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ASSOCIATION



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CITY COUNCIL APRIL 7 ELECTION CYCLE BEGINS: CANDIDATES MUST BE 18 OR OLDER

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Despite icy weather conditions, all councilors were present for the regular City Council meeting of Dec. 2, including Youth City Councilor Jordyn Simo.

Mayor Dave Frank called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the Nov. 17, 2025, special City Council meeting and the Nov. 18, 2025, regular City Council meeting as presented.



All councilors were present for the final meeting of 2025. Meeting Screenshot.

[Continued pg 9](#)

BOCC HOLDS FIRST MEETING IN RESTORED COURTHOUSE



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The BOCC meeting room in the newly renovated Courthouse is more spacious than the previous venue, nevertheless every seat was filled for the first meeting to be held in the new chamber on Thursday, Dec. 4.

BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond and Commissioner Sue Hansen were present as the new District 1 Commissioner Kirstin Copeland was sworn in. Copeland takes the place of former District 1 Commissioner Scott Mijares, who was recalled.

Pond welcomed Copeland, who was sworn in by Judge Cory Jackson. Many of those present stood to applaud; Copeland thanked the community and said that she was honored to serve the entire community.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Don Varey spoke. "I just want to welcome you. We're just very happy to have you. I'm speaking for a lot of citizens here when I say that...please reach out to us and allow us to help you

[Continued pg 40](#)

The new meeting room of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) was standing-room-only on Thursday, Dec. 4, during the first BOCC meeting to be held there. New District 1 Commissioner Kirstin Copeland was sworn in by 7th Judicial District Chief Judge Cory Jackson. Mirror Staff photo.

[Don Hemme, Redvale:](#)
[Project Rulison Colorado: Atoms for Peace!](#)

[Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD:](#)
[Your Brain on Nature: Generosity!](#)

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

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

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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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROAD CLOSURE SCHEDULED ON 6300 ROAD BEGINNING DEC. 11

*Special to the
Mirror*

MONTROSE—Beginning Dec. 11, Montrose County Public Works will close 6300 Road at Oak Grove Road



for culvert replacement, with work expected to continue through Dec. 30.

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

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SCHOOL BOARD SEATS NEW DIRECTORS

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education met on Tuesday, Dec. 3, for the swearing in of newly elected board directors. The new board consists of District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Scott Scarborough; District D Director Tom West; District E Director Tiffany Vincent; District F Director Jody Hovde; and District G Director Shane Daly.

The Board of Education appointed Laurie Laird to serve as Secretary to the Board, and appointed officers. Neisha Balleck was elected President of the Board of Education, Ted Valerio is Vice President. Tiffany Vincent is Board Secretary; and Tom West is Treasurer.

The Board voted to accept the Affidavit stating compliance with confidentiality requirements.



Photo is by Michael Badagliacco.

Light Up

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Before you plug in your light display this year, use these tips stay safe and save energy:

- ▶ Take a moment to inspect every cord and connection. Replace it if it's damaged.
- ▶ Use power strips for lighting and displays—avoid overloading outlets.
- ▶ Set timers so your lights sparkle when you want them to—and turn off automatically to save on your electric bill.
- ▶ When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines.
- ▶ Never throw lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK PRESENTS WE ARE THE ONES WHO PARTNER TO PROTECT

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-As the holiday season approaches, it's understandable to feel the pressure that comes with this time of year — busy schedules, financial strain, family expectations, and emotional stress. For some, these challenges can become overwhelming. During these moments, connection and safety matter more than ever.

We Are the Ones Who Partner to Protect is a reminder that our communities are full of protectors — family, friends, and neighbors who look out for one another and offer a helping hand when they see someone in need. These small actions have a huge impact. Asking someone how they're doing or lending a listening ear can make all the difference in someone's day.

This holiday season we are here to remind our community that we all play a role in keeping one another safe. Reaching out, checking in, and creating space for honest conversations can make a real difference — especially for someone who may be feeling alone. If we notice that someone isn't acting like themselves or seems to be going through a challenging time, we can help keep them safe. Time and space are the best ways we can protect ourselves and others in those moments of crisis where our brains are too overloaded to recognize all the options we have and when we tend to live within our own darkness.

One of the most effective ways to protect those we care about is by practicing **safe firearm storage**. If there are guns in your home, please take steps to reduce the risk of harm by:

- **Using gun locks** to prevent unintended access.
- **Storing firearms unloaded**, separate from ammunition.
- **Securing guns in a locked safe**, cabinet, or other secure storage device.
- **Ensuring only authorized adults have access** to the keys or combinations.

We are the ones who can advocate for safe firearm storage and share this valuable message with those we care about. We can emphasize the power of time and space between someone experiencing extreme stress and a lethal tool.

If you feel overwhelmed or alone this season, reach out to your network. Partner to Protect to support one another. Check in with friends, family, and neighbors. Normalize

conversations about stress and mental health. And make sure firearms are stored safely and responsibly.

Together, we can create a community where compassion, connection, and safety guide us — during the holidays and throughout the year.

We're calling on the protectors to look out for one another. Will you **Partner to Protect**?

Website; www.tchnetwork.org/watoptp



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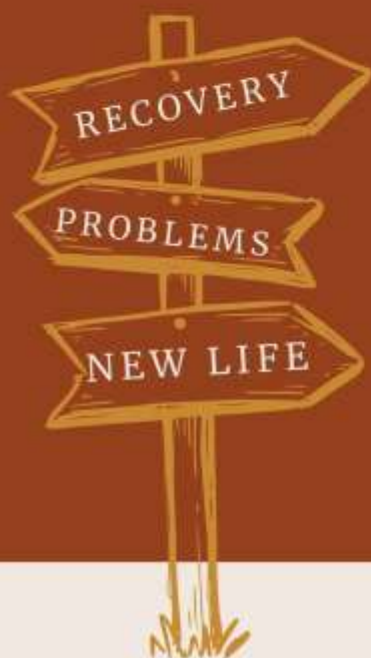
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CITY COUNCIL APRIL 7 ELECTION CYCLE BEGINS: CANDIDATES MUST BE 18 OR OLDER *From pg 1*

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

WITH MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT
Council voted unanimously to approve an [Intergovernmental Agreement](#) with the Montrose Recreation District for Shared Services.

ORDINANCE 2698 - SECOND READING

Also approved unanimously was [Supplemental Budget Ordinance 2698](#) on second reading, amending Ordinance No. 2674 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2025; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

RESOLUTION 2025-23

Public Utilities Director David Bries shared a [presentation](#) by DA Davidson on issuance of bonds, and discussed the [components to be replaced](#) at the more than 40-year-old wastewater treatment plant. Council voted unanimously to adopt [Resolution 2025-23](#). Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2025-23.

ORDINANCE 2699 - SECOND READING

As [previously discussed](#) in work session and on First Reading, Council voted to approve [Ordinance 2699](#) on second reading, authorizing the sale of real property owned by the City of Montrose located off Niagara Road to Volunteers of America.

RESOLUTION 2025-21

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo discussed the timeline for the April 7, 2026 City Council Election. The seats that are open for re-election will include District I (Currently held by Doug Glaspell), District II (currently held by Ed Ulibarri), and the At-Large seat (currently held by Judy Ann Files.)

"This resolution officially starts our process," Del Piccolo said. Council voted unanimously to adopt [Resolution 2025-21](#). The City website states, "*Candidates must be qualified (registered) electors, 18 years of age (or) older, who have resided within the City and the district that they are seeking to represent for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election. Candidates for the At Large seat can reside anywhere in the city but must meet the minimum residency requirement.*"

Key election dates from the City website include:

December 8 – Candidate information packets available online and at the City Clerk's Office;

-January 6 – Nomination petitions available for candidates to begin gathering signatures;

January 26 – Deadline to file nomination petitions;

January 30 – Deadline to file an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate and last day for candidates to withdraw from nomination;

February 3 – Names drawn for ballot position. Candidate information session with City Council;

March 16-23 – Ballots mailed;

April 7 – Election Day - Polls open at 7am and close at 7pm;

April 21 – Swearing in of newly elected officials and selection of Mayor and Mayor pro-tem.

Senior Deputy Clerk Briceida Ortega discussed the City's efforts to inform the public about the upcoming election.

HAYNES ADDITION ANNEXATION

After the required hearings, Council voted unanimously to approve [Resolution 2025-](#)

[22](#)- findings of fact for the [Haynes Addition annexation](#); [Ordinance 2700](#) on first reading for the annexation of the Haynes Addition; and [Ordinance 2701](#) on first reading, zoning the Haynes Addition as an R-6 Medium Density/Manufactured Housing District.

SEASONS SUBDIVISION FILING NO. 2 FINAL PLAT

The final action item was unanimously approved, [the Seasons Subdivision Filing No. 2 Final Plat](#) to create 25 residential lots, as well as associated easements and rights-of-way.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Bill Bell celebrated Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, who was recently appointed to the Leadership Team for the Colorado City and County Management Association and its Women Leading Government group.

"...Thank you to Ann for all she does," Bell said.

Morgenthaler received a round of applause.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

City of Montrose Youth Councilor Jordyn Simo gave an update. After several Youth Councilors attended the recent National League of Cities Summit in Salt Lake City, the Youth Council is now working on two proclamations, concerning youth addiction and teen safety with gun violence.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Frank said that it was the sixth year in which he has attended the Montrose tree lighting. "...so exciting and so fun." Frank thanked staff for their hard work on the event. Councilor J. David Reed said that it was the last meeting of the year and wished all a happy and safe holiday. "...We had another very successful year in 2025."



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MEANDERING THOUGHTS OF AN OLD GUY

Editor:

A few weeks ago, I was enjoying a beer with a few friends of mine. One of them asked how it felt to be entering the eighth decade of my life. He was joking around of course, that's what friends do, make fun of each other whenever we can. But as an older member of society, I realize I am entitled to be grumpy and to express my thoughts no matter where they may lead. You, as a younger person are obligated to listen to my ramblings. So, let's get to it.

I am a Vietnam Era Veteran as well as a Cold War Veteran. As an eighteen-year-old kid I did not fully understand or appreciate what the oath to the Constitution really meant. I do now. I bring up the Constitution because it is a point of contention with respect to the military chain of command. I vaguely remember my drill instructor telling us that we do not have any rights, that we are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Deep down, I thought to myself; no, I swore an oath to defend the constitution, nowhere did I relinquish my rights under it. I also remember we were told we are obligated to obey the orders of our officers unless those orders were illegal. Fortunately, I never had to face such a decision as those taking place in the Caribbean.

Another thing that has my hackles up is the "Exclusive Citizenship Act of 2025" introduced by Senator Bernie Moreno of Ohio. That Act disallows dual citizenship. His rationale is having true allegiance to a single country. So, Bernie, if you are serious about stripping people of dual citizenship start with the First Lady, Melania Trump. She is a citizen of Slovenia and the United States. After her, go after Elon Musk, a citizen of South Africa, Canada, and the United States. Rupert Murdoch also has dual citizenship; try going after

him. Personally, I think people are capable of being honor bound to the US while recognizing their heritage through dual citizenship. I do not agree with Senator Moreno's rhetoric of true allegiance.

In schools and local government meetings across the country people recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Do they understand what they are committing to? What do the words "indivisible, liberty and justice for all" truly mean to them? They do not mean anything until we rid ourselves of

xenophobia, until we accept people as they are even though they talk funny and most importantly we stop deporting people without going through the legal process because the color of their skin. There it is, The Constitution of The United States getting in the way again.

I applaud those that are capable to unburden themselves from their allegiance to any political party and become free thinkers.

Dave Stockton, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW DUAL PURPOSE K9, HUNTER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta Police Department is proud to announce the addition of K9 Hunter, an 18-month-old Dual Purpose Patrol K9 born April 15, 2024. Hunter recently completed extensive professional training and certification in Liberty Hill, Texas, and is now fully prepared to serve the Delta community.

Hunter was selected by our newest K9 Handler Trujillo. The team completed more than 160 hours of training together. This included 80 hours of narcotics detection training with a focus on canine safety, first aid, legal procedures, scenario-based obedience, and advanced detection in vehicles, luggage, packages, and buildings. Upon completion, K9 Handler Trujillo and Hunter achieved both in-house certification and national certification through the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association. Additionally, Officer Trujillo and Hunter completed 80 hours of Dual Purpose Dog Handler training, including tracking, handler protection, controlled aggression, building searches, and vehicle bailout procedures. Hunter and his handler successfully completed all proficiency requirements through Pacesetter K9 prior to returning to Colorado.

The Delta Police Department looks forward to this duo's contributions to public safety and community engagement.

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MONTROSE COUNTY CORONER'S REPORT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- On November 23, 2025 at 2359 Hours, WestCo Dispatch received a report of a shooting in the 62650 Block of LaSalle Road.

Responding law enforcement officers located a male lying on the sidewalk with an apparent gunshot wound. Emergency Medical Services arrived shortly after and determined the individual had no signs of life.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation was notified, and the Coroner's Office arrived on scene at 0730 Hours. The decedent was later identified as 27 year old Christopher Hubbell. He was transported to Community Hospital in Grand Junction for an autopsy.

The cause and manner are still under investigation at this time.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH PROMOTES RESTFULNESS AT NIGHT PROGRAM Quality sleep shown to support healing, patient comfort, and overall recovery

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health (MRH) has expanded its Restfulness at Night Program, an initiative created to help patients get better sleep and support the healing process. The program began on May 9, 2025, and now includes several hospital-wide practices focused on creating a quieter, calmer nighttime environment.

Each night, an overhead reminder prompts staff to dim lights in the ICU, Medical Surgical unit, Family Center, and Acute Rehabilitation Unit. When it is safe to do so, patient doors are also kept

closed to reduce noise and light. Quiet hours are observed from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Banners outside each department and displays in patient rooms help explain the program and its benefits.

Patients are also offered a Restfulness at Night menu, which includes comfort items such as warm blankets, fans, lotion, warm tea, and eye masks. The menu supports MRH's comfort-based nursing approach, which focuses on creating a peaceful environment that helps patients rest, recover, and feel more at ease during their stay.

"At Montrose Regional Health, we want our patients to have the best recovery

experience possible," said Jonna Houge, patient advocate at MRH. "Through proven measures that promote better rest, we are able to improve the overall patient experience and healing process."

Quality sleep plays a significant role in recovery. Research from the University of Pennsylvania shows that up to 90 percent of growth hormones that support healing are released during sleep. Poor sleep has been linked to longer hospital stays, lower patient satisfaction, and less favorable health outcomes.

To learn more about the Restfulness at Night Program or to ask about comfort options for you or a loved one, contact Jonna Houge at jhouge@montrosehealth.com.

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WHO IS SHE? SHE'S OUR OWN DR. MARY, OF COURSE

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE—She plays the drums, makes beautiful stained glass, has a wicked sense of humor and size 11 feet. She is the seventh of 10 siblings, grew up on a ranch in Gunnison, was a medic in Denton, Texas, and once thought of being a trauma doc. Until she found out, “I like kids better than trauma.”

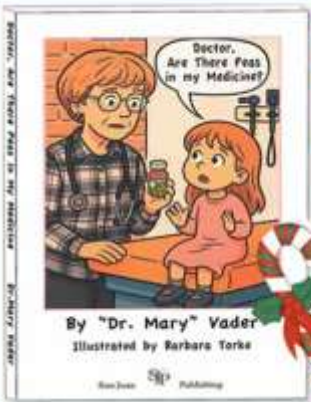
Who is she?

She is “Dr Mary” Vader, a beloved Montrose pediatrician who retired from her medical practice on Cinco De Mayo this year but is still very much involved in the care and well-being of children, especially here in Montrose.

She is a champion of children. Dr. Mary takes care of kids everywhere—from sick ones or those needing child protection in Montrose, Colorado (her home base) to countries around the world where she participates in medical mission trips, part of a team performing surgery on kids with cleft palates and other deformities and providing medical care.

After 35 years with Pediatric Associates, which she co-founded, “Dr Mary”—as her patients still call her—is still very much involved in the care and well-being of children. Dr. Mary maintains her medical license enabling her to continue her medical mission work. She describes the mission:

“I started work among the Tarahumara Indians in Chihuahua, Mexico. I joined up with Rotaplast, Rotary International Plastic Surgery Team. We traveled all over the world: Viet Nam, Ethiopia, China, Chili, Venezuela, Columbia. Take care of kids before and after and doing some surgery, repairing cleft lip and palate, reconstructing burns. We tried to do 100 surgeries in 10 days, include pre-op and post-op. We carried everything with us, a “whole operating room.” A lot of those areas are poorly equipped, so we often left a lot of equipment for them when we left. We also provided some training of local people, who also assisted, learning how surgery was performed. Our work is mostly kids, but we helped a few adults with rotaplast that had never been worked on. The results totally changed their lives! Newborns, we do the lips right away, then come back next year and do



Book Signing Reception for Dr. Mary Vader
 Friday, December 12th, 4-6:30 pm
Camelot Gardens
 16612 S Townsend Ave, Montrose
 Hosted by San Juan Publishing

palate.”

Dr. Mary’s record of medical and community service is impressive. She helped found Montrose Medical Mission which provides funds for medical care where needed. She helped found The Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center to help the child victims of abuse in Colorado’s 7th Judicial District, which includes Montrose. There, she was responsible for child abuse evaluations. Doctor Vader also served as Montrose Hospital’s first female Chief of Staff and is now chair for the Montrose Regional Health board of directors. She continues with her chaplain duties at the hospital and working with multiple charitable organizations, including her own foundation, The Helping Hands Fund.

In her spare time, Mary has played percussion with Magic Circle Theatre, and briefly, for Valley Symphony orchestra. She does stained glass in her shop at home, donating her work to Hospice, Haven House, Heirlooms, and others. She created the window for a parish hall in Olathe. “My work is mostly decorative,” she explains, “pieces that hang in the window and catch the light.”

Her interest in medicine began when, as a child on the ranch, “I followed my dad like his little shadow as he took care of the critters.” Later, while in med school at North Texas State, she served as a medic with the fire department. She started college at Western in Gunnison, then transferred to MidWestern State Univ., Wichita Falls, Texas. Dr. Mary completed her medical degree at North Texas State in Denton, Texas, then did her residency at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Her special focus was on child abuse and

neglect, which continued after her move back home in 1990 when she became a partner in Montrose Pediatrics and became involved in community service work. “I’d had enough of big cities,” she explains, adding “The best thing about coming back is the lifestyle—more rural, lots of families in agriculture, small towns, being close to family and aging parents.”

Thirty-five years later, Dr. Mary is still here, “retired” but still very much involved in caring for and protecting children. Plans for the future? “We’re thinking of starting a street medicine type program. Make sure people leaving ER or hospital know how to take and manage meds so they don’t bounce back. A lot are the unhoused. Might be working with another helping organization.”

Meanwhile, she established the Helping Hands Fund. “Which I started out of my front pocket,” she says. “Kid needed something for his shoes. So, he could get P.T. Small fund under Community Foundation. The fund provides funding for immediate needs through small grants. So far, we’ve given about \$280,000 back to the community.”

The fund will receive all of the proceeds from Dr. Mary’s just-published book, *Doctor Are There Peas in My Medicine?* published by San Juan Publishing, and now available for sale online at <https://sanjuanpub.com/product/vader/>. Copies will also be available Friday, Dec. 12, at Camelot Gardens, when San Juan Publishing hosts a book signing and reception for Dr. Mary and the books’ contributors. The public is invited. Read more about Dr. Mary and the event here.

<https://sanjuanpub.com/maryvader/>

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RED HAWK WRESTLERS DROP OPENING MATCH TO NORTH FORK 42 – 28



In the 175 pound weight class Red Hawks Marshall Metcalf attempts to escape his North Fork opponent. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks wrestling team played host to the Miners of North Fork High School on Wednesday evening at the fieldhouse and wound up on the short end of a 42-28 score. The Red Hawks had three weight classes that were open while North Fork had one open weight class and one forfeit.

- 106 – North Fork Dal Adams walkover -Red Hawks open
- 113 – Red Hawks Quintin Alegira win – North Fork scratch.
- 120 -Red Hawks Urijah Toner Pin 2nd – North Fork Coy Ellenberger
- 126 – Red Hawks open, North Fork open
- 132 – North Fork Bronson Hall dec. 19-7, Red Hawks Jack Hughes
- 138 – North Fork Dan Robinson dec. 11-9 Red Hawks Ricky Olmos
- 144 -Red Hawks Hunter Hess Tech.fall , North Fork Aragh Murchadha
- 150 – North Fork Jaeger Nay pin 1 – Red Hawks Bentley Carr
- 157 – Red Hawks Terry Clarkson pin 2 – Derick Stevaernson
- 165 – North Fork Braden Florez Pin 2 – Red Hawks Trevan Anstine
- 175 – North Fork Abel Etter Pin 3 – Red Hawks Marshall Metcalf
- 190 – North Fork Brad Lamingere walk over, Red Hawks open
- 215 – Red Hawks Juan Herera Pin 3 – North Fork Mason Smith
- 285 – North Fork Valor Long Pin 1 – Red Hawks Miguel Ramirez

Next up for the Red Hawks is a trip to Grand Junction to participate in the Colorado Mesa duals on Saturday.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MORGENTHALER APPOINTED TO CCCMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Deputy City Manager
Ann Morgenthaler.**
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— City of Montrose Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler was recently appointed to the Colorado City & County Management Association's (CCCMA) Board of Directors for 2026.

In this new role, Morgenthaler will represent local government professionals from across the state as part of Colorado Women Leading Government (CWLG), a sub-committee of the CCCMA.

The CCCMA was created to give local government managers the ability to network and connect with other Colorado community leaders to strengthen public partnerships, aid in career development, and support all leaders in their service to their communities.

The CWLG subcommittee of the CCCMA was created to recognize and strengthen leadership roles that women have in Colorado city and county management throughout the state.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to serve on the CCCMA Board and especially proud to represent the mission of Colorado Women Leading Government," Morgenthaler said. "I am eager to contribute to the CCCMA's efforts in career development and ensuring effective, collaborative service to all Colorado communities."

Morgenthaler is a Colorado native and holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Colorado at Denver. Before serving at the City of Montrose, Morgenthaler served in administrative roles for the Town of Silverton, City of Ouray, and Town of Telluride.

Morgenthaler was appointed to the 2026 CCCMA Board of Directors along with Mike Bennett, Gillian Laycock, Gloria Kaasch-Buerger, and Kara Silbernagel.

"This is very exciting news for Ann and the Montrose community," said Montrose City Manager Bill Bell. "Ann is very dedicated to serving the citizens of Montrose, and having her on the CCCMA board of directors is a great recognition of her personal growth, her service to Montrose and everyone in Colorado."

For more information about the CCCMA, visit: <https://coloradoccma.org/>

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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, grandmas & grandpas, the homeless and disabled, single moms, your neighbors and mine.

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

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

PLEASE HELP US FEED A FAMILY THIS SEASON

We are your local food bank please donate locally.

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Partner with us as we serve our community this holiday season!



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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SECURING OUR FUTURE - THE MONTROSE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Hurricane Helene in North Carolina showed the nation how quickly local food supply can be lost and vanish in a single day. The Montrose Food Security Initiative is a non-government, simple, focused and critical initiative to stockpile 100,000 emergency meals in Montrose. In times of crisis, stored meals can be the difference between hunger and hope, panic and confidence for our families, neighbors, and community. The Initiative is about coming together to protect our own; to build a resilient Montrose. The Montrose Food Security Initiative is reaching out to our ready-made relief infrastructure: The churches, businesses, and local organizations. This is a call to participate in establishing a network of support that covers all of Montrose. The Initiative is an outreach to individuals and organizations to lead, support, or donate to the effort

The Initiative intent is to raise \$29,000 for packing 100,000 meals. Donations are kept in trust at a 501c3 account with the Alpine Bank, with oversight by the County Emergency Manager. With these 501c3 funds, the Montrose Food Security Initiative will purchase the dry goods, engage organizations for storage and distribution, and manage the packing operation. Come help. Call on your church or social organization to join us. Donate. Volunteer. Spread the word. Every action, from the least to the greatest, matters. Imagine the calm knowing, if disaster or civil unrest strikes, Montrose is ready. Imagine the confidence and satisfaction in community caring for its own. The best way to predict the future is to create it. Let's create a secure future for Montrose. Together, we the people can make Montrose a model of preparedness, resilience, and community spirit.

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One of the original homes in Montrose, has been lovingly cared for, carefully updated and maintained. The main floor business was a styling salon for many years that evolved into a cottage retail store with room for classes and workshops. The original use of the home is noticeable in the front parlor, living, dining, bedroom, bath and kitchen.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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STATEMENT FROM SECRETARY OF STATE JENA GRISWOLD ON DOJ REQUEST FOR SENSITIVE VOTER INFORMATION

Colorado Secretary of State

DENVER – The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has contacted the Colorado Secretary of State's Office seeking for the state to enter an agreement to share sensitive, unredacted voter information. Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold has issued the following statement:

"We will not comply with the Trump Department of Justice's request for Coloradans' sensitive voting information. The DOJ can take a hike; it does not have a legal right to the information. Colorado will not help Donald Trump undermine our elections and hurt the American people."

On Monday, December 1, 2025, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. DOJ contacted the Colorado Secretary of State's Office to ask the Office to enter into an agreement to share unredacted voter data, including a voter's full name, date of birth, residential address, and complete state driver's license number or the last four digits of their Social Security number. This outreach follows a May 12, 2025 broad request from the DOJ, to which the Colorado Secretary of State's Office shared publicly-available data consistent with applicable law. It also follows [the November 18, 2025 letter](#) sent to the DOJ and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by 10 Secretaries of State seeking information on DOJ and DHS's collection and use of state voter roll data and whether the DOJ and DHS misled state officials. [Neither the DOJ nor DHS replied](#) to the questions in that letter.

The DOJ has already sued at least 14 states on the basis that they have refused to produce their statewide voter registration information or failed to provide information regarding their voter list maintenance procedures.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE OLD GUARD'S STUBBORN GRIP ON MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICANS

Editor:

In Montrose County, Republicans have long prided themselves on standing shoulder-to-shoulder against leftist overreach. Yet today, the [Montrose County Republican Party](#) finds itself wounded not by Democrats, but by friendly fire from within. *At the center of this unnecessary civil war sits an outdated Facebook page that refuses to die, a former admin who refuses to let it go, and a women's club that has undermined the official party at every turn.*

The Zombie Page That Will Not Stay Buried

The old "Montrose Republicans" Facebook page still proclaims itself the "OFFICIAL" voice of our county party. It gains new followers every week while the legitimate, current leadership struggles to be heard. Kerri Catlin, wife of State Senator Marc Catlin, whose personal Facebook account controls the page, has been asked repeatedly (publicly and privately, by comment, message, and email) to archive it, rename it, or simply post a prominent notice directing people to the real channels. Her response? A single tepid redirect months ago and the repeated claim that she "doesn't have the password" and "can't do anything about it."

This excuse collapses under the slightest scrutiny. Catlin can still post to the page and answer messages when she chooses. The page is not abandoned; it is curated just enough to keep it alive and misleading. Thousands of Montrose County Republicans who liked the page years ago have no idea their news feed is now a ghost town run by someone who no longer even attends Central Committee meetings.

A Pattern of Sabotage from the Montrose

Republican Women

The refusal to surrender the page is only one symptom of a larger problem. *The "Montrose Republican Women club", who are about as "Republican" as Federal Express is Federal*, has spent years working against the duly elected leadership of the Montrose County Republican Central Committee.

Several current and former members of that club have been formally removed or censured by the central committee for unethical behavior, conflicts of interest, and open defiance of party bylaws. Others, seeing the endless drama and backstabbing, have simply walked away: long-time precinct leaders, former candidates, and loyal volunteers who changed their voter registration from Republican to Unaffiliated because they could no longer stomach the infighting.

Meanwhile, the Women's Club continues to host speakers and push initiatives that directly contradict positions taken by the official county party. Most recently, members of the club spearheaded a recall effort against conservative County Commissioner Scott Mijares, a move the central committee publicly condemned as reckless. The party wants to win elections; certain factions within the women's club seem more interested in settling personal scores.

The Cost of Division

Every hour spent pleading with Catlin to kill her zombie page is an hour not spent registering new voters. Every volunteer driven to Unaffiliated status is one less door-knocker in 2026. Every dollar donated to splinter groups is a dollar not going to candidates who actually reflect the America First platform Montrose voters overwhelmingly support.

We have a vibrant, rebuilt party ready to fight.

Our website, montroserepublicans.org, is updated daily with candidate information, event calendars, and volunteer opportunities. Our official Facebook page can be found [here](#) is active, transparent, and growing. But too many people never make it past the digital roadblock Catlin refuses to remove.

A Simple Call to Conscience

Kerri Catlin and the leadership of the Montrose Republican Women still have time to do the right thing. Archive the old page or transfer admin rights to the current leadership of the official Montrose County Republicans. Stop lending credibility to censured and former members. Publicly endorse the official party platform and leadership, or at the very least stop working against them.

Montrose County Republicans have real enemies in Denver and Washington. We cannot afford to keep fighting shadows from our own past. To every conservative reading this: visit montroserepublicans.org today. Like our actual [Facebook page](#). And if you know someone still following the outdated page, send them the truth.

Unity is not surrender; it is strength. Let us bury the ghosts of division once and for all and get back to the work of keeping Colorado RED.

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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL COALITION WISHES ALL MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HANUKKAH!



Dear Editor:

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!!!

Thank you to Sergina Bach, Montrose, for hard work and dedication to our mission. Without her in-kind support of our mission, we would be unable to communicate with you all.

The new website is fully underway and Sergina is fine-tuning it as we speak. She has simplified the site and has made it easy to donate and order bricks and t-shirts.

Check it out at <https://www.montrosevmc.org>

With that said we are sorry this "Update" is a bit late. We have been very busy with the new website and working on how we can get this memorial built. After completing the entire memorial design, the project estimate was revealed. In a draft memo of agreement, it is outlined that the City of Montrose and Montrose County will each donate \$300,000 toward the memorial construction costs. We are meeting again in January to work out details of

the MOA.

This does not cover the entire estimated costs, so the MVMC is tasked with raising additional funds. We have all the elements purchased or ordered which will make it a memorial and now we are seeking in-kind donations from contractors for concrete, rebar, gravel, etc. We have been working diligently to obtain signed pledges from these companies who actually will be building the memorial.

Our efforts so far have been successful. Some of the companies who already have signed pledges include The Home Depot,

Pryce Hoey of M&H Recovery, CED Electrical, and more.

Others considering donations include Rexel Electrical, San Juan Gardens, San Juan Fabrication, Recla Metals, and more. If your company is interested in pledging supplies and/or labor, please contact me at boodawglkw@gmail.com or 970-744-8624. The in-kind donations lower the out-of-pocket costs of the construction and also shows the veterans the high level of local business support.

We also are looking for our citizens/donors to continue the great donations you have already sent our way. In past briefs I have mentioned that as we get closer to construction the need for money might increase and this is an example of that.

To help in our fundraising efforts, we have applied for a grant--in which we now are competitive--because we are a "shovel ready" project. We will know in mid-January if we are awarded this grant.

Have a blessed holiday season!

On behalf of the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition BOD,

Sincerely,

Les Williams, President

J. Bob Brueske, Chairman

SEDITION, ANARCHY, INSURRECTION, TREASON

Editor:

Sedition, Anarchy, Insurrection, Treason; all crimes against our Government and its people. Look up the definition of these crimes and how they are described in our Constitution and Laws. Now, remember these names; Slotkin, Kelly, Goodlander, Deluzio, Crow and Houlihan. These six committed several of the above listed Crimes. They are all former Military as they proudly say and all Democrats. Now what is their purpose to blatantly commit these crimes which we saw and heard in their own words? There's only one purpose: to weaken and destroy our Constitutional Republic; to cause anarchy in our country and threaten our way of life and our safety. They need to be held accountable. Their congressional status does not protect them from prosecution. Who cares if they are representatives, senators or any other government official; they ARE NOT ABOVE THE LAW. Imagine if one of us ordinary citizens did this, we'd be in jail for a long time or worse. We must demand equal and just accountability. They are a clear and present danger to our country. These six secessionists should be investigated and prosecuted as required. If they are not held accountable they will continue to promote insurrection and anarchy and embolden others to do so.

Carol McBride, Montrose

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 [blackcanyonfca](https://www.instagram.com/blackcanyonfca)

 Black Canyon FCA

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

PROJECT RULISON (COLORADO): ATOMS FOR PEACE

By Don Hemme, Redvale

The big umbrella program was [Operation Plowshare](#). Named after the Bible verse about beating swords into plowshares (turning nuclear weapons tech into peaceful tools). It ran from 1957 to 1975 under the Atomic Energy Commission (later Department of Energy).

Part 1 – History and Purpose

In the 1960s the U.S. was sitting on huge volumes of natural gas locked in tight sandstone and shale that wouldn't flow with normal drilling and nitroglycerin shots. The formations in the Piceance, San Juan, and Green River basins were known monsters, but the best wells barely made 100–200 Mcf/d (thousand cubic feet per day). The Atomic Energy Commission, along with industry (Austral Oil and CER Geonuclear), came up with Project Plowshare – using clean (or mostly clean) nuclear explosives for civil engineering. The second gas-stimulation shot in the program was Project Rulison, Garfield County, Colorado, 8 miles south of what is now Parachute. On September 10, 1969, at 3:00 p.m. MDT they detonated a 40-kiloton fission device (roughly twice the yield of Hiroshima) at a depth of 8,426 feet in the Mesaverde Group. The shot point was 1,100 feet below the top of the producing interval. The stated purpose was simple: create a large rubble chimney and radial fracturing to connect billions of cubic feet of gas that conventional completions could never reach, then produce it safely and sell it into the interstate pipeline grid. Cost of the whole program was about \$6.5 million in 1969 dollars – cheap if it worked at scale.

Part 2 – Results and Backlash

Geologically, it was a home run. The cavity grew to roughly 160 ft diameter, the rubble chimney stood about 275 ft tall, and fractures extended hundreds of feet. When they re-entered the well in 1970 and perforated the chimney, initial flow rates hit over 4,000 Mcf/d – twenty to forty times what the best offset wells were making. Sustained rates settled

around 1,000–1,500 Mcf/d for months while they flared. That proved the rock could be stimulated on a scale hydraulic fracking wouldn't match for another thirty-five years. The backlash was immediate and fatal to the program. Trace amounts of tritium (H-3) and krypton-85 showed up in the gas and produced water. Even though the calculated dose to the end user would have been tiny, the public and the regulators of 1970 had a zero-tolerance policy for man-made radionuclides in consumer products. Pipeline companies refused to take the gas, the State of Colorado got nervous, and the national anti-nuclear movement (already in full swing after the 1963 test-ban treaty debates) used Rulison as a poster child. By 1973 the entire gas-stimulation part of Plowshare was dead. Roughly 300 MMcf (300 million cubic feet) was flared off, and the well was plugged.

Part 3 – Radiation Reality

Millirem (mrem) measures the biological risk from radiation. The average Coloradoan already gets about 350 mrem per year of whole-body effective dose from natural background (cosmic rays, rocks, and radon). A chest X-ray adds ~10 mrem of penetrating gamma radiation. Smoking a pack a day delivers 250–350 mrem per year of alpha radiation directly to the bronchial epithelium from inhaled polonium-210 – far more damaging per mrem than whole-body exposure because the energy is deposited at point-blank range in the exact lung cells where cancers start. By contrast, if undiluted Rulison gas had been piped straight to homes, the added dose would have been only 1–3 mrem per year of whole-body effective dose – almost entirely from inhaling trace radon released by unvented gas appliances, pilot lights, or cooking, with a negligible contribution from ingesting radon daughters deposited on food during gas-fueled cooking; even that small internal exposure is biologically insignificant and remains less than one round-trip flight from Denver to Dallas (3–5 mrem from cosmic rays).



General view of the western Colorado site of Project Rulison, the second Plowshare natural gas simulation experiment before the detonation of September 10, 1969. Wikimedia commons photo public domain.

-pCi/L (picocurie per liter) – how many radioactive atoms are decaying per second in a liter of water or gas. EPA drinking-water limit for tritium is 20,000 pCi/L. Early Rulison produced water hit 20,000–50,000 pCi/L right at the wellhead. After fifty-five years and four half-lives of tritium (12.3 years each), those concentrations have dropped by a factor of 16–32 and are now below the drinking-water standard.

-μR/h (micro-roentgen per hour) – what a Geiger counter reads standing on the ground. Normal background in the Piceance is 7–12 μR/h (this corresponds to 8–20 ppm natural uranium or 0.001–0.0024% U3O8). The surface directly above the Rulison shot point reads the same today.

DOE has monitored groundwater, surface water, and air for five decades.

No off-site migration of bomb-produced isotopes has ever been detected above background. The contaminated zone is still locked inside the original rubble chimney, hundreds of feet away from any modern producing horizon. Bottom line: the explosion did exactly what the engineers wanted – it turned a dog of a well into a gusher. The only reason the gas never reached a burner tip was politics and perception, not geology or genuine health risk.

Continued next pg

PROJECT RULISON (COLORADO): ATOMS FOR PEACE From previous pg

Rulison Top Side

The shot was scheduled for 3 p.m. on September 10, 1969.

Starting about a week before, the AEC and local sheriffs put the word out across western Colorado and eastern Utah: any underground miner within roughly 100–120 miles had to be topside at the exact minute of detonation — no exceptions. We are talking:

- Every coal miner in the North Fork Valley (Somerset, Bowie, Paonia)
- The big gilsonite mines near Bonanza, Utah
- Every little vanadium/uranium drift mine scattered across the Colorado Plateau

-Even the guys doing maintenance in the water tunnels and hydro plants. All of them got pulled out, sat on the surface, and waited. Some mines shut down the whole shift. One old-timer from the Somerset coal mine said years later they just sat on the hill drinking coffee and watching the clock because “the feds said the mountain might jump.” Seismic stations recorded the blast at about 5.3 on the Richter scale, locally. People felt it from Craig to Grand Junction to Delta. Windows rattled in Parachute, a couple of old plaster ceilings cracked in Rifle, and every dog in the county lost its mind for about ten seconds. When it was over, the

miners went straight back underground. Zero damage, zero injuries, not even a fallen roof bolt reported anywhere. But for one afternoon in 1969, the United States government evacuated every single underground worker from an area the size of Delaware... just in case a 40-kiloton nuke 8,400 feet under a cow pasture decided to get rowdy.

That’s the kind of story that still gets told at the bar in Battlement Mesa when somebody brings up Rulison. No press release, no DOE footnote — just pure word-of-mouth oilfield legend that every old hand swears happened to his buddy’s uncle. And it did.

GET INVOLVED!



HELP SHAPE THE COUNTY’S FUTURE BY APPLYING FOR A BOARD POSITION

- Airport Advisory Committee
- County Housing Authority
- Nucla/Naturita Cemetary Board
- County Planning Commission
- Region 10 Board of Directors
- County Weed Commission



www.montrosecounty.net/boardapplication

LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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Welcome Home! This charming 3-bedroom, 2 bathroom manufactured home is nestled in a well-established park, offering a welcoming community feel and ideal amenities for comfortable living. Step inside to a thoughtfully designed interior featuring a spacious kitchen complete with a breakfast bar, dedicated dining area, and ample pantry space—perfect for those who love to cook and entertain.

Spacious Kitchen: Enjoy the well-planned kitchen with a breakfast bar and dining area, ideal for family gatherings and casual meals.

Walk-In Closets: Ample storage space in each room, including walk-in closets, to keep your home organized and clutter-free.

Accessible Entrance: A covered ramp provides ease of entry, blending convenience with thoughtful design.

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Stylish Flooring: Features a mix of plush carpeting and durable plank vinyl tile, blending comfort and practicality. Move-in ready and waiting for a new buyer to make it their own!



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO CONSIDER SEARCHING FOR A NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Editor:

Since the Department of Education was formed during the Carter administration, billions of tax dollars have been poured into the educational system in America, but most of those dollars went for political purposes at the expense of students across America.

Recent news reports have noted that some colleges across the country have reported that incoming freshman who have graduated from public schools are severely challenged and answering math problems that are posed to fifth grade students. Instances such as this continued to highlight the sad state of affairs in K-12 education nationwide.

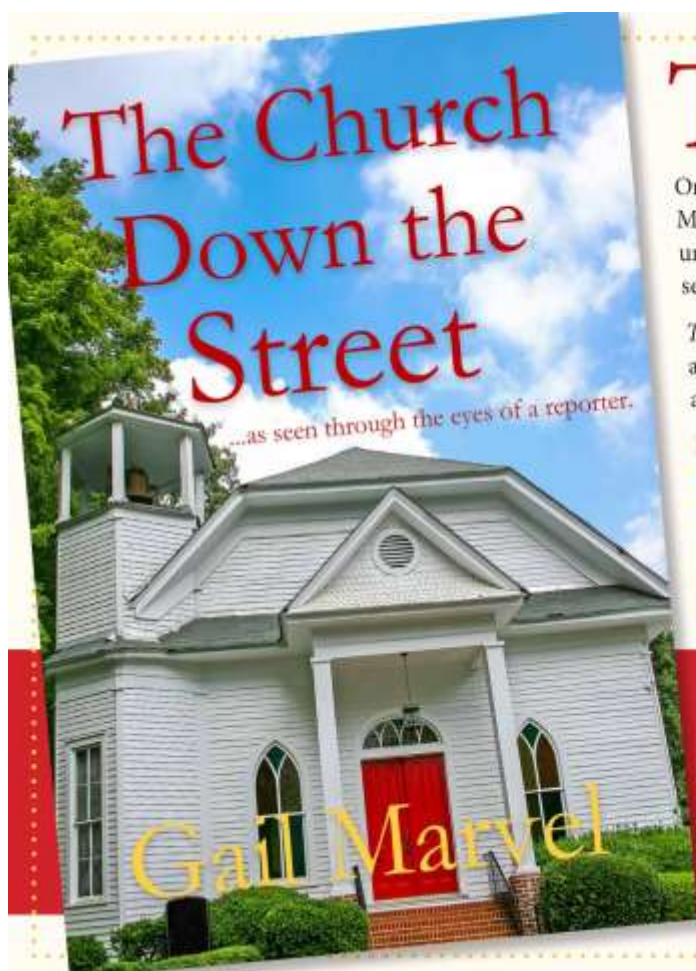
Most recent test scores in Colorado show that the Montrose School District continues to graduate students with severe deficiencies in reading, writing, and math. Far too many of those students step out of high school into the real world unable to compete in today's economy, or have any chance of advancement in higher education.

For far too many years proficiency scores in the Montrose School District have hovered way below optimal. That failure in our local educational system falls squarely at the feet of the School Superintendent and the old school board that was willing to put quality education at risk in favor of the status quo.

With a rapid advancement of AI nationwide, it becomes quickly apparent, that massive changes are demanded to increase proficiency scores and do a better job of educating our youth for the increased challenges in life.

Last week the new Montrose County School Board was officially seated, and those members are now faced with the uphill challenge of how to begin rapidly improving our local educational system. Maybe it's time to consider searching for a new Superintendent capable of bringing those changes to fruition for the benefit of our youth.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS

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Versatile Barndominium in Coal Creek Valley

— Equestrian Potential & Endless Space

Welcome to your dream setup in the heart of Colorado's beautiful Coal Creek Valley, in Montrose, CO. This unique barndominium offers over 2,000 sq ft of heated space and the flexibility to create a truly customized home. 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.

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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BATHROOMS
9..18 acres**



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BOCC HOLDS FIRST MEETING IN RESTORED COURTHOUSE *From pg 1*

be successful.”

“And hold me accountable,” Copeland said.

John Reed of Nucla asked Commissioners to update their web site to reflect the change of meeting venues and spoke about the importance of recognizing our veterans and their service. The total population of the United States and territories is 341.5M, Reed said, while active service members in all six branches of the military including reserves number 2.1M.

“That’s less than half a percent, .4 to be exact, of people that actually serve and volunteer,” he said. “In 1968 that figure was at two percent, so we are way down. The veterans that you have in this place are at six percent. That’s all the veterans that you’ve got in the United States.

“...As veterans we continue to serve, it’s in our very nature to do that. Even after we rejoin civilian life that siren song still calls us to serve. We give time, blood, supplies, and money...take a moment, take a breath, and realize that the freedom you have right now is because of that .4 percent...”

Reed recognized Vietnam Veteran Bill Babbell for buying supplies and building flag drop boxes, which are places where flags can be honorably retired.

“That’s the kind of individuals that we want to have in our community,” he said. “...You might not like all veterans, but please respect what they’ve done for you. One that I know of sits on this board with you. He’s earned that respect and that time...”

Next, Dan Reardon spoke. “I want to thank our leaders and all of our community for the vision of restoring this beautiful facility, and I’d like to say Welcome home.”

AGENDA CHANGES

Interim County Manager David White had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted unanimously to

approve Planning and Development Consent Agenda items.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first item was consideration and appointment of a new Chairman of the Board to finish the current term, and, if necessary, consideration and appointment of a new Vice-Chair to finish the current term. Copeland nominated Vice Chair Sean Pond to fill the vacant position of Chair; Pond nominated Sue Hansen, who was named Chair.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the repeal of Resolution 36-2025 - Administrative and Accounting Protocols for Public Safety Sales Tax Fund (PSST), and to approve Resolution 54-2025, to clarify Administrative and Accounting protocols for the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Commissioners then voted to initiate a search for the County Manager position, in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(3.5) of the Colorado Sunshine Law.

The recruitment is proposed to open on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, and close on Jan. 18, 2026.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Adjustment. After some discussion, the Board of Adjustment approved the proposed Zoning Variance from Section II.E.3 – Rear Setback Requirement at Parcel 399302103008, based on the findings of fact.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners held a public hearing on Planning and Development item 1, proposed Amendment to the Montrose County Zoning Regulations related to Power Generation Facilities, Massage Therapy Businesses, and Natural Medicine Businesses.

Planning and Development Director Tallmadge presented both alternatives and noted that the moratorium ends on Dec. 18, and that the State of Colorado does not allow the County to prohibit power generation facilities and other simi-



Sue Hansen was named BOCC Chair. Mirror Staff Photo.

lar uses--uses which can potentially create negative impacts. “The intent of the adoption of the code is to create a minimum standard that you find that mitigates those negative impacts...”

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, “I don’t think we’ve ever reworked a regulation as much as we’ve done here.”

Vice Chair Sean Pond said that his initial support for Alternative Two was based on wanting to protect what people love about Colorado.

“I live in a 100-percent off grid solar house,” Pond said. Commissioner Copeland discussed her own concerns and asked informed questions.

“If the technology changes and they can get more megawatts on the same acreage if we define it by acreage, then they can also potentially be more effective in what they’re trying to do on the same space...”

Commissioners voted two-to-one to approve Alternative One, with Pond voting no.

Pond said he opposed the motion because he would like to see more additions from Alternative Two.

Hansen closed the public hearing.

The final two items were unanimously approved:

-The Pallante Rezone [RZ25-002] proposal to rezone a four-acre lot from General Residential to General Agriculture at Parcel 376723300023; and

-Resolution 55-2025, updating the Fee Schedule for planning applications.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE REVOLUTION THAT WASN'T!

Editor:

Mr. Anderson's latest diatribe in his publication concerning this author for my articles in the Montrose Mirror shortly after the November 4th election is a masterclass in cherry-picking facts, smearing opponents, and pretending a razor-thin, low-turnout recall victory represents some grand mandate from the people.

It doesn't. It was a confusing, murky process that barely cleared the bar, and Anderson knows it. Let's dismantle the nonsense.

The Recall Ballot Was Intentionally Confusing, And It Worked

Everyone who paid attention knows the recall question was worded in the most baffling way possible. While a "YES" vote meant you wanted him GONE. Plenty of voters I spoke to after the election admitted they voted YES thinking they were keeping him. The recall committee and their allies deliberately leaned into that confusion. Muddy messaging + low information voters = success for the recall side. Own it, Dennis. Your desired team won on a technicality and voter befuddlement, not some overwhelming wave of support.

Kirstin Copeland Won with Zero Real Election

Anderson gloats about the "work" the recall committee put in, but conveniently ignores that Kirstin Copeland never faced a single opponent in a real election. She needed exactly ONE vote to take the seat. That's it. If 50% + 1 voted to recall she could have gotten 1 vote and won the seat. While she did get more than 1 vote, not even all who voted to oust Commissioner Mijares voted FOR her. That's not a mandate; that's a loophole. Celebrating that as some triumph of grassroots democra-

cy is laughable.

Fewer People Voted to Remove Him Than Elected Him – That Matters

Here's the math Anderson dodges: Scott Mijares was elected in November 2024 with over 18,100 votes in an uncontested race (meaning every Republican and many unaffiliated effectively for him).

In the recall, only 8,477 voted to remove him out of roughly 16,741 ballots cast. That's less than half of the number who put him in office a year earlier. Turnout collapsed. Anderson calls this "the only math that counts." Fine. But it also reveals a system where a motivated minority with a signature-gathering machine can overturn an election because most people stayed home.

If the same thing happened to his darling Sue Hansen, Dennis would be screaming about a "rigged process" and "illegitimate coup" until his keyboard melted.

Sue Hansen Ran Unopposed Too, Where's the Mockery, Dennis?

Anderson mocks Mijares for winning an uncontested general election like it's some kind of embarrassment. Funny, he never mentions that **the ethically challenged, Saint Sue Hansen** has twice coasted to victory the exact same way after being hand-picked by a vacancy committee in 2018. She never had to face a real opponent either. Glass houses, Dennis. Glass houses.

Vacancy Committee Picks Aren't Evil When Dennis Likes the Outcome

Anderson rips Sean Pond for being selected by the Republican Central Committee vacancy process after Rick Dunlap's tragic death, calling him a "self-centered narcissist." Guess how Sue Hansen got her seat in the first

place? The exact same vacancy committee process. The system is fine when it delivers Dennis's preferred commissioner, but it's corrupt and illegitimate when it delivers someone he doesn't like. Spare us the selective principles.

Bottom Line: This Wasn't a Revolution – It Was a Low-Turnout Sneak Attack

The recall committee exploited confusing wording, abysmal turnout, and a replacement process that required almost no affirmative support for Kirstin Copeland. A new commissioner that we still know almost nothing about. Her campaign consisted of a few ads that really told us nothing about how she would govern. Then they declared victory like they'd stormed the Bastille.

Dennis Anderson can puff his chest all he wants, but the numbers tell the real story: fewer people showed up to kick Scott Mijares out than bothered to vote for him in the first place. Maybe the system needs a fix? Require a minimum turnout threshold or a majority of the original electing electorate to recall someone mid-term. Because right now, a motivated clique with clipboards and a murky ballot question can overturn an election while most of the county yawns and stays home.

That's not democracy in action. That's democracy on life support, and Dennis Anderson just pulled the plug while pretending he saved the patient.

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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DURING OBAMA'S FIRST THREE YEARS, AS MANY AS 535 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED

Editor:

I wrote last week about the demise of Canada, Great Britain, and the rest of western Europe; the active participation of those countries' liberal politicians in that demise; and Democrats' efforts to conceal the causes of that destruction from the American people. Events in Great Britain and this country this week added emphasis to my concerns about the same liberal policies being implemented here. In Great Britain, a 50-year-old IT consultant was arrested by police after he posted a picture online of himself holding a shotgun while on a private homestead during a holiday in Florida.

Meanwhile, an Islamic man who is on a city council in Great Britain can post a picture of himself with an AK-47, and everything is cool – but the consultant who posted his vacation photo can be arrested and harassed for months for being seen with a gun in the U.S. Equally astonishing was the treatment of Jewish soccer fans in Great Britain. A team in the vaunted English Premier League has their stadium in one of Birmingham's Muslim neighborhoods. That team hosted a competition that included teams from Israel and Switzerland. Birmingham forbade tickets to the visiting Israeli fans, who had a reputation for orderly conduct, but welcomed the Swiss fans, who were notorious for being hooligans.

Back in the USA, a scandal staggering in its scale and brazenness swamped Minnesota's welfare system on governor Tim Walz's watch. Federal prosecutors have thus far charged a whopping 86 people, over 90% of whom are Somali immigrants, for stealing over a billion dollars from welfare programs. Scores of individuals made fortunes by setting up companies that billed state agencies for social services that were never provided. Even more disgusting is the fact that Democrat state officials knew about the fraud and did nothing about it – out of fear of upsetting the state's Somali immigrant population, a core voting bloc for Democrats. The fraud

was so brazen that more than 400 employees of the Minnesota Department of Human Services accused Walz of failing to act on widespread fraud warnings and of retaliating against whistleblowers. Anyone who dared complain about the fraud got painted as a racist. We seem to be seeing daily evidence that the liberal elite on both continents have revealed themselves to be the enemy of their own citizens.

Everything Democrats do and say is evidence of their total disregard for the interests of the American citizen. It is wild seeing Democrats shriek and try to protect truly evil people simply because Trump is protecting Americans. If Trump cured cancer Democrats would do everything possible to prevent implementation of the cure. "What about those poor oncologists that will have to be retrained?" Democrats, with the assist of The Washington Post, have been smearing Secretary of War Hegseth and the Trump administration's attacks on narco-terrorists in the Caribbean. There is nothing unexpected about the WaPo – the same Dem mouthpiece behind the Russian-collusion hoax, the Kavanaugh rape hoax, the Trump impeachment hoax – perpetrating yet another hoax. The story is so flimsy, that even the New York Times saw through it and had to call them out (the same NYT that earned a Pulitzer Prize for peddling the Russian-collusion hoax). If Democrats had any concern for the American people, they wouldn't attempt to fabricate stories challenging the elimination of terrorists.

Biden and his handlers allowed dangerous cartels and unvetted Afghans to flood our communities with drugs and violence. Over 5,000 Afghan nationals who were flagged for "national security" issues were allowed into the country by the Biden administration. The Trump administration has sealed off our border and gone on offense against narco-terrorists. As Hegseth said, "Biden coddled terrorists, we kill them."

Democrats objecting to our being too tough on cartels who kill Americans by smuggling poison into our country is not only absurd, but again reveals their total hypocrisy. They think we are too stupid to recall these headlines regarding Obama's actions:

The BBC in 2013: "Drones kill rescuers in 'double tap'." The UK Sunday Times in 2012: "CIA Tactics In Pakistan Include Targeting Rescuers and Funerals."

Under Obama, the military/CIA would launch a missile at a wedding or funeral where a terrorist was suspected of attending. Then they would wait twenty minutes and send a second missile to kill all the 1st responders who rushed in ("double taps"). The "collateral damage" was extensive. That is the term used to describe the death of innocent civilians, including women and children.

Research revealed that just during Obama's first three years, as many as 535 civilians were killed, including more than 60 children. Obama kept it up for all eight years of his presidency with over 600 drone strikes.

Democrats were strangely silent during that time, and to this day. Under Trump, we've killed zero civilians. Congress passed the "Authorization for Use of Military Force" in 2001, which Obama relied on for legal authorization for his military actions anywhere in the world. Trump similarly relies on that legislation for his current campaign against narco-terrorists.

Democrats would rather falsely accuse Trump of acting without Congressional approval than admit that they could have ended the AUMF multiple times over the last 25 years.

Nor do they want to talk about Obama killing hundreds of kids and first responders as unfortunate "collateral damage" in "double taps."

"Oh look! Hegseth just blew up another boat full of deadly drugs and a few narco-terrorists. War crime!"

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BRANDON WALLACE APPOINTED AS MONTROSE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County is pleased to announce the permanent appointment of Brandon Wallace as Public Works Director following his service as Interim Director. Wallace brings more than two decades of public sector experience, a strong record of leadership, and a commitment to improving community services across Colorado.

Wallace has demonstrated steady leadership, technical expertise, and a clear vision for the future of the county's infrastructure throughout his interim tenure. His ability to understand community needs, strengthen teams, and deliver high-quality results contributed to his selection for the position.

Wallace's career includes extensive experience in strategic planning, operational management, and public service delivery. Since 2020, he has served as Superintendent for Montrose County Road & Bridge, leading daily operations, financial planning, and long-term capital improvement strategies. He has overseen road and bridge construction and maintenance, managed regulatory compliance, supervised field personnel, and directed budgets with a focus on efficiency, safety, and quality.

His previous roles include Project Manager at Montrose County Public Works, Materials & Logistics Manager at Woody Creek Distillers, Public Works Coordinator for the Town of Basalt, Heavy Equipment Operator for Pitkin County, and Water/Wastewater Operator for the Town of Carbondale.

Across each position, he has assessed community needs, developed practical solutions, and fostered collaboration among citizens, organizations, and government partners.

Wallace also serves the broader public works profession as Chair of the American Public Works Association (APWA) West Slope Branch and as a member of the APWA Western Snow & Ice Conference Committee and the National Rodeo Committee, helping maintain strong connections to best practices and industry standards statewide and nationally.

"Serving the residents of this county has always been a privilege," said Wallace. "I'm committed to strengthening our services, improving efficiency, and ensuring our projects reflect the needs and priorities of the people we work for every day."

The Montrose County Public Works Department maintains county roads, bridges, facilities, and related assets. Through long-term planning and efficient project management, the department supports safe and dependable infrastructure for the traveling public and Montrose County residents. For more information about the Montrose County Public Works Department, visit <https://www.montrosecounty.net/151/Public-Works>.



Brandon Wallace. Courtesy photo.

OLD PARADOX TRAIL IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE WINTER



At left, Old Paradox Trail is now closed for the winter. Courtesy photo.



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

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- 4 BEDROOMS (1 is nonconforming)
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DEC. 15, 2025, IS THE DEADLINE TO ENROLL IN HEALTH COVERAGE THROUGH CONNECT FOR HEALTH COLORADO FOR COVERAGE STARTING JAN. 1 2026

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL – Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) reminds Coloradans that Sunday, Dec. 15 is the last day to enroll on Connect for Health Colorado if you want coverage to begin on Jan. 1, 2026.

TCHNetwork has Certified Health Coverage Guides ready to assist you with the enrollment process and answer questions, ensuring you are enrolled by the deadline. Open Enrollment is now through the 15th of January 2026, but to have coverage begin after ringing in the New Year, you must enroll by Dec. 15.

Financial help is available for Coloradans who are under 400% of the poverty line. Thanks to state and federal subsidies, many people can find quality plans for \$100 or less per month, and some may

qualify for \$0 premium plans. Connect for Health Colorado is the official health insurance marketplace for Coloradans to shop, compare, and purchase coverage, and it's the only place to get financial help to lower monthly premiums.

How to get Certified Assistance in Enrolling by Dec. 15 Deadline:
-Visit www.tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance and fill out the form to schedule your own appointment.

-Call our Intake Specialist on 970.708.7096 to schedule an appointment.

-Email enrollment@tchnetwork.org and request a call back / appointment.

Don't rely on auto-enroll this year, as premiums have changed. Enrolling yourself in health insurance can seem like a

scary task, let TCHNetwork's Health Coverage Guides walk with you through the process.

This gives you peace of mind, knowing you and your family have the coverage you need at a price you can afford. Don't wait – time is running out to enroll by December 15.

About Tri-County Health Network –
TCHNetwork is a local nonprofit committed to collaborating with its communities to improve health for everyone.
Media Contact: Amy Rowan, Co-Executive Director, Community Programs
Phone: 970.708.7096
Email: enrollment@tchnetwork.org
Website: www.tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-enrollment



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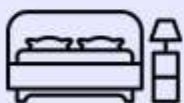
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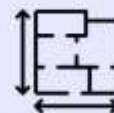
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS: LOCAL LEADERSHIP

MRH BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER AND UPDATES LEADERSHIP ROLES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) has announced several updates to its Board of Directors, including the addition of a new board member and adjustments to board leadership roles. These updates take place each year as part of the Board's standard annual governance cycle. The Board, which provides oversight for the community nonprofit hospital, is composed of eight members who each serve four-year terms.

The Board has appointed Joseph Simo as its newest member. Simo has been an educator and community leader in Montrose County for more than 20 years, serving in roles that include classroom teacher

and principal. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in business education from Adams State University and a Master of Arts in educational leadership. He also completed coursework in the superintendent program at Western State University.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to join the Montrose Regional Health Board and collaborate with such dedicated leaders," Simo said. "Together, we will continue advancing the quality, access, and integrity of care that our community deserves."

The Board also announced updates to its leadership. Jack Johnston has been elected chair, replacing Mary Vader, D.O. Michael Brezinsky, M.D., will continue serv-

ing as secretary and treasurer.

To learn more about each member of the Board of Directors and their professional backgrounds, visit the About MRH section at montrosehealth.com.



Joseph Simo.
Courtesy photo.

NEW PROGRAM MANAGER FOR REGION 10'S BUSINESS LOAN FUND

Amy Crick brings extensive banking and USDA rural development experience to role

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Region 10 is proud to announce that Amy Crick has joined Region 10's Business Loan Fund (BLF) team as the program manager. The Region 10 BLF is a nonprofit business lending source that provides capital to small businesses and focuses on business expansion, creation and retention of jobs in a six-county area, including Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray and San Miguel.

Based in Montrose, Crick works closely with banks, Small Business Administration (SBA), Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and other community organizations to cultivate and manage loan applications that assist small businesses. She also links clients to technical assistance. For more than 30 years, the BLF has assisted for-profit and nonprofit businesses with loans that typically range from \$5,000 to \$250,000 with terms of up to 10 years.

"We are thrilled that Amy has joined our team," says Executive Director Michelle Haynes. "She brings a strong understanding of our region, as well as our local, state and federal partners." Most recently, Crick worked for Bank of Colorado as a loan officer in Delta and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a loan specialist for rural development community programs, also in Delta. She previously served as market president for First Colorado National Bank in Delta and assistant vice president for Wells Fargo Bank in Grand Junction.

Crick is no stranger to Region 10 as she served as a Delta County representative for the BLF committee. She also has served as a board member for Delta County Economic Development. "I have always admired Region 10, its work and the impact the organization creates in our communities," says Crick. "It's a privilege to be working for Region 10 in this capacity—serving businesses that contribute to the vibrancy of the Western Slope."

For more information about Region 10's Business Loan Fund and business services, visit www.region10.net.

About Region 10

Since 1972, Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning (LEAP) has leveraged resources to help build strong communities. This happens through providing senior services, small business services, and regional development support to a six-county area that includes Delta, Hinsdale, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Region 10 is supported by local and county governments, and its programs are supported by state and federal programs and funding sources. More information can be found at www.region10.net.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S NOT HARD TO FIGURE HOW THE BIDENS' BANK ACCOUNTS SWELLED

Editor;

Holly Helm's rant last week about President Trump is missing some important facts. She said Trump's Big beautiful Bill will add \$3.3 trillion to the nation's debt. Well, during the period between 2020 until Nov. of 2024 the Biden corruption added \$9 trillion to the national debt and on pace to add another \$1.9 trillion before the end of 2024 for such things like green energy credits which cost \$536.4 billion alone. And on top of that she said people are hungry. Well yes, Biden's over spending created massive inflation on everything including food under his corrupt administration. What the Democrats created is not Trump's fault, but he is working tirelessly to fix the Biden mess by bringing inflation back down. She said people can't afford health care insurance. Well duh! She should complain to Obama about that, not President Trump. Under the phony "Obamacare" act we were promised health care premiums would be reduced by \$2500, we could keep our insurance, and we could keep our doctor. As everyone knows that was all a lie. Insurance premiums shot up and weren't affordable and many doctors wouldn't accept Obama care insurance resulting in many people losing their doctors.

Holly could have informed readers of the fraud Democrat Minnesota governor Walz is being investigated for. How lucky we are he was defeated as the vice presidential candidate. Walz was in charge of a massive relief program in Minnesota, but is now being investigated for the largest COVID-19 fraud scheme in the country. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has launched a federal probe into claims that \$billions of Minnesota tax dollars were siphoned to the terrorist group al-Shabaab

under the Biden administration and Walz's leadership. Whistleblowers warned Walz of massive fraud in a food-aid program for children, yet he failed to act and instead those whistleblowers face retaliation. Because of Governor Walz's negligence, criminals—including somali terrorists stole nearly \$1 billion from the program while children suffered. How does that fit in to the "people are hungry" claim? The New York Times reported that over the past five years, law enforcement authorities say several fraud schemes proliferated in parts of Minnesota's Somali community with individuals allegedly creating companies that billed state agencies for millions of dollars' worth of social services that were never delivered. Rest assured President Trump is acting fast to ensure Americans' taxes are not funding acts of global terror.

She complained about having a \$3 billion ballroom replacing the east wing of the capital, but she didn't reveal in her attack on Trump that he is paying every penny of the cost for that ballroom out of his own pocket and it is a gift to the American people. He also paid the entire cost for the huge American flags displayed in the front and rear of the capital out of his own pocket. And furthermore President Trump does not take a salary for his service to America. He donates his entire salary to charity. It's strange how the Trump Deranged complainers never talk about that or give Trump any credit for all of his work and accomplishments. One of the many new provisions President Trump is providing for Americans is the lesser known "Trump Accounts" that gives \$1,000 to every newborn baby to start a savings account. That money will be invested in the stock market by private

firms and the child can access the funds when they turn 18. Backers say it's a way to bolster capitalism and help children from low-income households get a good start. This program will be effective during the calendar years of the Trump administration. This is all due to the historic donation by billionaires Michael and Susan Dell. So Democrats ought to jealously quit complaining about billionaires!

Did Biden ever contribute anything to America that was good or positive?? No, instead he opened our borders to the world and gave us China balloons over all our military installations and then acted dumb (which came natural for him to do!) about it. And his families' bank accounts grew by the \$millions. Of course it's okay for Democrats to get rich! He also has arranged for a "seditious six" bunch of Democrat losers to encourage military personnel to second guess orders from the president to decide for themselves what a legal order is. This is a sickness and exposes their hate for America by encouraging interference with military operations from cheap inconsequential lonely Democrats who gave Obama complete authority to kill whoever he wanted with drones and that included some Americans, but not a peep about that from them. And now they are positioning themselves to run for president! What gall! Isn't it strange how the same shoes fit different people differently?

Trump has been swamped repairing all the damage the Democrats have done to this country during Biden's turbulent iron-fisted Democrat seizure. What a pity. Four years lost to corruption! It's not hard to figure how the Bidens' bank accounts swelled.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose



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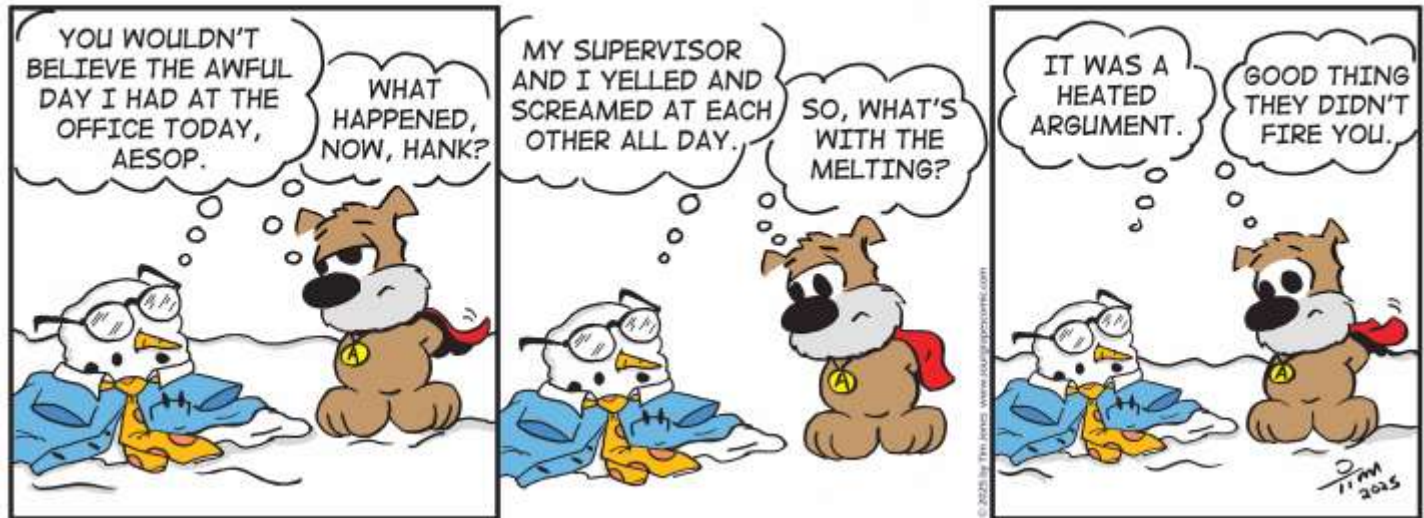
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK JOINS A STATEWIDE WAVE OF GENEROSITY FOR COLORADO GIVES DAY

Special to the Mirror

WESTERN SLOPE, COLORADO – Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) is proud to participate in **Colorado Gives Day 2025**, taking place on **Tuesday, December 9**.

Last year, more than **95,000 donors** contributed **\$54.8 million** during Colorado Gives Day—creating a powerful statewide movement that supports nonprofits and solidifying the event as one of the largest giving days in the nation and *Colorado's biggest day of philanthropy*.

Giving is open now through 11:59 p.m. on December 9. During this period, every donation is amplified by a **\$1 million+ Incentive Fund**, and nonprofits are eligible for **\$100,000 in prizes** made possible by Colorado Gives Foundation and presenting sponsor FirstBank.

TCHNetwork is a nonprofit dedicated to collaborating with communities across the Western Slope to improve health and well-being for all. Serving six counties, TCHNetwork provides critical programs including:

- Free health insurance enrollment assistance
- Care coordination and emergency financial assistance
- Multicultural advocacy and immigration legal services
- Grief support and mental health navigation
- Safe firearm storage and suicide prevention programs
- Social norms initiatives such as *We Are the Ones Who Partner to Protect*

-Mental health scholarships

-And many additional community health services

This year, TCHNetwork aims to raise essential funds to sustain and expand these vital services—and Colorado Gives Day plays a key role in making that possible. TCHNetwork's Impact in 2025

-336 clients received mental health scholarships

-2,000+ therapy sessions provided through scholarship programs

-134 families supported through community crisis funds

-213 school-aged children received dental care

-67 families received food insecurity assistance

-400+ immigrant community members accessed services through the visiting Mexican Consulate

-533 Spanish and Maya Chuj speakers obtained driver's licenses

-150 individuals gained access to affordable legal services

-102+ immigrant and rural workers learned about their labor rights

-1,119 people accessed bilingual healthcare navigation and resources

-500+ community members attended Telluride's *Semana de Bienestar* (Wellness Week)

"The one thing we know is that our communities need our support. The programs TCHNetwork offers are critical to individuals across our region. Families may feel there is no hope, and then—after meeting

with one of our team members—they begin to see what's possible. It's an incredible feeling," said **Sarah Curtis, Development Specialist at TCHNetwork**.

Businesses are invited to join the statewide movement through the **Good for Business Challenge**, where 25 companies will have their **\$1,000 donation matched** with an additional \$1,000.

Donors who set up a **new recurring donation** for Tri-County Health Network on ColoradoGivesDay.org will have their **first month's contribution matched up to \$100** by the Colorado Gives Foundation.

To support Tri-County Health Network at any time, visit:

ColoradoGives.org/story/Tchn or donate directly at

www.tchnetwork.org/donate.

For more information about Colorado Gives Day, visit **ColoradoGivesDay.org**.

About TCHNetwork

TCHNetwork's vision is to build vibrant, healthy communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Our work is guided by the following core values:

- Health is more than healthcare
- We cultivate a culture where our team can succeed
- We champion diversity, equity, and inclusion
- We reflect the communities we serve
- We act as a catalyst for positive change
- We exist to help clients thrive
- We commit to continual learning and improvement



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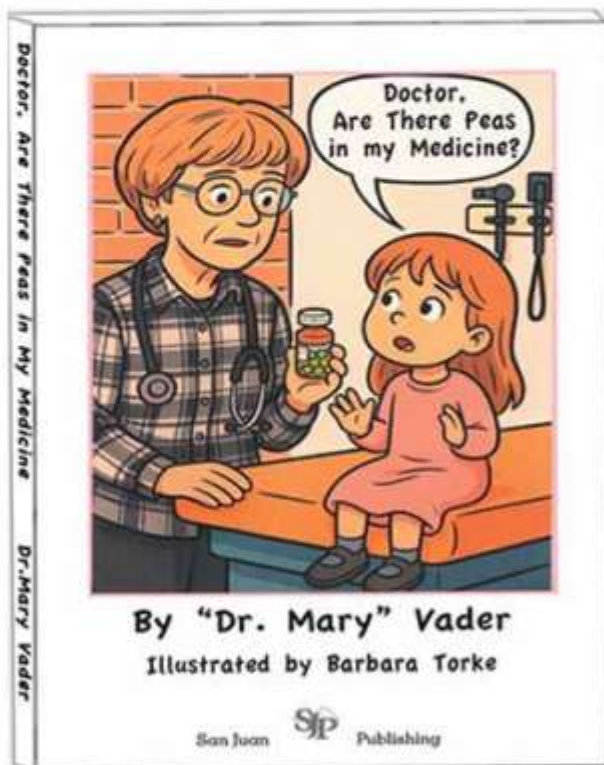
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RED HAWKS EMERGE 2 – 1 FROM ELEVATE INTERNET CLASSIC



A mad scramble for a loose basketball. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose boys basketball team emerged from the Elevate Internet Classic basketball tournament with a pair of wins and one defeat. The Classic featured four boys' teams and four girls' teams in an early season test against teams wearing different colored jerseys. The teams certainly learned a good deal about their teams, their opposition and what the regular season has in store for the athletes.

RED HAWKS 59, WELD CENTRAL REBELS 36

The Montrose Red Hawks came running out of the game vs the Weld Central Rebels as nine Red Hawks got into the scoring column before the final whistle blew. The Red Hawks led 26-12 after the first half and then outscored the Rebels 33 to 24 to finish with a 23 win.

The Red Hawks were lead in scoring by Senior C. J. Rocco with 14 points while Sophomore Bodhi Schafer and Freshman Cache Oberg each added 13 points. The rebounding department was led by Senior Lane Pressler with 9 caroms and Freshman Cache Oberg with 8. The Red Hawks passed out 11 assists, had 14 steals and turned the basketball over 19 times.

RED HAWKS 46, STEAMBOAT SPRINGS SAILORS 28

The Montrose Red Hawks second game saw the lads take on the Sailors of Steamboat Springs. The Red Hawks pulled away from the starting game by outscoring the visitors 13 to three and 15 to 12 for a 28 to 15 half time lead. The Red Hawks kept the pedal to the medal in the second half to win by 18 points.

The Red Hawks point parade was led by Senior Lane Pressler with 11 points. He was followed closely by Senior Josh Hawks and Sophomore Bodhi Schafer with nine points each and Freshman Cache Oberg with eight markers.

EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS 56, RED HAWKS 48

The Eagle Valley Devils set the tone for the game with the Red Hawks early in the contest as they outscored the Red Hawks 18 to 16 in the opening quarter. The pattern seems to repeat itself throughout the match as the Devils displayed outstanding team speed and a tenacious defense that the Red Hawks were unable to match.

The Red Hawks trailed by two points after one period, four points at the half, four after three periods and finally eight points at games end. Senior Lane Pressler and Freshman Cache Oberg led the Red Hawk scorers with a dozen points each while Senior Josh Hawks chipped in with five points.

Next up for the Red Hawks will be a weekend trip to Glenwood Springs for another tournament. The initial opponent will be the Wheat Ridge Farmers, to be followed by Peak to Peak Charter School and Forge Christian High School. Tip off time for the Wheat Ridge game will be 5:30pm.

RED HAWK GIRLS BASKETBALL UNDEFEATED TO OPEN SEASON

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks hosted the Elevate Internet Classic basketball tournament over the past weekend and rode roughshod over the competition. The Red Hawks defeated The Weld County Rebels, the Coal Ridge Titans, and the Eagle Valley Devils to advance with an unblemished record.

RED HAWKS 51, WELD COUNTY REBELS 8

The Rebels were no match for the Red Hawks from the opening tip to the final whistle. The home-standing Red Hawks gave up a total of eight points in the first half of the contest and then shut out the Rebels with zero points throughout the entire second half of action to end up winning by 43 points.

Senior Mayce Oberg led the Red Hawks scoring parade with 19 points followed by Senior Maggie Legg with nine markers. The rebounding leaders were Senior Lilly Nelson with eight offensive rebounds while freshman Landee Johnson chipped in with five caroms. The Red Hawks dished out 11 assists and had 22 steals and committed just four turnovers.

RED HAWKS 58, COAL RIDGE TITANS 29

The second match for the Red Hawks saw the Coal Ridge Titans lose to the Red Hawks by 29 points, 58 to 29. The Red Hawks led by the score of 33-2 after the first half of action. The Titans got their game in gear throughout the second half and they actually outscored the Red Hawks by 2 points, 27 to 25.

Senior Maggie Legg led all scorers with 17 points while Senior team-mate Mayce



Both the Weld County Rebels and the Red Hawks await a rebound. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

Oberg cashed in 11 points. In the rebounding department Mayce Oberg captured eight rebounds while London Schaffer and Ava Godbe each corralled five boards. The Red Hawks passed out 14 assists and grabbed 11 steals. The Red Hawks also turned the basketball over 15 times in the win.

RED HAWKS 55, EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS 29

The third and final tournament appearance for the Red Hawks came on Saturday afternoon as the Eagle Valley Devils provided the opposition. Needless-to-say the Red Hawks continued their winning ways defeating the Devils 55 to 29. The Red Hawks outscored the Devils in each of the

four quarters to preserve the victory and their unblemished record.

Eight Red Hawks dented the scoreboard in the victory. The scoring parade was led by Senior Mayce Oberg with thirteen points. She was followed closely by Freshman Landree Johnson with nine points. Senior London Schaffer added eight points to the mix while Senior Maggie Legg tallied seven points. Two seniors, Lilly Nelson and Kendall Johnson, each added six points to the Red Hawks total. The Red Hawks will travel to Glenwood Springs for another tournament next weekend. The Red Hawks are scheduled to play the Basalt Longhorns at 3:30 PM on Thursday.

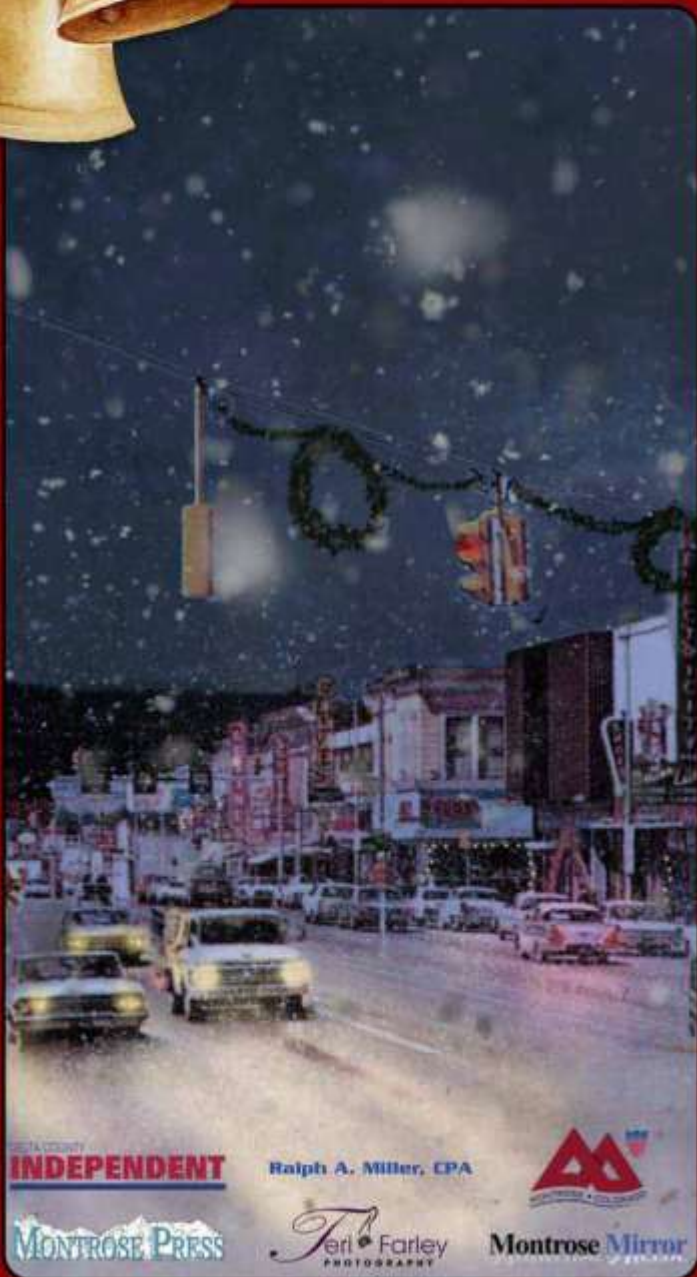


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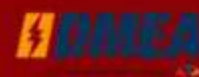
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

NOW CONDITIONS CALL FOR CRITICAL MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS ON US 550 RED MOUNTAIN PASS: MOTORISTS SHOULD PLAN FOR LENGTHY MORNING DELAYS ON TUES., DEC. 9



Special to the Mirror

CDOT Courtesy photo

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — US Highway 550 Red Mountain Pass between Silverton and Ouray will close to travel on Tuesday, Dec. 9 while the Colorado Department of Transportation performs safety-critical winter maintenance operations. Saturday morning's operations are anticipated to have minor traffic impacts with delays beginning at 8 a.m. between Mile Points 80 and 81. Tuesday's favorable weather forecast will allow for maintenance crews to perform more extensive operations along the southern summit of Red Mountain Pass (MP 75 to 79). On Dec. 9 at 10 a.m., US 550 will fully

close in both directions and motorists will be stopped for approximately four hours. Motorists should plan ahead, allow for extra travel time, or arrive and drive through the closure points before the designated closure times.

Parking and recreating is prohibited between the closure points during winter maintenance operations. Backcountry users must move their vehicles and vacate the area before the scheduled closure times.

Travelers should also be aware that during the winter season, snow conditions may require additional maintenance work and safety closures at any time on many southwest Colorado highways. Visit www.COtrip.org for the most current closure times and traffic impacts.

Closure Schedule | Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.

US 550 Red Mountain Pass closure begins Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. and is estimated to open by 2 p.m., depending on successful operations.

-Northbound travelers will encounter a closure approximately five miles north of Silverton near Ophir Pass Road (Mile Point 75.2)

-Southbound travelers will encounter a closure approximately fourteen miles south of Ouray between Iron-ton and Chattanooga Mine (Mile Point 79.2)

-Do not attempt to bypass the closure gates
Motorists may consider an alternate route via CO 145 through Lizard Head Pass. This westerly route will add approximately one hour of additional driving time, taking approximately three hours to travel between Durango and Ridgway (approximately 150 miles).

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-CO 145 Dolores to Placerville

-CO 62 Placerville to Ridgway



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MAUREEN ROSE BLATT

MAUREEN ROSE BLATT

MAUREEN BLATT, 87, of Montrose, Colorado passed away peacefully the evening of November 21, 2025.

She was an entrepreneur, an Industrial Engineer, Instructional Engineer and held many other positions in life. She worked two jobs at a time most of her life.

She is survived by two sisters, Jeanne Blatt, and Teresa Walker. Her only brother William Blatt pre-deceased her.

Her wish was to be cremated, and in lieu of flowers requested small donation to: 1 Horse at a Time, Draft Horse Rescue Corvallis, Montana 59828

Due to the holidays, weather and aircraft problems at this time, a decision has been made to have a mass and a Celebration of Life in the Spring. Details will be given at that time.

LOLA FAITH BLUNT

October 23, 1927 — November 21, 2025

In Loving Memory of Lola Faith Blunt (Cotter) October 23, 1927 – November 21, 2025

Lola Faith Blunt (Cotter) was born on the family homestead in Placerville, San Miguel County, Colorado—with no birth certificate issued, which later made obtaining a passport interesting. From those humble beginnings, her life story and adventures went beyond what she ever imagined. At 98 years old, Lola entered eternity peacefully. She was a woman who chose her path with courage and steady grace.

Born in the Great Depression, she grew up in a world shaped by hard work and sacrifice. She graduated from Norwood High School. One of her proudest moments as a young woman, was the year she put up hay with her father for the community while all the men were away at war. This act of service fed families, supported neighbors and became part of her legacy.

From 1945 to 1948, she enlisted as a Cadet Nurse while working at Memorial Hos-

pital in Colorado Springs. This season of service earned her the honor of being recognized as a veteran who served our country. She graduated from Bethel School of Nursing.

In 1948 she met and married Clarence Alvin Blunt in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They returned to Iowa where Lola worked as a nurse at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, while she and Clarence built (by-hand) their first home in Runnels. In January 1956, they moved to a farm in Dickinson County, Iowa, raising 4 children, farming and building a legacy. In 1976, Lola and Clarence moved to Montrose, Colorado, returning to the mountains that shaped her life. They served in the Peace Corps from 1985 to 1987, in Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean along with several adventures together traveling through Europe, Australia, and driving the Alaskan Highway, before it was paved.

She cherished simple, meaningful things: cooking, gardening, canning, and doing life alongside her husband. She loved

watching westerns on TV, cheering on the Denver Broncos and meticulously keeping football game stats. The grandkids remember her personal cinnamon pies made from leftover crust as an act of love that made you feel special.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence Alvin Blunt; their son, Kelly Wayne Blunt; her parents, George and Iona Cotter; her brothers Maurice, George Junior, and Leon; her sisters Elaine, Anita, Norma, Betty, and Yvonne; and two great-grandchildren, Christopher and Patience.

She leaves behind a legacy of love, wisdom and strength. Lola is survived by her son, Phillip Blunt; daughters Janice Kelsey and Linda Kimble; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; 13 great-great grandchildren; and her sister, Judy Campbell.

Her life was long, rich, and generously poured out. And though she is no longer with us, her wisdom will continue to shape the generations she leaves behind. A life well lived. A woman well loved. A legacy that endures.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



ISSUE 551 Dec. 8, 2025

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – GENEROSITY



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.

Greetings Mirrorites!

Ah, tis the season. Everyone has their hand out. Either they want to sell you something that will make the perfect gift, or they want your donation to their worthy cause. And so many, many worthy causes right now! If I want to keep myself solvent and be more like Scrooge, then like Scrooge, I better stay indoors and as far from restorative natural environments and sights as possible. That may be hard for me, since as I write this, a gorgeous snowfall has blanketed otherwise dry and winter-barren Olathe.

Spending time outdoors can increase generosity because it enhances prosocial behaviors, empathy, and positive emotions. Research indicates that exposure to beautiful and sublime nature can lead to increased generosity and a greater willing-

ness to help others. This is linked to perceptions of connection and awe, which fosters a sense of being part of a larger whole.

Researchers have found that people in nature-rich environments report more positive emotions, which are linked to helping behaviors such as donating. Exposure to beautiful nature has been shown to increase empathy and the ability to take another's perspective, both of which contribute to greater generosity. And further, nature can inspire awe, a feeling that can make individuals feel small in a good way and part of a greater whole, leading to increased generosity. One author in a paper I find myself referring to frequently stated, "...There are some hints that awe is associated with generosity, and nature can be a way to induce awe. One of the things that may come from awe is the feeling that the individual is part of a much bigger whole." Zelenksi et al (different one) 2020 in [Nurtured by Nature](#) - American Psychological Association.

Although I advocate getting physically outdoors in restorative nature as often as possible, there is additional research on generosity done indoors that shows similar results. In one study, participants who viewed images of beautiful natural scenes were more generous and trusting than those who viewed unattractive images. And in another study, participants who were in a lab with beautiful plants displayed more helping behaviors compared

to a control group.

This effect seems to work on all sorts of people, including very religious folks who report more of a sense of awe in church than most other places. One Christian hiker to Mt. Whitney in the early morning hours journaled this experience upon later reflection.

"It was a long day. We didn't get back to the trailhead until 4 that afternoon. I remember checking out of my hotel room and just spontaneously leaving a \$200 tip for the maid. I had never done that before. I had experienced some kind of transcendence that I could not describe and I couldn't help but overflow in generosity – to a person I hadn't even met.

I sensed that I had rediscovered some long-dormant secret, but I wasn't clear exactly what it was. There was some link between what I had experienced on the mountain and my generosity, but what was it? How or why did it work? It wasn't until later that I realized what was really going on that day." Fellar, 2025 in [The National Christian Foundation](#).

To answer Mr. Fellar's query as to why, these researchers propose this explanation: A sense of awe in nature increases self-transcendence: Nature can help you feel connected to something larger than yourself, a state known as [self-transcendence](#), which encourages prosocial behaviors like prioritizing others' needs over your own. This phenomenon is thought of as transferring self-awareness

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – GENEROSITY *From pg 1*

from 'Big Self' to Small Self."

A sublime nature experience means being temporarily overwhelmed by nature's grandeur, creating a paradoxical feeling of being both "big" and "small." This transition from the "big self" (our sense of individual importance) to the "small self" (humility and insignificance) happens because we feel dwarfed by nature's power or vastness, which triggers feelings of both awe and fear. Rather than being condemned to despair in a Total Perspective Vortex (ala Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy), an experience of what one of my undergraduate mentors referred to in the 80s as a sense of 'sublime spiritual awe' can connect people with their more "authentic selves," which can lead to being more giving towards others. So, dear readers, if you don't want to over give this season, then by all means, do not spend time regarding the majestic San Juans covered in snow, with tops a whirl in spindrift!

But for the unafraid with extra funds and too many causes to consider, perhaps taking a cue from one group of awesome participants will help you narrow the field.

"We investigated the emotional benefits of a novel "awe walk" intervention in healthy older adults. Sixty participants took weekly 15-minute outdoor walks for eight weeks; participants were randomly assigned to an awe walk group, which oriented them to experience awe during their walks, or to a control walk group... Compared to participants who took control walks, those who took awe walks experienced greater awe during their walks and exhibited an increasingly "small self" in their photographs over time. They reported greater joy and prosocial positive emotions during their walks and displayed increasing smile intensity over the study. Outside of the walk context, participants who took awe walks reported greater increases in daily prosocial positive emotions and greater decreases in daily distress over time."

Leave it to researchers in San Francisco and Berkeley to come up with such a woo-woo study. Not throwing shade, because it's the kind of thing I would love to collaborate with.

Bearing this in mind, those with cash in their pockets might consider an episode of sublime spiritual awe in nature and then donate to local causes when the mood strikes them.

I will just conclude that Ah, Tis the Season is really Awe, Tis the Season.

The Mindful Naturalist



Photo courtesy of M. Kirchman

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



The Satisfied Self

26 FOR 26 WEEK 4: REFINEMENT, PRESENCE, & PERSONAL AESTHETICS



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

By Week Four, your world has begun to quiet down. Your habits have rhythm, your environments are smoother, your systems are lighter. You've gained back energy that used to slip away unnoticed. Now we take all of that reclaimed clarity and turn it toward something

deeply transformative but often underestimated: your appearance. This week is about refinement—not vanity, not perfection, but the subtle, powerful expression of your identity through how you show up. These shifts—dressing one level up, refining posture and voice, and establishing a skin and hair baseline—are not superficial. They are signals that reinforce the person you are becoming. Presence is language. And this week, you begin speaking it with intention.

Shift 3: Dress One Level Up

(Pillar: appearance & Presence)

Clothing is not just fabric; it is communication. It shapes how you move, how you are perceived, and most importantly, how you perceive yourself. Dressing “one level up” isn't about being formal or polished all the time—it's about elevating your baseline. This week you'll define a three-outfit uniform aligned with your future self. Think of it as a signature look.

- One effortless daytime ensemble
- One elevated casual look
- One simple, elegant “out the door” outfit for unpredictable days

You're crafting reliability, not rigidity; a wardrobe that removes decision fatigue while reinforcing a consistent, authentic aesthetic.

The shift: Clothes that make you feel like the future version of yourself [today](#). Dress for who you want to be. When your appearance aligns with your identity, your confidence becomes non-negotiable.

Shift 4: Posture & Voice

(Pillar: Appearance & Posture)

Your body speaks long before your words do. Posture and voice are often unconscious habits cultivated by stress, hurry, and self-doubt. But with awareness, they can become powerful tools of presence. Start with the simplest recalibration:

- Shoulders down
- Chest open
- Jaw relaxed
- Breath steady

Now slow your pace by just 10%—walking, speaking, even gesturing. This small declaration communicates grounded confidence and magnetic calm. People who rush often appear overwhelmed, or insecure. People who move deliberately appear powerful and self-possessed. And your voice? Lower your tone slightly. Slow the cadence. Let silence punctuate your sentences. The result: a presence that feels intentional, not anxious; confident, not performative. This shift is not about performing a persona, it's about inhabiting your power.

Shift 5: Skin & Hair Baseline

(Pillar: Appearance & Presence)

Beauty routines are often treated as luxuries, but in reality, they're micro-rituals of self-respect. A consistent minimalist routine stabilizes your appearance, simplifies your mornings, and reinforces your sense of care. This week, you'll create a baseline—the minimum viable routine that keeps you feeling fresh, polished, and supported.

AM Routine:

Cleanse

Moisturize

SPF—ideally in your makeup

And at least one grooming step you never skip: brows, hair straightening, lip color, etc)

PM Routine

Cleanse

Treatment (retinol, serum, oil)

Brush your hair out. Get the knots out but also stimulate the scalp.

Monthly Maintenance; Book your standing appointments: hair, nails, brows, or any service that primes you to feel bal-

anced and put together.

These routines are not about aesthetics alone, they stabilize your sense of identity. They remind you that you are someone worth caring for.

The philosophy: when you maintain your baseline, you never fall so far that you need to catch up.

Week 4: Embodied Identity.

Week Four marks a shift from internal alignment to external embodiment. You are not merely thinking differently or organizing differently, you are showing up differently. Quite literally.

Dressing with intention, moving with grounded presence, and caring for your skin and hair create a feedback loop.

You look aligned, so you feel aligned. You feel aligned, so you act aligned. You act aligned, so your life aligns in return.

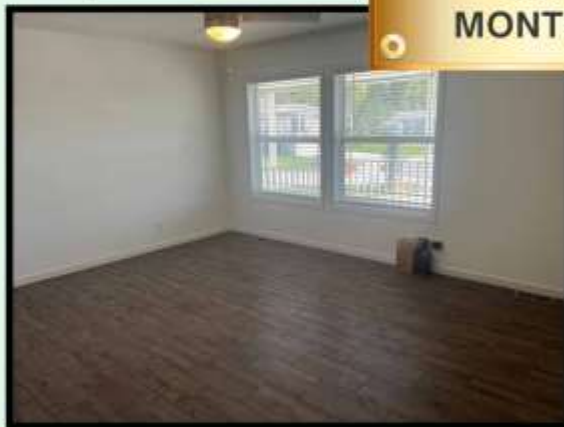
This week is about becoming visually and energetically congruent with your North Star. Next week, we move into emotional architecture—boundaries, promises to yourself, and evening rituals. These are the habits that shape your integrity and deepen your self-trust. For now, enjoy this week of refinement. Let it feel luxurious. Let it feel intentional. Let it feel like the you who you've been becoming all along.

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

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

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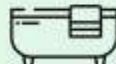
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SHOP THE HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE OF FINE ART ON DEC. 11

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts invites everyone to join us Thursday, December 11, from 5 – 7 p.m. for a night of holiday shopping. The Holiday Marketplace of Fine Art showcases Western Colorado artists who will brighten the season with their offerings of fine art pieces. Join us for holiday treats and holiday shopping for great gifts for family and friends.

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

Help Us With Matching Dollars During Colorado Gives Day

Donate by going to the Color-

doGivesDay.org (they'll match some of the dollars donated) at www.coloradogives.org until December 9. Remember, contributions to MCA are tax deductible!

Our FREE and low-cost programming includes:

- ART CRAWL during the summer months and continuing with 2nd Thursday receptions throughout the year.

- Art in Motion (AIM) where artists showcase work in local businesses

- Partnering with the Montrose Regional Library District for a book club focused on the arts

- Partnering with local youth organizations and the city of Montrose to give young artists a free place to exhibit their art

- Art classes in all mediums.

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

- These free programs and more are only possible with the continued support of

our growing community. Your donations will support local artists and will be invested into these very programs, ensuring we continue the traditions that are enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year.

About Montrose Center for Arts

MCA is a non-profit organization totally served by volunteers and is always looking for volunteers to help with a wide variety of activities, from hosting at the reception desk, to helping with events and planning and developing the future of the organization. If you are interested in helping bring art to the Western Slope, call or email MCA to volunteer.

MCA depends upon support from membership, contributions, sponsorships, grant funding and the local community. To support the MCA and local artists on the Western Slope, become an MCA member by stopping by the gallery or visiting our website.

(970) 787-9428

205 E Main St

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montrosecenterforarts.com

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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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5:30-7:30 pm, Thr. Dec. 11th

Candy Cane Cottage
Gingerbread House



with
Kate Burke



7" wooden houses, paints &
decals provided. Plus drink and Italian snack



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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. 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.

Dec. 11-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.

Dec. 12-Please join us for our Montrose Republican Women's Luncheon and Jingle Bell Christmas Party. Friday, Dec. 12, noon-130p at Hampton Inn Montrose. Doors open at 1130a. We will provide the main dish, please bring a dessert to share. Also, bring a gift for our Jingle Bells Gift Exchange (white elephant rules). Contact Kerri for more information 970-209-5170.

Dec 21-3 pm "Christmas on Mainstreet" free concert @ Montrose Pavilion. Take an afternoon break and allow the Montrose Community Band to be a part of your holiday traditions.

STANDING ROOM ONLY



Kirstin Copeland was sworn in by Chief Judge Cory Jackson in a public ceremony held prior to the BOCC meeting. Courtesy photos Montrose County.

A large black bear is the central focus, holding a tablet computer with its paws. The bear is positioned in the foreground, with its body partially visible. The background is a scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and green slopes. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

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