Word-centered community of believers who are equipped for a life of worship, prayer and service, and to reach our neighbors for Christ.

Please make plans to come check us out soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration Church makes disciples that make disciples. 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. Montrose, 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 Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

Mission: Christ's Church of the Valley is a loving and welcoming church whose purpose 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 predominately 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 Synod

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, 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 welcoming environment being comforted and encouraged 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.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

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 inclusive and accepting world is steadfast, and we will continue to work towards a future

where everyone can live freely and authentically.

Demographics: We are a small congregation 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 Saturdays. 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 predominantly made up of older folks, but have some young blood, too.

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose

CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM - 12PM

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

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with

us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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.

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?

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR



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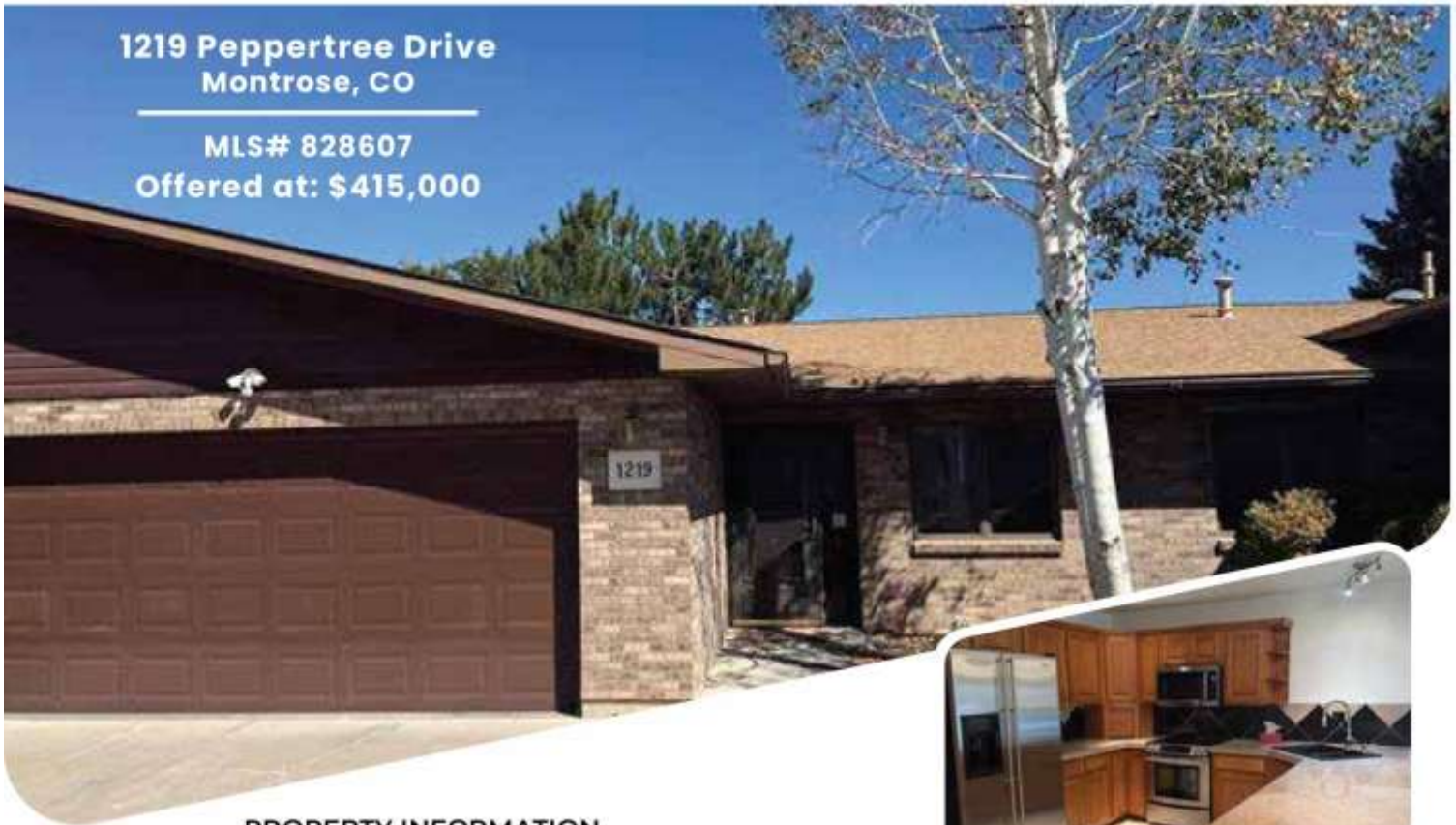
HOME FOR SALE

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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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

Dec. 3--Montrose County Historical Society presents Mrs. Kay Jensen, an invasive species specialist with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department of Natural Resources. Her topic will be the history of the introduction of invasive species to Colorado's rivers and mountains, as well as methods to control the spread of the various species.

The public is welcome to attend this free program.

Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104. Light refreshments are provided.

Dec. 3-On Wednesday, Dec. 3 5 – 9 p.m. Uncompahgre Nordic Association Winter Stoke and Ski Waxing Party. Enjoy a 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-On Dec. 6, 9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose. Social time is at 9, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell. We will be collecting socks, for all ages to donate to Sharing Ministries. We will be playing some fun games and having a pot Luck lunch. Visitors are always welcome. For more information: Paula millsappsouei@gmail.com or Cheryl 970-462-3849.

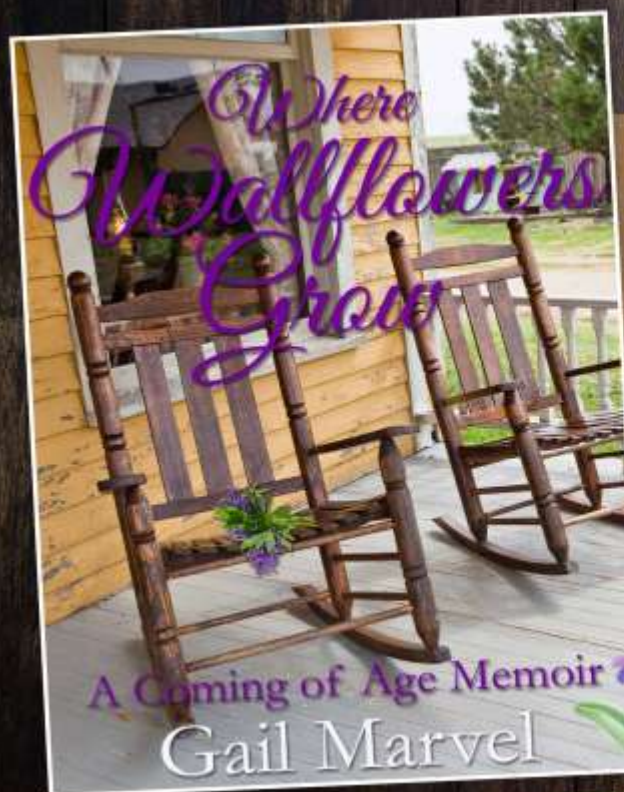
Dec. 6-Montrose Parade of Lights.

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.

OUT& ABOUT: FRESH STARTS!



From the gorgeous new location of LUXE Boutique on Main Street, to new bright signage at Columbine Copy Center and a Carniceria Supermarket coming soon to North 1st Street, there's plenty that's new in Downtown Montrose. Mirror staff photos.



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.

