



ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION



HONORING OUR NATION'S FALLEN WARRIORS

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CITY COUNCIL: CONSTITUENTS WEIGH IN ON PROPOSED LEONARD FARMS SUBDIVISION, SANCTUARY CITY STATUS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All City Councilors were present as Mayor David Frank opened the regular meeting of Tuesday, May 21 and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. A strong turnout of citizens was also present, one of whom carried a sign that said, "It's a gravel pit not a pond."

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

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Frank read aloud the rules for public comment. He continued the practice established by the previous mayor, of interrupting speakers to remind them when 30 seconds were left of their allotted three minutes and asking those who wished to speak to line up in the back of the room and await their turn. A number of speakers raised concerns about the Leonard Farms Subdivision. According to the [planning department description](#), "The Leonard Farm Addition is a proposed annexation approximately 71.22 acres in size. The parcel is located south of Ogden Road, near its intersection with Sleeping Bear Road. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, City



Engineer Kellie Koedel, who said she has worked in road construction for 19 years, spoke against the reclassification of Otter Road as a collector road. "I am wondering if the traffic impact study has been done for the proposed changes..." Meeting Screenshot.

Continued pg 20

SOM FOOTWEAR UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP – LOCAL BRAND WILL LIVE ON



Although Sense of Motion (SOM) shoes will no longer be made at the Montrose factory (above), they will now be produced by Softstar Shoes in Oregon.

By Nathalie Bouchard

Co-Founder of SOM Footwear

MONTROSE-With great excitement, we announce that SOM Footwear has found new ownership under the umbrella of [Softstar Shoes](#) in Oregon. All SOM equipment is now in their facility in Philomath. Olie has taught them the processes and plans to revisit them when they start manufacturing SOM's shoes. They plan to launch officially in mid-August.

SOM Sense Of Motion Footwear (or for the locals: SOM Shoes of Montrose) had been for sale for two years after the owners, Nathalie Bouchard and Olie Marchal, decided it was time to transition to younger leadership. SOM was founded in Norwood in 2012 and started manufacturing in their Montrose facility in 2014. They had a regular team of 10 local members, up to 15 with remote members. They stopped operation last July and kept servicing until the inventory ran out. The conclusion of this transaction will allow their legacy of high-quality barefoot feel shoes to live on.

The [Softstar company](#) has been a model of inspiration to SOM Footwear from its beginnings. They

Continued pg 7

[Magic Circle Players Youth Theatre presents High School Musical Jr-June 12-21!](#)

[Montrose Women's Club Awards Local Charities: By Kathryn R. Burke!](#)

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

[Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!](#)

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Dear Readers:

We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines: In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers.

RULE 1. The Dead Horse Rule has been in place from the start of the *Mirror*. This is somewhat self-explanatory, but there are times when something has been said so many times it can run afoul of the "Dead Horse Rule," in which case we will inform the writer.

RULE 2. While there are always exceptions, a letter can often say what needs to be said in one page or less. Our pages are 8.5 X 11, we use a 10 pt Calibri font; letters that are roughly 800 words fit well within this suggested guideline.

RULE 3. Please limit repetitive mud-slinging to avoid bumping up against Rule 1. Also, in the case of those writing to intentionally discredit a public official or candidate for public office, please provide a link to the source of your allegation if possible. Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths.

Finally, opinions expressed in letters and commentary are those of the authors themselves, and do not reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or editorial staff.

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,
 Montrose Mirror Editor

the Montrose Mirror



Fresh news for busy people

Serving Colorado and Beyond Since 2010!

Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of more than 25,000 across the region. And around the world

Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Harry Switzer

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

For information, advertising opportunities, or to submit content:

Email: Editor@montrosemirror.com

Website: www.montrosemirror.com

Connect with us on social media:

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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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Tea Blend Workshop

Thursday, May 29—6:30pm
Library Meeting Room

Denise Short, the founder of Teas 2 Please, will lead attendees in sampling her handcrafted blends and observing a blooming tea unfurl in hot water. Come learn about tea blends, including the health benefits of various teas & herbs.



Attendees will create their own blackberry mint tea with additional ingredients to mix in! Bring your own mug! Please contact Taylor at tevans@montroselibrary.org or (970) 964-2540 to register for this event.

320 S 2nd, www.montroselibrary.org
Mon-Thurs 10-7, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5,
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MONTROSE REGIONAL
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PUBLIC NOTICES-LEGAL ADS

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Fruit Park Storage and
San Juan Storage
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Montrose, CO 81403

PUBLIC SALE OF CONTENTS IN FOLLOWING UNITS:

SALE DATE 5-31-25

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Montrose, CO 81401
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Sarah Hart
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Montrose, CO 81401
Unit A14
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Rick Kuchler
1119 Normandy Rd
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Steve Garcia
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITY TO AREA BUSINESSES, RANCHES AND FARMS

Dear Editor,

Have a blessed Memorial Day remembering those who sacrificed so much for our freedoms.

Update on the memorial: Lots of news on the Memorial front! After several meetings last week, including sessions with the City of Montrose Colorado Government, Stryker & Company and Montrose County - Government, it seems likely work on the Montrose Veterans Memorial will begin this fall. We would like that "likely" to be earlier, but we are pleased with an announced timeframe because we can say the project soon will be "shovel ready."

The Coalition has discussed this "shovel ready" designation and how important it is to the supporters of the project. We have tribute bricks for individuals and families, and benches for the highest level of support, in-kind donations, etc. The question now is, *Have we offered ample opportunities to support the memorial to area business, ranch and farmer communities?*

With this in mind, we are reaching out and offering a unique opportunity by starting a new fund-raising project--inviting these communities to showcase their businesses and show support for the veteran community.

By donating a minimum of \$500, area business and ag owners will receive a tribute brick with their business name engraved on the brick.

These bricks will be laid in a special area of the memorial set aside for Patriot bricks.

To participate in this fundraiser:

Download the accompanying form and follow the directions or contact Amy at Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans (970) 765-2210, or, If you cannot download the attachment, Amy will email you a copy, or you can stop by the Warrior Center at 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, CO 81401 to pick one up.

Join Horsefly Brewing Co. and BND Batteries (Interstate Batteries)--the first to step up and support the Montrose Veterans Memorial in this new outreach effort.

In the coming weeks members of the MVMC BOD will be visiting local retail stores to answer any questions they may have.

Ranchers and farmers can call Amy with any questions they may have.

Once again, we are grateful for all the support from our Western Slope citizens. Check us out at <https://montrosevmc.us>

Sincerely,

Les Williams

MVMC BOD President

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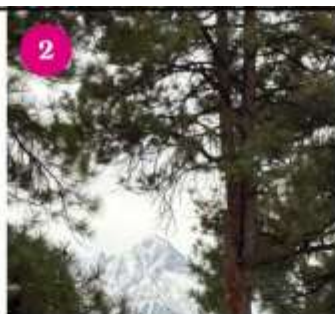
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Visit www.MAPA-co.org to learn about MAPA's Spay & Neuter Voucher Program for lower income families in Montrose County!



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SOM FOOTWEAR UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP *From pg 1*

understand barefoot-feel footwear, care about their team and customers, and make their shoes in the USA--high-quality, product-oriented. Softstar Shoes was founded in 1985. They count more than 30 employees who are directly involved in business decisions. It is a socially and environmentally responsible company.

SOM Footwear introduces new technology and processes to the 40-year-old

leather shoemaker, allowing it to expand its offer with vegan shoes and reach an active gear-oriented clientele.

Bouchard and Marchal regret that they couldn't keep SOM in Montrose or Colorado, but the most important thing was finding new ownership to serve their loyal customers and keep SOM alive. The entrepreneurs plan to stay around and take a

little break from everything to reset properly. Their commercial building at 1006 N. Cascade has two rental units ready for new business tenants.

Bouchard and Marchal can't thank the Montrose community enough for their support all these years, "SOM Footwear was a rich roller-coaster ride, and Montrose was the perfect place to live it."

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN WARRIORS ON MEMORIAL DAY 2025



Never Forget...
MONTROSE--Above, the Graves of fallen heroes decorated in celebration of Memorial Day, at Valley View Cemetery on Sunset Mesa. Our freedoms have been paid for by those who sacrificed so that we could live in peace.
Photo is by B. Switzer.

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Goodwill of Colorado will proudly present a donation check to The Village on San Juan, funded entirely by RoundUp contributions from our generous Montrose shoppers during the store's first 30 days! This special moment celebrates the power of local giving and our commitment to supporting the communities where we live and work.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HERE'S WHAT I LOOK FOR IN DMEA BOARD CANDIDATES

Dear Editor:

Some in our community seem to believe that political party affiliation is the primary factor to consider when deciding which candidate to support for the DMEA board. I find that disconcerting because DMEA is a non-profit, non-partisan, member owned cooperative charged with delivering safe, reliable and affordable power. Here's what I look for in candidates for the board.

1. Why do they want to serve on the board? What makes DMEA's purpose and vision meaningful to them?
2. Do they understand and agree with the responsibilities and duties of being a board member?
3. Are they able and willing to invest the time and effort it takes to be a good board member? Have they ever attended a DMEA board meeting to hear the kinds of decisions they'll be expected to participate in?
4. What knowledge, skills and abilities do they bring to the board? Have they had any previous board experience?
5. What do they see as DMEA's strengths and weaknesses? What, if anything, would they like to see changed?

If you'd like to get to know the candidates better more information is available online at: <https://www.dmea.com/board-candidates>

Sincerely,

Nancy Kelso, Montrose

Save the Date!

Montrose Regional Health Foundation and HopeWest

present a night of Italian fare to benefit

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Fundraising Goal: \$10,000

June 28th @ 5pm

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UTE INDIAN MUSEUM COMMUNITY APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 7TH, 2025 • 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- **10:30 AM - 11:30:** Join **Makho Cheya** (*Winnebago/DaNakota Yankton Sioux*) & learn Native Drumming and Singing – learn the meaning of the drum and songs. Makho will teach you Native words to sing along with him & conclude with an Intertribal Round Dance for all!
- **11:45 - 12:45:** Join **Dan Deuter**, a nationally known artist & storyteller, as he presents the plains buffalo culture. Learn the early history and connections the buffalo has to Native Peoples.
- **1:00 -2:30:** Join **Clint Charter** (*Cheyenne/Mohawk Nation*) & his storytelling of the Horse Culture and how they are interwoven into Native Culture. Learn about certain symbols & why there were placed on horses among the Plains Tribes, with a demonstration with live horses!
- **2:30 - 2:45:** Intertribal Round Dance for all!
- **3:00 - 3:30:** "In the Footsteps of Shavano". A film about Shavano Valley Ute Petroglyphs, explaining the rock art according to Ute elder Clifford Duncan. Narrated by **Larry Cesspooch** (*Uintah & Ouray Reservation*).

ONGOING EVENTS:

- **FREE MUSEUM ADMISSION**
- Native American Arts & Crafts Vendors
- Native Fry Bread
- Museum Gift Shop Specials
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- FREE popsicles & fudgsicles
- Kids Bounce House

FREE EVENT



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Let's connect and discuss how I can help turn your real estate dreams into reality!

contact me



MICHELLE KLIPPERT

BROKER ASSOCIATE

CRS, ABR, GRI, SRES, SFR

Mobile: 970.275.3016

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MichelleKlippertRealtor@gmail.com



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@ 7:30pm

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Songs by

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& Kevin Quinn

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& Adam Watts

Bryan Louiselle

David N. Lawrence &

Faye Greenberg

Jamie Houston

Music Adapted, Arranged

and Produced by

Bryan Louiselle

JUNE 2025

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OUT & ABOUT: LOCAL VENUES

THE ASSOCIATION (IN THE FORMER POTATO GROWERS BUILDING)



Brian Higgs and Maddie welcome patrons to the Meat & Gather Counter at the Association venue (39 West Main Street) in Montrose. Inset-The Porch at the Association is comfortable and spacious. Mirror staff photo.

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LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS

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**\$459,900****2 BR plus office or ADU**

3- 3/4 bathrooms

CONTACT: LESLIE GORE

19702753195



lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com

<https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY ANNOUNCES MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— City of Montrose offices will close in observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 26, 2025. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

Officers will be on duty and responding to calls, but Police Department offices will be closed.

The Black Canyon Golf Course, The Rusty Putter restaurant and the snack bar will be open.

City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Monday, May 26, will instead be served on Tuesday, May 27, and Wednesday, May 28.

Monday customers located south of San Juan Avenue will be served on Tuesday, May 27. Monday customers residing north of San Juan Avenue will be served on Wednesday, May 28.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service on Monday, May 26, will instead be served on Friday, May 30.

Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit www.CityofMontrose.org/Trash

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

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- 3 Bedroom
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Home For Sale!

22 Ryegrass Court
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virtual tour



About The Property :

This home is simply perfect— beautifully maintained and thoughtfully updated throughout. You'll love the waterproof laminate wood-style flooring, new counter tops, and unique kitchen sink. The stainless steel appliances complement the abundance of storage and counter space. The main floor features a guest bathroom and a spacious Primary bedroom with a generous walk-in closet and en-suite bath. The front porch is the ideal spot to relax and enjoy the peace of the quiet cul-de-sac. The private, fenced backyard includes a pergola covered, tiled patio, lush lawn, shrubs, evergreens, and fruit trees, creating a serene space to unwind in comfort. (PS did you notice the secret storage area behind the fence?) The lot's shape offers an expansive and private backyard — perfect for outdoor enjoyment. Come see this flawless home for yourself!

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MCA WOULD TAKE CRITICAL FUNDS FROM OUR ALREADY STRAPPED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Editor:

I oppose the application of Montrose Classical Academy becoming a charter school here in Montrose for many reasons. I will only address a few of them.

On their web page it says that they will offer an education model that emphasizes "critical thinking, character development, and a love of learning." That's no different from the vision that all schools and educators in our school district already have. As a retired educator from this district, it's very offensive to see that written. They are simply duplicating what is already going on in the district, but will be taking critical funds from our already strapped school district for their select group of students.

I understand that they want to use Minga as their educational service provider because they don't want to pay 22% for PERA. But by letting Minga be the employer of the teachers and staff, they will only pay 8% for Social Security. MCA will be a public school so they need to contribute to the PERA retirement system at the same level that MCSD currently does.

Additionally, I understand Minga would be getting control of the staff except for the principal. That means Minga could fire and hire the staff and MCSD will likely lose local control of MCA. Minga would get the money to manage. Again, losing local control. Our school district simply does not have the resources financially to deal with the chaos that this would likely cause.

Teachers employed by our district, even in a charter school, need to be treated as the professionals they are and should be compensated accordingly as well as being held to the same employment standards as all other teachers in the district. Trying to cut corners financially, by using Minga, means that teachers will not be paid a fair wage. By not following MCSD human resources standards, their employment will be precarious at best, to go along with their lower wages.

In case, like me, you are unfamiliar with the group behind this effort, you can google them and see what you find. I just read this shocking article from the Colorado Sun from last year, which deals with all the drama the Douglas County School District has gone through with this "Classical Academy" group. Do you really want to deal with a mess like this? Can we afford for an unstable group like this to drain our school district?

<https://coloradosun.com/2024/01/08/colorado-charter-schools-ascent-classical-academies/>

Another concerning issue is that they are proposing to use a facility called the Milestone Building. This facility will be shared with other businesses, which causes safety concerns with clients and others in contact with students in shared public areas such as elevators and halls. This sounds like a huge liability issue for our district. How can we open our school district up to such dangers? Currently, our district has

had to spend SO much money upgrading security in our current buildings. How can we allow this?

Remodeling and creation of playgrounds, classes, kitchen, gym, common space would be VERY expensive as well. There is simply NO money to support any of this.

What these people need is their own private school. If they don't want to do that then they need to get productively involved with the school district in creating something like a magnet school to encompass some of their ideas.

I hope the school board does not put this burden on our school district and does not take limited funds away from our current schools whose staff already have the same vision for students of "developing critical thinking, character development, and a love of learning" in all students. The difference is, current MCSD staff and schools have to work day to day with many VERY challenging students, unlike the select group of students that are likely to go to this school.

I encourage the school board to tell MCA that they need to take their ideas and become part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Please come to the board meeting on Tuesday to express to the board the importance of protecting our very limited public funds.

Thank you,

Jill Haga

Retired MCSD Educator

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

NOT WILLING TO PAY FOR MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Editor:

I attended the Montrose RE1J school board meeting last night and listened to a presentation by the Montrose Classical Academy Charter School. Very well prepared and researched.

Bottom line for me, I am not willing to pay for their version of public education. I am willing to pay for a new High School which we desperately need and for a curriculum that requires 2 years of government and civics education.

Graduates need a basic education and that includes understanding how a government works and how they can and should participate. A citizen lives with a form of government their entire life - ours or another form of government. Understanding that is more important to me than learning Latin at taxpayers' expense.

Jo Clugg, Montrose



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CITY COUNCIL: CONSTITUENTS WEIGH IN *From pg 1*

of Montrose Sewer Service Area, and City of Montrose Water Service Area. *Annexation of this property will allow for connection to City utilities. An Annexation Agreement is required...*" The applicant for the Leonard Farms Sketch Plan is Ogden Views, LLC.

Cliff Faurer was first to speak. "...I live on Waterfall Drive...as you know a sketch plan was submitted for the new Leonard Farms Subdivision and reviewed and discussed by the City of Montrose Planning Commission on April 9, 2025. The proposal consists of 547 single family residential lots, up to 1,296 multi-family or townhouse units, some potential commercial development, and some public parkland. "This subdivision will put 5,000+ residents onto what are currently sheep grazing fields...to understand the scale of Leonard farms we can use the Brown Ranch Subdivision plan from 2003 as a point of reference, which proposed 1,000 lots on 500 acres. Leonard Farms plans nearly 2,000 lots and units on 264 acres—nearly twice the residents on half the acreage. This is big city density in the suburbs of Montrose...how can all of us ensure that the Leonard Farms Subdivision will be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, that it will align with the County Master Plan, and will comply with all subdivision, zoning and building regulations...and to ensure that the changes to the landscape do not result in a loss of the qualities that make Montrose Montrose...help us to ensure that the largest subdivision in Montrose history, four times the density of Brown Ranch, honors the City of Montrose Comprehensive Plan..."

Kellie Koedel spoke next, "I too am a resident...off Otter Road. I am in opposition of the Leonard Farms Subdivision and reclassification of Otter Road to a collector road.

"I have an electrical engineering degree from UC Davis," Koedel said. "I have been in the road construction industry for 19 years. I have published six articles, four in engineering society publications that are national...two of those were public safety for roadway design...I am wondering if the

traffic impact study has been done for the proposed changes to make Otter a collector road...I am curious if those plans also focus on the intersection at Woodgate as well as...the interchange at Hwy 550. A traffic impact study will show if the current infrastructure can support the increased load expected from more volume expected from such high density. It seems reasonable that as a collector road the 550 Interchange will, at a minimum, need an acceleration and deceleration lane in northbound traffic as well as a receiving lane of southbound traffic, none of which are there currently...I can't see that there is room for pedestrian or bike traffic with this expansion...I just don't see how it can be done safely...these seemingly benign decisions have big consequences. Accidents do happen, whether fatal or not..."

Walter Marsh spoke, discussing the house he bought in Montrose last year that has water in the crawl space. "...Research has shown that a number of houses have been built that shouldn't have been built...if you want to build a house, you do a soil test...either follow the instructions or don't build at all...to pass the problem to the customer like me and many others...now I need the help financially to fix the problem. It costs quite a bit to fix it...they should never build those houses, and they're still building them..."

"I think there's some crime down here," Marsh said. "They should never be built unless inspected...it should be built correctly, then it's ok—otherwise it's a doghouse, and I live in one of them..."

Rick Stayner addressed the proposed annexation of the Waterfall Canyon pond. "It has been stated that this pond is part of the stormwater mitigation for Waterfall Canyon." Stayner asked who would be responsible for maintaining the system, whether the system was engineered properly, if the city was involved with the design, and whether the system had been inspected and approved by a government. "...this tract of land, once annexed to the city and under the control of the developer, can be—according to the Waterfall Canyon HOA governing documents—can

be quit-claimed to the HOA. This makes it the responsibility of the HOA to maintain the pond. Just having a pond of this size represents a great financial burden on Waterfall Canyon homeowners; liability insurance of course is included in that."

The developer has recently enlarged the pond, Stayner said, and has been moving, sifting, and sorting material. "Trucks are being loaded and moving quantities of this material daily. There is still a large quantity of this material down there. It seems to me that this enlarged pond was never a part of the original stormwater pond for this development...we do not want to have the same problems that befell the people over in Otter Pond."

Joe Sallette also expressed opposition to the proposed subdivision, "With this subdivision going forward in its current configuration, nobody really benefits from this except one individual, and this is the developer...it's gonna cost big...this is absolutely incompatible with the nature of this area...everybody in this quadrant...is going to be impacted..."

Linda Zeman spoke, to raise concerns about Montrose becoming a sanctuary city. She questioned why Council would say the Pledge of Allegiance, "...We begin every meeting by pledging allegiance to our flag and the republic for which it stands, and then you disregard the laws of this great country of ours by refusing to stand for our constitution which is the supreme law of the land...we have a lawful way to come into this country. Almost a year ago this building was standing-room-only of citizens who had gathered here demanding you support a resolution to declare Montrose a non-sanctuary city...and I'm saddened to say that your refusal to recognize the overwhelming cry of the Citizens of Montrose, and thereby incentivizing illegal aliens and creating obstacles for federal law enforcement to do their job...clearly demonstrates your unwillingness to uphold the laws of this country and protect the citizens of this city..."

Next to speak was John Brown. "I've been coming to you since March of last year, asking...that we have a resolution to

CITY COUNCIL: CONSTITUENTS WEIGH IN *From previous pg*

become non-sanctuary...the only thing that I've ever heard was a member of council made a statement to the *Montrose Daily Press* that we'll never have that vote again...if there is a regulation, bring it out...we're now seeing with the new administration in the federal government where they're...restricting funds into different communities that are not following federal regulations...our chief of police and the sheriff are saying that they will not participate unless there's a person that they have that has committed a crime, and they find out that that person is wanted by ICE, then they will only respond. That's like allowing the fox to watch the henhouse and when the last chicken's gone, whose fault is it..."

Dona Swala raised concerns about the proposed Leonard Farms Subdivision. "...do we really need housing for another 5,000 people on this 264 acres of land...the amount of land (19.5 acres) set aside for open space--this seems wholly inadequate considering the projected population of the subdivision. Who will be responsible if the proposed retention ponds fail? According to the developer this will be handled by the HOA. I contend that the developer should be responsible until at least 70 percent of the lots are sold, as realistically there will not be enough members in this HOA to cover such a large expenditure in the event of failure."

Swala also spoke about increased traffic on Otter and Woodgate roads, which are already unsafe, she said. "...Yesterday I was going to pick up my grandson from high school, there were eight cars in the traffic lane. I had to drive in the opposing traffic lane to get around them...how can this be safe for people. Some time...there's going to be a bad accident in that road and then what are we going to do, all say we're sorry?"

John Canell spoke, "Why would you want to annex the northwest gravel pond? Have any of you visited the site? To call this an amenity is a joke...late 2003 the developer needed more gravel for his projects outside of Waterfall Canyon. He began a large excavation project next to

the 2.5 acre pond that was designated for stormwater management in the 2022 preliminary plat, Cannell said. "As he neared completion, he broke down the earthen dam separating the two ponds.

"Just like magic, the large gravel pond became part of the stormwater management plan...there are no permits or inspections on the gravel pond. The preliminary plat has labeled this an infiltration pond.

"Locating this pond in a flood zone creates a number of problems...right now all the liability...lies with Montrose County and the developer. Why would the city council want to take on this risk..."

Laurie Cannell asked whether council had visited the area, and about any research council has done, and whether they viewed the gravel pond as an amenity. "...I do not see it as an amenity to the Waterfall Canyon area or the City of Montrose."

The pond is 30 feet deep, has steep rocky sides lined with broken concrete and construction materials, and is always full, Cannell said.

Dr. Gayle Frazzetta spoke, saying she was there to comment about Leonard Farm development, "...I would also like to add that by definition if you have not declared yourself a sanctuary city, you are not a sanctuary city...immigrants are actually less likely than American citizens to commit any crimes. So you're more likely to be a violent crime person, rapist, or murderer if you're an American-born citizen than an immigrant. Immigrants are probably 40 percent less likely to be arrested and charged with crimes compared to American citizens. Some actual stats to keep in mind.

"And also, we're not really following the Constitution anymore so no need to worry about that."

Frazzetta went on to say that Leonard Farms is a reasonable proposition with contingencies in place. "There's way too much volume right now...the only way to really access that would be over the arroyo...that should be at the cost of the developer, not the city...Otter Road is in no way, shape, or form capable of han-

dling any more traffic...it is not safe....there is no way to increase the volume safely without some better planning and traffic mitigation...is it really safe that you're going to be moving kids and traffic over an arroyo...the plan could move forward if it had the appropriate contingency issues including six foot sidewalks and not four foot sidewalks..."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2025 special City Council meeting and the May 6, 2025, regular City Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2682 - SECOND READING

Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2682 on second reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lot 11 of the Richards Subdivision Final Plat Filing No. 5 from B-3, General Commercial District to P, Public District.

BEAR CREEK SUBDIVISION FILING NO. 9A FINAL PLAT

Councilor J. David Reed recused himself from consideration of the Bear Creek Subdivision Filing No. 9A Final Plat. The remaining councilors voted to approve the Bear Creek Subdivision Filing No. 9A Final Plat to create 18 residential lots and associated easements and rights-of-way.

BROWN RANCH SUBDIVISION FILING NO. 9 FINAL PLAT

Council voted unanimously to approve the Brown Ranch Subdivision Filing No. 9 Final Plat, expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinances and Municipal Code provisions are met and that the applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to the execution of the Final Plat.

RESOLUTION 2025-04

Council considered Resolution 2025-04, authorizing the Community Development Department to pursue an Energy Impact Assistance Fund Administrative grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to fund a technical update to the Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Code update.

Cliff Faurer spoke, "Clearly the Comprehensive Plan means something to the leadership, management, and staff of the City of Montrose. It means something to

CITY COUNCIL: CONSTITUENTS WEIGH IN *From previous pg*

the residents of Montrose too...we are here to ask that Montrose residents be involved in the process of revising the Comprehensive Plan, as we have questions. Will the City Comprehensive Plan be aligned with the County Master Plan? There are quite a few parcels that reside within the City's three-mile development area, and it's not clear how they will be zoned when they're annexed into the city. Will the annexation and zoning take into consideration the zoning of adjacent neighborhoods, something that doesn't seem to have happened with the proposed Leonard Farms Subdivision? Will the US 550 Access Plan Control Plan be integrated into the strategic growth revisions...how will revisions to the plan align with the City of Montrose Housing Needs Assessment—with a growth rate of 323 new residents moving into Montrose each year, how much housing is needed, and what type.

"What infrastructure will be required to support the new residents, and will it provide for a diversity of transportation options...a lot has changed in Montrose since the Comprehensive Plan was released in June of 2021...can we be assured that the plan will be honored? If the

proposed Leonard Farms Subdivisions is a manifestation of the comprehensive plan, then something's not working...it will put 5,000 to 8,000 residents on 265 acres of sheep pastures. Is that the future we want for ourselves? Do we want to mirror the Roaring Fork Valley between Glenwood Springs and Aspen..."

Mayor Frank said, "Those are some good questions we'll certainly take that into consideration."

Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2025-04.

PUBLIC WORKS IRRIGATION RELOCATION AND PRELIMINARY SITE FILL CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

Council voted to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$1,275,000 to Williams Construction's Public Works Irrigation Relocation and Preliminary Site Fill Contract for placement of additional fill.

STAFF REPORTS

City Sales Tax Manager Leeanna Whittaker presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report; City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg delivered the First Quarter Budget Review. "...With just 25 percent of the year completed, we're well on our way to having some extra funding for some of the amenities in Montrose,"

Wittenberg said.

Mayor David Frank said that the city is tracking right at projected amounts on pretty much every budget item. Five new police officers were sworn in to the Montrose Police Department prior to the meeting, he said.

"...The quality of candidates and the quality of applicants that we've gotten over the last year has just risen dramatically. We are raising the bar for law enforcement on the Western Slope."

Frank also congratulated new Deputy Police Chief Larry Witte for his promotion. "...Montrose's Police Department is regarded as the platinum standard all across the state..." Frank said.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said, "...I have been driving around town looking at stuff and I'm seeing whole blocks of streets with new curb, gutter, sidewalks, and other areas that are getting partial new curb, gutter, sidewalk.

"It really makes me happy to see that...I hope that next year's budget increases that amount substantially so that we can get even more of that stuff done. Thank you."

With no further business, Mayor Frank adjourned the meeting.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GOLFING FOR THE CURE



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On May 3rd, the Black Canyon Bosom Buddies Golf Tournament was held. It was a beautiful day and the event raised \$5,049 for Bosom Buddies of Southwest Colorado. The proceeds stay here and help those affected by breast cancer with emotional, financial, education scholarships, counseling, and wigs/prostheses support. Courtesy photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LEAVE PARTISANSHIP OUT OF THE DMEA ELECTION

Editor:

I recently saw a campaign sign near the south City Market which stated, "Vote Republican for the DMEA Election." I had to laugh to myself because of where voting Republican has gotten us recently. We now have two male Republican Montrose County commissioners who are making public spectacles of themselves possibly because they really don't know how to run a county government. We also have a corrupt president in the White House (aka the luxury plane from Qatar) who is only in his position to advance his own personal gain by becoming an authoritative king.

We need to leave partisanship out of the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) election and elect the people who will keep DMEA moving in a positive direction forward. It does not matter which affiliation letter is behind their name on the county register. I strongly urge you to vote for Jacob Gray, Emily Sanchez, and Jock Fleming who understand how DMEA works and the positive direction in which DMEA is going.

Connie Pittenger, Montrose

WAVING THE FLAG IN MONTROSE: A CALL FOR UNITY AMID DIVISION

Editor:

On May 17, 2025, I stood at the corner of Main and Townsend in Montrose, waving the American flag in a quiet gesture of gratitude for the country I served during two tours in the United States Air Force. The response was a striking mix of unity and division. Most passersby were supportive, honking their horns and waving enthusiastically to our small group, their smiles reflecting pride in the Stars and Stripes. Yet, a vocal minority shocked me, shouting profanities and making obscene gestures, treating the flag as a symbol of oppression rather than a beacon of freedom. This contrast in our Montrose community mirrors a growing sentiment across Colorado and the nation, where the flag has become both a rallying point and a source of division and resentment.

Nationally, the American flag is caught in cultural and political divides. A 2020 Pew Research Center survey found that 72 percent of Americans view the flag as a symbol of national pride, while nearly 20 percent associate it with specific political ideologies or historical grievances. Posts on X amplify this polarization, ranging from celebrations of the flag as sacred to criticisms of it as a reminder of systemic flaws. This tension fuels protests and confrontations at public events, from rural festivals to urban rallies, revealing a nation grappling with its identity. For me, the flag has always represented freedom and liberty, a sentiment echoed in Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA": "The

flag still stands for freedom, and they can't take that away."

In Colorado, this national divide takes on a distinct character, and in Montrose, it feels deeply personal. At local events like last year's County Fair, conversations revealed a split between those who see the flag as a tribute to sacrifices by veterans, ranchers, and first responders, and those who view it as co-opted by partisan agendas. A fair booth displaying American and Colorado flags drew both heartfelt salutes and pointed glares, a snapshot of our community's complex mood. Montrose's history of rugged individualism, from its ranching roots to its tight-knit community spirit, makes the disdain from some particularly jarring. When did patriotism, once a shared value in our Western Slope town, become a provocation? That day on the street corner, the hostility hit early. As my friend and I set up a trailer customized with various flags, including multiple American flags and military banners honoring each branch, an individual in a large RAM truck shouted a vulgar insult. I was stunned.

The flag I waved, the American Flag, symbolizes the country that gave me opportunities, the nation I swore to defend, and the Constitutional ideals of liberty, justice, and opportunity that have drawn millions to our shores. To many around the world, the Stars and Stripes remains a beacon of freedom, hoisted at embassies and cherished by those yearning for American leadership. The honks and waves from

most passersby that day showed that many in Montrose, from downtown shop owners to rural farmers, still feel this pride. Yet the scorn from a few, who enjoy the flag's freedoms, signals a troubling divide in Colorado and beyond.

Montrose and the nation are not without flaws. We must confront our mistakes with courage and honesty. But the flag is not an endorsement of every policy or action. It is a symbol of our collective aspiration to be better, to uphold freedom and justice for all. The support I saw from most passersby gives me hope that this aspiration endures in Montrose's diverse community. Yet the hostility from a minority underscores the work ahead.

As with many issues in our great country, we stand at a crossroads. The flag belongs to every American—to Montrose's ranchers, teachers, veterans, and small-business owners, just as it belongs to every citizen across Colorado and this nation. The honks and waves I received show that many in our town still see it as a unifying symbol. Let us build on that spirit through community dialogues that foster understanding. We must wave the flag, both the Stars and Stripes and Colorado's blue, white, and gold banner, not as a challenge, but as a reminder of the shared values that bind us. Only then can we bridge the divides that threaten to unravel our Montrose community, our state, and our country.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Citizen-Montrose, CO



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Located in the highly sought-after Brown Ranch subdivision, this thoughtfully designed home maximizes interior space while offering a generously sized backyard. The open-concept floor plan features a split-bedroom layout, providing ample room in the common area along with large windows to fill the home with natural light, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Lovingly crafted, the builder brings a personal commitment to quality and detail in every corner of this exceptional home.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH WELCOMES SPINE SURGEON DR. RASHEED ABIOLA

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose and surrounding communities will soon have access to advanced spine care close to home, as board-certified spine surgeon Dr. Rasheed Abiola looks forward to joining the MRH Spine and Pain Center on June 9, 2025.

"Dr. Abiola's arrival at Montrose Regional Health is a huge milestone for our Spine and Pain Center," said Jeff Mengenhäusen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. "No one should have to leave their community to get world-class spine and pain care. With Dr. Abiola and our exceptional team, patients can now access that expertise right here in Montrose."

Dr. Abiola has 9 years of experience in the field of spine surgery, with expertise in minimally invasive, motion-preserving, robotic, and complex spine surgeries designed to achieve outstanding results for

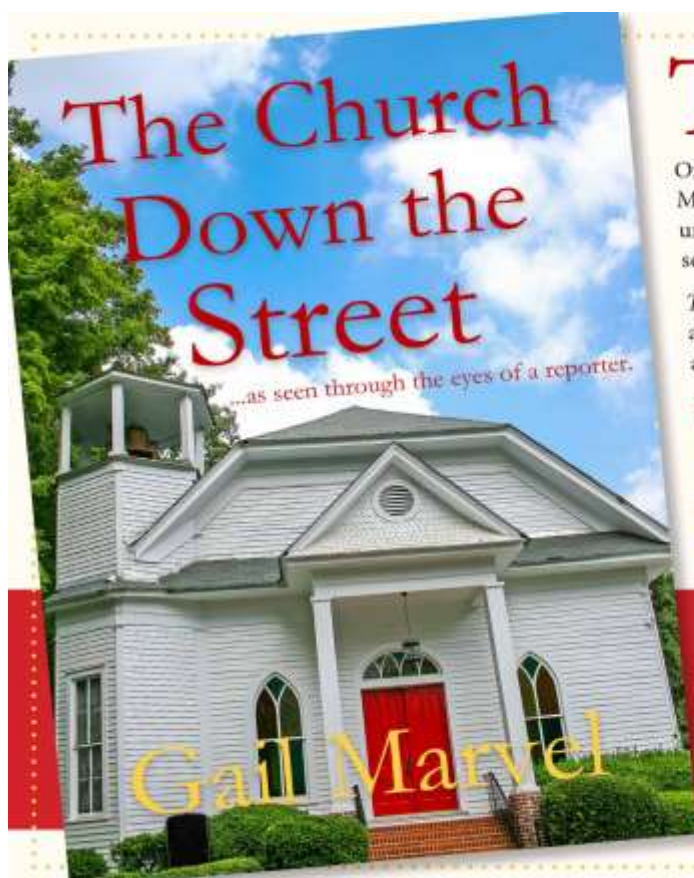
patients. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from The Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University in Chicago, Illinois, and is board certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery (ABOS). He completed his Orthopedic Spine Surgery Fellowship at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah and his Orthopedic Surgery Residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Abiola's specialized training will help more patients in Western Colorado find relief from back pain, spine injuries, and degenerative conditions. Before transferring to the MRH Spine & Pain Center, Dr. Abiola practiced as an orthopedic spine surgeon at Mendelson Kornblum Orthopedics at Synergy Health Partners, located in Troy, Michigan. "The majority of spine conditions can be treated without surgery," Dr. Abiola said. "My goal is to thoroughly ex-

plore all non-surgical options and only consider surgery when those options have been fully exhausted."

Let our experts problem-solve your pain and help you return to the life you want. The Spine and Pain Center can be found on the second floor of Montrose Regional Health's Ambulatory Care Center, located at 3330 S. Rio Grande Ave. Call (970) 252-2584 today to schedule an appointment with Dr. Abiola.



Dr. Rasheed Abiola.
MRH Courtesy photo.



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MORE WINNING!

Editor:

Moody's Analytics downgraded the USA's credit rating after the Committee for a Responsible Budget calculated that the latest Trump tax cuts will add another \$2,500,000,000 to our national debt. The cuts will slash aid for the working class, and further enrich Trump's actual clients: the uber wealthy. The credit downgrade, and ridiculous tariffs, brings us closer to the world ditching the Dollar as the world's reserve currency, which will have a devastating effect on our economy.

Trump travelled to the Middle East to attend to the nation's foreign policy business ... but only after his family took care of their own personal business interests there. Trump accepted a \$400,000,000 replacement for Air Force 1 from Qatar, in DIRECT violation of the Constitution. Eric Trump finalized the deal for a new 80 story Trump Tower in Dubai. The Trump's have a golf course there as well. Millions in travel and security expenses for this private business are paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

Last week, Trump met with South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa, who told Trump "I'm sorry I don't have a plane to give you"; to which Trump replied "I wish you did; I'd take it". In Saudi Arabia, Trump was greeted with great fanfare and adulation by Mohammed Bin Salman (MBS), who commissioned a special mobile McDonald's to accompany his guest wherever he goes while in the country. These two events sound like they came out of an SNL skit; but, sadly, they are real. The reader may recall MBS as the leader who ordered, and had carried out, the murder and dismemberment of Washington Post Reporter Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi Embassy in Turkey; and had his body parts shipped out via diplomatic courier, in order to hide the evidence. Trump is the only leader who admires and coddles dictators like MBS, Putin, Kim Jong Un, Bukele, and others ... who jail and murder their opponents, so he can be powerful like them.

Meanwhile, back here at home, the man who increased his profit margins in the early years by cheating subcontractors, and slapping his name on everything from

golden sneakers to a fake university, has finally found the perfect scam: Crypto.

Trump 45 proclaimed "I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, which are not money, and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated Crypto Assets can facilitate unlawful behavior, including drug trade and other illegal activity" ... until he realized that he could use these very traits of crypto to enrich himself. Now, he's all in!

Trump crypto scams implemented since the 2024 election: Trump coin, Melania coin, the USD1 coin. The latter is managed by Trump's World Liberty Financial, and was established with \$2,000,000,000 from (you guessed it), the UAE! WLF is also buying into the Binance crypto exchange. When Trump regained the presidency he directed the SEC to get federal courts to suspend its legal action against Binance and Tron founder Justin Sun for civil fraud; a clear case of tit-for-tat corruption. Sun was found to have engaged in criminal money laundering.

Finally, the top 220 buyers of the Trump bitcoin were invited to a gala dinner last week at his golf course in Sterling Virginia to meet the Big Man himself! One buyer is a trucking company that wants tariffs reduced on their business with Mexico. This week, the CEO of Freight Technologies Inc. stated that buying Trump coin would be "an effective way to advocate for fair, balanced and free trade between Mexico and the U.S.". Once again ... this is unprecedented corruption right out in the open; all you need to play is a whole bunch of cash! All of these scams have reportedly netted Trump hundreds of millions of dollars since he took office; and the numbers are ballooning fast. So much for the interests of the American worker! These crypto currencies are the perfect avenue for bribery: invest in my bitcoin, and regulations and investigations will go away, and your business will prosper!

His followers excuse this unprecedented corruption as business acumen on the part of Trump; but the Founding Fathers warned against this type of corruption, and criminalized it! The Emoluments Clause, found in Article I, Section 9, pro-

hibits federal officeholders from accepting gifts, payments, or titles from foreign states without the consent of Congress. Trump has been skirting, subverting, and violating this, and other laws, getting richer all the time, for his entire tenure as president. Those still supporting him are facilitating his direct subversion of the United States Constitution.

Those proclaiming Trump's business "smarts", need to ask themselves: "At what point do Trump's spectacular levels of gift become too blatant for me to continue proclaiming his greatness?" Everything outlined previously is incontestably true ... it's all out in the open; with the exception of the identities of unnamed people, companies, and companies bribing him through his crypto scams, which are kept secret.

Donald Trump's entire career has consisted of schemes meant to rip off his constituents in order to make money; all of the time insisting that he is being victimized by "elites", and the government he now leads. The presidency is simply his means of mining wealth and power ... and staying out of prison. Because he always has to be "the GOAT", his goal is to replace Musk as the world's richest man. Sadly, he has a lot of "marks" in red state America cheering him on and sending him money, and a Republican Congress too cowardly to hold him accountable. To his ardent followers, he's a "fighter"; and, honestly, he is! The trouble is: he fights only for himself and his cronies. He pretends to care about the working class; while delivering the goods for the billionaire class.

The rest of the world sees the situation for what it truly is: the downfall of the greatest democracy that ever existed, with a felonious huckster in charge of a government that had heretofore been the envy of the world.

My hope is that an increasing majority of citizens will see through all of the scams, and make up for Congress' lack of spine, before Trumpism completes the destruction of the system of government that, despite minor faults, has kept us safe and prosperous since the Civil War.

David Congour, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S TIME TO COME BACK TOGETHER AGAIN AND BRING CHANGE TO OUR CITY

Dear editor,

Where is your anger?

What happened to your outrage?

Where have you been when you were needed to be counted?

Open letter to the hundreds of concerned citizens who attended the city council meeting back in March of last year. You showed up in force to the point that the chambers were so full that the city directed many of you to alternate locations. Over a hundred concerned citizens spoke asking the city council to make Montrose a non-sanctuary city. When they did not have the vote results they were looking for the city council declared a closed executive meeting and sent all of us packing. When they finally came out of that meeting the proposal was dropped without a public decision. To make matters

even worse the Mayor (J. David Reed) decided that the topic would not be voted on again. I later saw an article in the Montrose Press that stated Montrose was already a non-sanctuary city due to other legislation that has not been produced publicly to date. Dave Frank is now the new Mayor and with that comes another opportunity to get the city council to make Montrose a non-sanctuary city. I personally and alone have attended many council meetings asking the council to vote or make a ballot measure making Montrose non-sanctuary. I am tired but not discouraged and I will keep on asking to make Montrose a non-sanctuary city. If some/all of you who were part of that meeting still believe Montrose should be non-sanctuary join me at the first city council meeting on June 3rd at 6pm. Make the

chambers over crowded again. Be prepared to make at least a simple statement on how you feel about this issue. Join me in encouraging the city to take the necessary steps to make Montrose non-sanctuary.

Just one person standing before the city council without anyone else in the chambers saying WE want Montrose to be non-sanctuary just doesn't present much of a picture of unity.

If you are still interested or you are new and want to be a part of the solution please text or voicemail to 970-892-8638 or send an email to info@montroseDOGE.org. Your information will not be shared with anyone else. It's time to come back together again and bring change to our city.

John Brown, Montrose



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

Where Wallflowers Grow is available online at **Amazon.com** and **wingedpublications.com**.





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEXT SESSION OF BEGINNING SQUARE DANCE STARTS MAY 29 IN DELTA

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Learn today's Square Dance! It's the Official Folk Dance of the State of Colorado!


The next session of "Beginning Square Dance" will start on Thursday, May 29, 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Delta First Baptist Church Gymnasium, 1250

Pioneer Rd., in Delta.

No experience necessary! No Dance Partner required! No special outfit needed! Square dancing is fun, and offers good physical exercise, friendship, and stress relief! It's a great Family activity! No age requirement or age limit! As we say, "Square Dancing is Friendship Set to Mu-


sic!

Hurry and attend soon! This class will be open to new dancers on Thursdays, May 29, June 5 and 12, only. The fee is just \$5 per lesson, per person, or save money with an investment of \$60 for 15 lessons! For more information, please contact Ervin or Nancy Wyatt at 970.596.4252.



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Check us out on   

Holding Public officials of Montrose, CO Accountable to "We the People"

Did you know?

Ladies and Gentlemen, lend us your ears!

Do you live outside the Montrose City Limits and order items from **e-tailers**? You may be paying City Tax?

If so, **Check your receipts** from your online order from e-tailers such as Amazon, Target, Nordstrom, etc... You may be paying **City Sales Tax** that you are entitled a refund by the City of Montrose.

If your Tax line on those receipts say you are paying more than 4.65%...

Take yourself down to Montrose City Hall and ask for your refund! You are entitled to it, but they do not advertise it!

It is YOUR MONEY, NOT THEIRS!

Butterflies & Unicorns

As our elected City Council soon endorses, soon to be **\$100,000,000 (YES \$100 MILLION)** more in taxpayer debt, so also do they endorse the

"Butterflies and Unicorns"

Great Facade on the new and improved **\$6,000,000+ City Hall**.

Pomp and Circumstance! We'll need a photo op under the wall art!! It's about to be a beautiful thing!

Who needs the amazing beauty surrounding Montrose when tourists can photo op on the southwest side of City Hall! For a mere \$50,000 (already budgeted), you may have an opportunity of a lifetime if your entry is **chosen by Bill Bell and Associates!!**

Why spend around \$10,000 when we can celebrate \$50,000 for "Butterflies and Unicorns"?

We wholly support art in Montrose, as beautifully appropriate...blah, blah, blah...

When our elected officials pose to publicly celebrate their great works, maybe jot down the street to the City Market or Safeway parking lot to witness those living day by day, paying food tax on life's essentials, glamorously collected by the city to fund the Great Facade!

Your future vote will matter. Tax and spend?

Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. is a non-partisan community watchdog group reporting on things that raise eyebrows in the City and County of Montrose, CO's government fiscal expenditures and other questionable actions, holding our public officials accountable to We the People. Join our efforts...



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GEORGE SIBLEY WINS 12TH ANNUAL KAREN CHAMBERLAIN AWARD

Special to the Mirror

CRESTED BUTTE: Long-time professor, community organizer, poet, actor, author, editor, freelance writer, water ace and festival host George Sibley of Gunnison was awarded the 12th annual Karen Chamberlain Award for Lifetime Achievement in Colorado Poetry at the Mountain Words Festival in Crested Butte May 22nd.

"George's contributions to the Gunnison community and the wider Western Slope has not been limited to poetry, but has also brought great benefit to the political, social and environmental well-being of our mountain home," noted Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes. "We were honored to celebrate him and his invaluable work at the Mountain Words Festival this year." The Chamberlain literary honoring has been a collaboration of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program and Crested Butte's Mountain Words Festival for the last several years.

Keeping track of all that George has been involved in in the region is a huge task. Let's begin in 1969 with Crested Butte's end-of-winter 'Flauschink' Festival that he helped start, promoting continuity between the residual European immigrant culture and the oncoming 'New West' cul-

ture. It's still going after 55 years.

In 1971, it was the Crested Butte Art Festival, still going; in 1972, the Crested Butte Mountain Theater, still going; in 1978, the Crawford summer melodrama, still going, and a three-volume history, *Longhorns and Short Tales*, still available; in 1981, a Centennial Pageant for Hotchkiss and the North Fork Valley; in 1988, while teaching at Western State College, George wrote and acted in the valley's first 'Sonofagunn' -- an annual play taking a humorous look at what everyone was taking seriously in the valley, with a promise to find a role for everyone who wanted to participate,

George serving as principal writer for the first 15 years, still going; in 1989, created the first Headwaters Conference, drawing together issues and speakers from the three principle cultures of the mountainous region -- Indigenous, Chicano, and Anglo -- where the Gourd Circle became the standard final event, still going (if limited to student participation these days); and in 1995, produced the first *Gunnison Valley Journal* -- a collection of original stories, essays, poetry and images by and for the people of the valley, 12 issues later still going, with the last issue edited by George and his partner Maryo Gard Ewell



At right, George Sibley, Winner of the 12th annual Karen Chamberlain Award for Lifetime Achievement in Colorado Poetry, with Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes (left). Courtesy photo.

on the subject of *Community*.

And those outstanding achievements don't even touch his poems, novel, essays, columns and articles, including a 400-page definitive history of Colorado River development within the Western half of the state, nor his early editing of Crested Butte's local newspaper. The term "renaissance man" gets bandied about a lot as an encomium, but in George's case it's well-deserved. For more information on George and Maryo's work, visit <gard-sibley.org/george-sibley

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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CALIFORNIA'S FORCED FISCAL RECKONING VS. COLORADO'S LEFTIST SPIRAL

Editor:

California, long a symbol of progressive excess, is abruptly halting one of its most unsustainable programs: free healthcare for criminal illegal aliens. On May 14, 2025, the California Department of Finance unveiled a \$322 billion budget proposal that scales back Medi-Cal coverage for criminal illegal aliens, a decision driven by a projected \$12 billion deficit. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. clarified the reason during a congressional hearing: *"We announced a rule yesterday: we're not going to pay illegal aliens anymore. And guess what Gavin Newsom did this morning? He said; 'we're going to take all the illegal aliens off the California Medicaid rolls.'"* This isn't an ideological shift; it's a direct response to a new federal law cutting funds that previously propped up California's program. The state's healthcare costs, now \$9.5 billion annually (\$3 billion over last year's estimates), have surged due to higher enrollment and rising expenses, with federal funds, (covering nearly two-thirds of Medi-Cal's \$107.5 billion budget) now at risk under the Trump administration.

This was never about fairness. California's citizens face endless income evaluations and bureaucratic obstacles to access healthcare, while criminal illegal aliens received it freely. Prioritizing non-citizens, particularly criminal illegal aliens, over residents sparked resentment and drained resources. Now, with federal funding cut, California has no choice but to face reality: you can't spend what you don't have.

Meanwhile, Colorado is racing toward the same fiscal disaster California is being forced to escape. Its 2025-26 budget, set at \$43.9 billion, contends with a structural **deficit nearing \$1 billion**. The cause? Unchecked spending and policies echoing California's past mistakes. **Governor Jared Polis** and his leftist allies push a **Socialist agenda** that disregards Colorado's rural roots and fiscal constraints. David White, writing in the [Montrose Mirror on May 5 \(pg.52\)](#), called Colorado *"California on steroids,"* with Denver's leftist elite en-

acting policies that alienate the Western Slope and threaten the state's financial stability.

Colorado's budget crisis mirrors the play-book California is abandoning: favoring ideological giveaways over fiscal responsibility. Medicaid costs, rising faster than anticipated, added \$150 million to last year's budget. Yet Denver doubles down with policies like Senate Bill 25-276, which limits cooperation with federal immigration authorities, reinforcing sanctuary state status despite federal opposition. Thankfully, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) cap is in place, placing SOME forced fiscal restraint otherwise the people of Colorado would be in more trouble than we already are. TABOR must remain in place amidst growing attempts by the legislature to sidestep it, which have failed to date. The political divide between Denver and rural Colorado is glaring. However, Montrose residents face a city sales tax exceeding 9% and soaring property taxes, long time resident of Montrose, Michelle Canon stated; *"I am being taxed out of my home"*. The taxes in Montrose are burdening residents to the breaking point. And it is not ending anytime soon with massive infrastructure projects getting ready to hit both the City and County of Montrose. The City's new Public Works Facility that City Council rubber stamped for City Manager Bill Bell and the previous Board of County Commissioners, (BOCC) massive spending on the renovation of the Historic Courthouse and New North Campus which will hit the taxpayers hard in their wallets soon. But what is the most disturbing is the reckless disregard for the Citizens budget and values.

Western Colorado's values (self-reliance, limited government, constitutional respect) clash with Denver's progressive push. Some even propose Western Colorado aligning with Utah's conservative principles, a drastic but revealing sign of the state's fracture.

Colorado's legislative record over the past decade is a progressive checklist, often ignoring constitutional principles. Gun control, transgender rights, and abortion

protections dominated the 2025 session, sidelining the fiscal crisis. House Bill 25-1312, though diluted, mandates insurance coverage for gender-affirming care, adding costs to a strained system as well as a punch in the gut to Colorado's "rural right". Senate Bill 25-276, awaiting Polis's signature, escalates federal tensions by reinforcing immigration protections. These Denver-driven policies dismiss rural communities more conservative roots, the state's backbone.

Ballot measure #82, exemplifies this disconnect. Driven by environmental activism, it seeks to turn vast areas of Colorado into a wildlife preserve, threatening the hunting, outdoor recreation, and agriculture industries (economic pillars generating billions annually). By prioritizing ideology over practical deer and elk population management, measure #82 risks ecological and economic ruin, ignoring rural Coloradans who depend on these sectors. California's retreat, spurred by the federal funding cut, is a lesson Colorado ignores. RFK Jr.'s statement underscores that Newsom's move was purely financial, not a change of heart. California's deficit, forced pragmatism: Newsom's budget also cuts weight loss drug coverage and redirects climate funds to fire response. Colorado, however, clings to policies inviting collapse. X posts reflect the mood: *"Colorado is gone & done for... the next California,"* one user wrote, decrying the state's leftward shift. Another labeled it *"California on steroids,"* warning of imported, failed ideologies.

Colorado's rural heartland can't sustain Denver's experiment of failed leftist ideas that are labeled by the left as "Fresh Ideas", they simply are not fresh, nor new but failed, stale and old. The state must reject the destructive spread of policies that bankrupted California. It's time to embrace fiscal discipline, constitutional values, and the needs of all Coloradans (not just Denver's elite). If California can be forced to face reality, why can't Colorado?

**Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB",
Citizen-Montrose, CO**



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

VOTERS ARE RECOGNIZING COMMON SENSE AND A BUSINESS-MINDED APPROACH

Editor:

Democrats continue to crack me up. When their actions go from being nonsensical to being totally ludicrous, what more can we do but laugh at them? After years of intentionally covering up Biden's diminished mental capacity, Democrats/the media are working overtime to absolve themselves of responsibility for their massive fraud by pretending the Biden administration somehow tricked them into not knowing. Their latest talking point is that they choose to look forward, not backward. According to a recent Mirror writer: "It is the past. So, stop blaming any past administration. If there is a problem, Trump and the Republicans need to fix it."

How convenient. They don't want anyone to be retrospective, because that would entail seeing how willing the left was to lie to the American people to retain their control of the government. Democrats in Congress clearly knew that Biden wasn't running the government. Biden's cabinet clearly knew. They rarely met and had to submit written questions in advance. Defense Secretary Austin knew no one got punished for the debacle in Afghanistan, so he knew he could go missing for a while without telling Biden and no one would care. Fauci knew he could continually lie to Congress and claim everything was based on science. Secretary Mayorkas knew he could continually lie to Congress about the border being secure, and Democrats wouldn't care. Unelected bureaucrats knew they could steal billions of taxpayer money through their NGOs without consequence. They all knew about the Biden family corruption. Just like they also know that the U.S. government accepting a gift of an airplane from another government is not corruption, unlike the Bidens and Clintons directly accepting multi-million-dollar bribes from our enemies to enrich themselves and their families. Let's not forget that Biden wasn't originally a wealthy man, yet while a "public servant" became wealthy beyond his means. We all know how he did that. It is totally reasonable to expect answers to the question: Who was really running the country during Biden's four-year presidency? – and to want to hold accountable those who perpetrated this treason upon the American people.

Democrats would love to have the theft and waste of billions of taxpayer dollars left in

the past. One example of the scandals Democrats don't want to talk about: In a recent Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, Energy Secretary Wright dropped a bombshell: the Department of Energy handed out a staggering \$93 billion during the final 76 days of the Biden administration, a figure more than double the total outlay for the previous 15 years combined. That time period was between the time President Trump was elected and President Biden left office. At least some of those commitments were made to entities that had no business plan, no financials indicating their solvency or abilities, and no explanation of how their "projects" might work. That's wasn't economic policy, it was a political feeding frenzy disguised as governance and nothing short of a disgraceful scandal. If you got rich for the last twenty years through access to all that ill-gotten cash, you would surely want to maintain the status quo and not kill the golden goose, right? That's just one of thousands of problems Democrats created, which Republicans have dedicated themselves to fixing. Fortunately, while Democrats shout the loudest about "threats to democracy" while simultaneously concealing their actions in the shadows, Trump and his administration operate in full view.

Thank goodness "it is all about Trump now." The opening of his second term has been remarkable and positive, and the polling data proves it. He closed the southern border. While Democrats are busy defending criminal gang members from MS-13 and Tren De Aragua and violent visa-holding students praising Hamas and attacking Jewish students, Trump is putting on a command performance in the Middle East. Trump is building on the Abraham Accords, signed during his first term, which began a powerful realignment: Arab states openly embracing economic and diplomatic ties with Israel. He is now forging a future where the Middle East is defined by commerce, not chaos and war. Trump knows that economic strength and commercial partnerships can deliver stability in ways endless wars and foreign aid never have. With sweeping economic agreements, a different stance on Syria, and a new push for expanded Arab-Israeli normalization, Trump is reshaping the region's political landscape and diminishing Russian and Chinese domination of the region. Those economic agreements include

trillion-dollar investments in the U.S from the Saudis, the UAR, and Qatar. Qatar put in the biggest order for Boeing aircraft ever, totaling \$100 billion. Just as importantly, Trump was received with respect. When Biden visited the region, he was mocked and openly ridiculed on Arab television. How refreshing it is to now have a president who actually leads. South African President Ramaphosa visited both President Biden and President Trump in the White House. Biden just wanted a pleasant conversation over a pudding cup – he told Ramaphosa one of his made-up stories about trying to visit Nelson Mandela in jail. Trump called out South African genocide. He showed Ramaphosa videos of South African political parties leading mobs in singing "Kill the Boer" and of the miles of white crosses planted in memory of murdered white farmers.

Democrats have no compelling alternative vision. They have nothing remotely positive to offer the American people. Their only policy is to resist everything Trump attempts to accomplish for the American people – regardless of the merit of those efforts. Until that changes, my letters will continue to criticize Democrats. As long as they champion big government, high taxes, unfunded spending, and stifling regulations, I will criticize them. As long as they favor open borders, the destruction of reasonably priced energy, and men dominating women's sports, I will criticize them. As long as they facilitate the loss of domestic manufacturing and believe dependence on China is OK, I will criticize them. I will continue to counter as many of their lies as possible. And I will praise Trump when he succeeds and acknowledge when he fails. So far, his 55% approval rating reflects both America's real, growing support for his policies and efforts, and the lack of significant failures. A comprehensive (liberal) national poll (Harvard/Harris) just revealed that 51% of Americans now view the economy as strong. This is the first time in four years that economic sentiment has turned net positive – and it hasn't happened by accident.

Meanwhile, the Democrat congressional polling is the worst in two decades – in the 20% range. Voters are recognizing common sense and a business-minded approach – one the federal government has lacked for decades.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOPEWEST CELEBRATES THE RETIREMENT OF ALICE MCBURNEY, HOSPICE NURSE OF 20 YEARS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—After nearly 20 years of walking HopeWest patients and their families through some of the most challenging moments of their lives, Alice McBurney, hospice nurse, has retired. Alice's contributions to HopeWest and the families she served underscore the value of compassionate care and the impact caregivers have on our community. But for Alice, she was simply "doing what she loved."

"For patients and families to allow me to be part of a very vulnerable and intimate time in life was a great honor," said Alice. "To be able to help them embrace death as a natural part of life, just as birth, is something I've been grateful to be able to do."

Reflecting on her career, Alice says she couldn't imagine having done anything other than nursing. She shared feelings of gratitude for the experiences she's had throughout her career. Alice says that even though there is sadness, providing support and enabling family members to care for loved ones in ways they never thought possible has been fulfilling.

Alice knew nursing was her calling as early as 8 years old. She would tend to her dolls as if they were her patients. By high school, all her courses were intentionally selected in preparation for nursing school. Early in her career, she worked at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California, where she found her niche in Coronary Care.

Later, when she and her husband settled in Montrose, Alice worked in home health until an opportunity with HopeWest came along. As an organization that aligned with her core values and clinical expertise, she knew HopeWest was where she belonged.

"Alice has touched countless lives and has served as an instrumental member of our team for many years," said Kelly Thompson, Program Director at HopeWest. "We will miss her wisdom and spirit."

While Alice admits she often became attached to her patients, she finds peace in knowing they remain in the kind, caring, and capable hands of her HopeWest colleagues.

"Alice's calm and positive manner in teaching and mentoring has helped nurture countless new nurses in our community," said Holly Duensing, Clinical Manager at HopeWest. "She has touched the lives of so many with her guidance and compassion. Though her absence leaves a deep void, her influence and presence continue to live on through those she inspired."

Like Alice, our HopeWest nurses remain dedicated to delivering exceptional care and continue to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk individuals in our communities. May is Nurse's Appreciation Month; thank you to all our RNs who work tirelessly to ensure our patients, and their families are cared for.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE UNITED STATES HAS EVERY RIGHT TO ENFORCE ITS BORDERS AND PRIORITIZE ITS CITIZENS

Editor:

In the United States, the distinction between rights and privileges forms the bedrock of our legal and social framework. Rights are inherent, bestowed upon citizens by virtue of their birthright or naturalization into this nation. Privileges, on the other hand, are conditional permissions granted to non-citizens who enter our country legally. This fundamental difference shapes how we must approach issues like due process, particularly when it comes to illegal aliens.

The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution affirm that certain rights, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, are inalienable for citizens. The Fourteenth Amendment explicitly ties citizenship to those "**born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof**," granting them equal protection and due process under the law. These documents, alongside the Bill of Rights, codify protections like free speech, the right to bear arms, and due process as guarantees for those who are part of the American covenant.

Citizenship, whether acquired by birth or through the rigorous process of naturalization, is the gateway to these inherited rights. They are not gifts bestowed by the government but intrinsic entitlements that come with being an American.

In contrast, privileges are extended to legal non-citizens, those who enter the United States through proper channels, such as visa holders or lawful permanent residents. These privileges include the ability to work, study, or reside in the U.S., but they come with conditions. Legal guests must abide by our laws, and their privileges can be revoked if they violate these standards. A visa overstay, a criminal act, or any breach of U.S. law can lead to deportation or loss of status. The Supreme Court has long recognized the government's authority to regulate immigration and revoke such privileges, as seen in *INS v. Lopez-Mendoza* (1984), where the Court emphasized that immigration enforcement is a matter of national sovereignty, and non-citizens do not enjoy the full scope of consti-

tutional protections. This is not cruelty; it is the logical consequence of a system that prioritizes order and sovereignty.

The notion that illegal aliens, those who have entered or remained in the country without legal authorization, possess an inherent right to due process equivalent to that of citizens is a misinterpretation of our legal framework. When someone enters the U.S. without permission, they are violating federal law, specifically **8 U.S.C. § 1325**, which criminalizes improper entry by an alien, including crossing the border without authorization. Additionally, **8 U.S.C. § 1324** makes it a felony to knowingly harbor, transport, or facilitate the illegal entry of aliens. These violations underscore the unlawful nature of their presence, placing them outside the framework of rights afforded to citizens. While the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments use the term "person" rather than "citizen," suggesting some protections for non-citizens, the Supreme Court has clarified that these protections are limited for those present illegally. In *Shaughnessy v. United States ex rel. Mezei* (1953), the Court held that aliens who have entered the U.S., even illegally, may be entitled to certain procedural protections in deportation proceedings, but these are not equivalent to the full due process rights of citizens. Moreover, in *Reno v. Flores* (1993), Justice Scalia affirmed that aliens are entitled to due process in deportation proceedings, but this process is distinct from criminal due process and is primarily administrative in nature. The assertion that illegal aliens have the same due process rights as citizens ignores these critical distinctions and undermines the concept of sovereignty.

This is not to say that illegal aliens should be treated inhumanely. Basic human dignity demands fair and respectful treatment, but fairness does not equate to granting rights reserved for citizens. Deportation proceedings, as administrative processes, provide limited procedural safeguards, as confirmed in *Department of Homeland Security v. Thuraissigiam* (2020), where the Supreme Court ruled that certain statutory limits on

habeas corpus for non-citizens in expedited removal processes do not violate the Constitution. To argue otherwise risks eroding the value of citizenship itself.

Some argue that extending due process to illegal aliens is a matter of compassion or fairness. However, the Supreme Court has consistently upheld the government's plenary power over immigration, as seen in *Fiallo v. Bell* (1977), where the Court deferred to Congress's authority to set immigration policy. Compassion cannot override the rule of law, nor can it erase the distinction between those who respect our borders and those who violate **8 U.S.C. § 1325 and § 1324**. Granting rights to those who have entered illegally incentivizes further lawbreaking and undermines the legal immigration process that millions follow faithfully. It sends a message that violating our laws will be rewarded with the same protections as those who uphold them.

Recent cases further illustrate this principle. In 2025, the Supreme Court blocked the Trump administration's attempt to use the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to deport certain non-citizens, affirming that even undocumented migrants are entitled to some procedural protections, but **the Court did not equate these with citizen rights**. This ruling underscores that while limited protections may apply, they do not rise to the level of constitutional rights reserved for citizens.

The United States has every right to enforce its borders and prioritize its citizens.

Rights are not universal handouts; they are the inheritance of those who belong to this nation, either by birth or by choice. Privileges, meanwhile, are earned through compliance with our laws and can be revoked when that trust is broken, especially when individuals violate statutes like **8 U.S.C. § 1325 and § 1324**.

To conflate the two is to erode the foundation of our republic. We must uphold this distinction, not out of malice, but out of respect for the rule of law and the value of American citizenship.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Citizen-Montrose, CO

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON CARE FOR OUR VETERANS AND THE PROBLEMS THEY ARE FACING TODAY

Editor:

Last Saturday, Donald Trump gave the commencement address to the cadets at West Point. With this the start of the Memorial Day weekend, he turned the commencement address and what should have been a positive statement towards our future military, into a typical Trump Rally.

The cadets, all in uniform, sat before Trump wearing his red MAGA ball cap and speaking against trans-gender athletes, against diversity, about golf and then discussing "trophy" wives, he then stated that, "I rebuilt the Army, and I rebuilt the military; and we rebuilt it like nobody had ever rebuilt it before."

He forgets what the United States did once we entered WWII in Europe and

after the attack on December 7th. But he tries to claim that it was the United States alone, not our other allies, who won the war. He is still wanting a Victory Day holiday rather than the present holidays that recognize those who gave their lives to protect freedom and democracy (Memorial Day) and to those men and women who served in our armed forces, some severely wounded or who lost their lives (Veterans Day). Celebrating victory, as Trump wants, is negating the sacrifices so many have made. If he goes ahead with a "huge" parade on his 79th birthday he should be held accountable. He instead should be focusing on care for our veterans and the problems they are facing today; whether it be homelessness or medical needs, and spend the money for the

Vets. The man in the MAGA hat immediately left West Point after his rally/commencement speech, and flew to his golf club in New Jersey. A man who avoided the draft by claiming bone spurs. A man who claims Senator John McCain was not a hero because he was captured and endured several years of torture and imprisonment in the Hanoi Hilton in Vietnam. A man who called American soldiers buried in France "suckers and losers".

As a side note, the previous president of the United States, after his speech, stayed behind and shook hands with every single cadet.

*Jon Sering
(former Montrose resident)
Clallam County, WA*



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FEMALE DIES AFTER FALL FROM LEDGE AT LITTLE DOLORES FALLS (AKA THE POTHOLES)

Special to the Mirror

GLADE PARK- On May 24, 2025, at 2:40 p.m., Deputies with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office responded to a hiker that fell off a ledge near the Little Dolores Falls, also known as "the Potholes." Bystanders reported cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was in progress. Upon arrival, Deputies found that the hiker was an elderly female, between 70-80 years old, who was not conscious or breathing. Deputies and Park Rangers took over CPR and attempted other lifesaving measures to aid the patient, but were unsuccessful. The patient was pronounced deceased on scene. Mesa County Search and Rescue responded and carefully retrieved the hiker's body. The Mesa County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the National Parks Rangers, Grand Junction Fire Department, Glade Park Fire Department, Mesa County Search and Rescue, and CareFlight for their aid in this incident. The Mesa County Sheriff's Office would like to remind our community members and visitors of the dangers of Little Dolores Falls (aka "the Potholes").

The area is historically dangerous due to fluctuating water levels, hidden dangers below the surface of the water, and uneven terrain paired with cliff edges and ledges. It is strongly recommended that visitors do not enter the water and stay a safe distance from unsecured ledges. We extend our deepest condolences to the loved ones of the female. The Mesa County Coroner's Office is responsible for determining the cause and manner of death and identity of the victim.



Summer food service program provides **free**, nutritious meals to children 18 years of age and younger at these sites-come see us!

June 2nd – August 1st (No service the week of June 30th - July 4th)

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- Olathe Elementary, 211 Roberts Ave. Olathe, CO 81425
- Northside Elementary, 528 N Uncompahgre, Montrose, CO 81401
- Montrose High School, 600 Selig Ave, Montrose, CO 81401

CAMPS June 2nd - August 1st (Closed June 30th - July 4th)

- Black Canyon Boys & Girls
- Ute Museum
- Centennial Middle School

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For More Information

General questions or need assistance, contact:

- Carri Thompson, 970-252-7918

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Almuerzo (lonche) de 12:00pm a 1:00pm (desayuno para el siguiente día incluido en la bolsa)

- Escuela Primaria Olathe - 211 Roberts Ave. Olathe, CO 81425
- Escuela Primaria Northside - 528 N Uncompahgre Montrose, CO 81401
- Escuela Preparatoria Montrose - 600 Selig Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

CAMPAMENTOS del 2 de junio al 1 de agosto (Cerrado del 30 de junio al 4 de julio)

- Black Canyon Boys & Girls
- Museo Ute
- Escuela Secundaria Centennial

Se sirve **almuerzo y un "snack" gratis** a los niños inscritos en el campamento.

Para mas informacion

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- Carri Thompson (970) 252-7918

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SALVADOR NIEVES LLAMAS ***April 18, 1948 — May 13, 2025***

SALVADOR NIEVES LLAMAS nació en Yesca, Nayarit, México, hijo de Gregoria Llamas Leal y Victorino Nieves Castañeda. Fue el segundo de 10 hijos; le sobreviven 8 hermanos. Durante su adolescencia, fue un pilar fundamental de su familia.

Alrededor de la década de 1970, cumplió el servicio militar.

Durante esos años, conoció a María Nieves Mendoza, con quien se casó en Ahuacatlán, Nayarit, México, y emprendió su viaje a Estados Unidos. Desde entonces hasta la actualidad, ha dividido su tiempo entre ambos países, donde ha trabajado en todo lo que se le ha presentado. Con la Amnistía del 86, obtuvo su estatus legal y se nacionalizó estadounidense en 2008. A los 62 años, recibió su pensión, dejando atrás el ajeteo del trabajo.

Sus pasiones eran montar a caballo, escuchar música en vivo y ver películas y música clásica siempre que tenía oportunidad. Era tímido en sociedad, pero muy feliz y fuerte en su familia hasta su último momento, el 13 de Mayo de 2025, en Montrose, Colorado, Estados Unidos.

A Salvador le sobreviven sus 6 hijos, nietos y bisnietos, quienes con profundo pesar los invitan al funeral que se celebrará en su honor el 25 de Mayo de 2025, de 3:00 a 6:00 h, en la Funeraria Crippin, 802 E Main St., Montrose, Colorado 81401.

Después del funeral, tendremos una cena de Acción de Gracias de 6:00 a 8:00 p.m. en el salón comunitario de la Iglesia Rock of Refuge, 543 N Ute Ave., Montrose. Los esperamos.

Tras completar los trámites legales correspondientes para su traslado, Salvador llegará a Ahuacatlán, Nayarit, México, donde esperará la venida del Señor.



KAREN JUNE GIFFORD ***June 3, 1942 — May 2, 2025***



IN LOVING MEMORY OF KAREN JUNE GIFFORD JUNE 03, 1942—MAY 02, 2025

Karen went to be with the Lord after an unfortunate fall. Born in Warsaw, IN to Dallas and Ferne Short. Survived by her husband, Ron Gifford, daughter Kandi Carrano, son Layne Morford and a sister, Lillian Myers, along with two sisters-in-law, Karen Short and Cindy Van.

Extended children, Angie and Rick Fender, and Michelle and Mike Trujillo. Numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, plus one great-great grandson and Cooper dog.

Preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Kenneth [Pete] and Bobby.

Karen enjoyed cross stitching, camping, and cooking. Had a love for birds, especially the Gambel Quails, and a great deal of knowledge of flowers. One of her favorite pastimes was relaxing with her family and fur babies. Taken from us too soon, she will forever be missed! Until we meet again, we all love you.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



ISSUE 523 May 26, 2025

ART & SOL

MONTROSE WOMEN'S CLUB AWARDS LOCAL CHARITIES

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE-The Montrose Women's Club (MWC) distributed their annual awards to local charities Monday, May 19. Each organization received a donation of \$1,000, proceeds from table rentals at the Club's annual spring and fall bazaars run by club volunteers.

MWC is a "Helping Club" that provides support to its members and the greater Montrose community through charitable services and philanthropic activities. Members volunteer and donate time (rather than just giving money), raising funds to help those in need of charitable services and monetary donations.

This year's awardees are: End of the Trails Rescue, and Haven House of Montrose, Inc., both in Olathe; Montrose Animal Protection Agency Inc. (MAPA); Montrose Children's Museum; and Montrose Center for the Arts. (MCA)

Each organization relies on donations and welcomes visitors to their location. Donations may be made online or mail a check to them.

Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA). 205 E. Main St., Montrose CO 81401. 970-787-9428. montrosecenterforthearts.com.

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am – 5 pm.

End of the Trail Rescue, Inc., 5814 Hwy. 348, Olathe CO 81425. 970-901-0502.



L-R: Rose Verheul, Exec. Director, Haven House; Sheila Rogers, representing MAPA; Carrie Eisermann, representing End of the Trail; Pat Chaloupek, Board President, MCA; Mallory Shaffer, Montrose Children's Museum.

eotr.org. Contact then for open hours.

Montrose Animal Protection Agency (MAPA). 20531 Solitude Road. 970-240-6090. mapa-co.org.

Haven House. 4806 N. River Rd., Olathe CO 81425. 970-323-5280. havenhouse-homeless.org. Open Monday-Friday 9 am – 5 pm.

Montrose Children's Museum. 221 Colorado Ave. Unit A, Montrose CO. 970-964-

9995. [https://](https://montrosecchildrensmuseum.org)

montrosecchildrensmuseum.org. Open Tuesday 9 am – noon, Wednesday-Saturday 10 am – 4 pm.

Watch the *Mirror* throughout June for a story on each of the award recipients.

Kathryn Burke is a publisher and educator with 30 years of community involvement. Learn more: sanjuanpublishing.com and kathrynRburke.com

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MONTROSE
 REGIONAL HEALTH

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS' YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS: *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR*, JUNE 12-21

By Jonathan Heath

"We've arrived because we stuck together; we make each other strong. We're not the same. We're different in a good way. Together's where we belong!"

MONTROSE—From June 12 through 21, the youth of Montrose turn the stage at Magic Circle Players into East High School, a place where the jocks, "brainiacs," and "thespians" (theatre kids) each have their turf, but discover there is more of life to experience outside of their cliques.

The story follows basketball team captain Troy Bolton (played by Kyle Whitcomb) who meets "brainiac" new girl, Gabriella Montez (played by Analise Williams) at karaoke, both discovering in the moment that they enjoy singing together. But there's pressure to "stick to the status quo" from all directions. Coach Bolton (played by Max Terry) pushes Troy to "get your head in the game," while Troy's friend Chad (played by Matteo Curtis) and Gabriella's friend Taylor (played by Breanna Swanson) remind the couple to stay in their academic and jock cliques.

When drama teacher Ms. Darbus (played by Addie Howell) lets them audition for the lead roles in the school musical written by fellow student Keldyn (played by Joshua Swanson), drama club stars

Sharpay and Ryan Evans (played by Sofie Selee and Joab Moss) try to sabotage the couple.

But as the story unfolds, Troy and Gabriella's friends start to realize there is more to each of them than their cliques and "we are all in this together."

"Thespian" Kendall Clark described the experience of bringing the show to the stage at Magic Circle:

"Being in High School Musical felt like joining a second family—assuming my family suddenly breaks into song and dance at random, which we actually do sometimes! I was the youngest cast member, but everyone treated me like I actually knew what I was doing. I've had a blast, learned a ton, and didn't trip on stage... yet. I grew up knowing these songs for as long as I can remember; singing them with my sister on car rides. So it's been great to have a reason to sing them to people who WANT to hear them! Best experience ever!"

For Analise Williams (who is playing the role of Gabriella Montez), this was her first time on stage with Magic Circle Players: "My overall experience with Magic Circle has really been life changing. From my very first practice I felt such a passion and excitement for learning my lines,

songs, and choreography. But I also have made such deep and meaningful connections with the cast and directors. I'm so grateful to be included in such a beautiful community of people and I couldn't recommend it more."

Co-Directed by Lisa Rediger and Shannon Rediger, High School Musical Jr is an opportunity to see—and be entertained by—the talented youth of Montrose on stage. Co-director Shannon Rediger said, "Co-directing High School Musical alongside my Mother, Lisa Rediger, has been a joy and honor. I couldn't ask for a better partner, crew or cast for my directorial debut. This show is full of beautiful harmonies, and vibrant dances that you do not want to miss."

Ready to get your tickets to High School Musical Jr? Tickets are a steal at just \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth under 18. The show opens Thursday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S 12th St.

Evening performances continue through Friday, June 20, with three matinee performances Saturday & Sunday, June 14-15, and Saturday, June 21. Full show times and tickets are available online at www.magiccircleplayers.com or by calling the box office at 970-249-7828.



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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HAPPY HOLLOW: IT'S TIME FOR A MAKEOVER!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Botanical Society's board is taking important steps towards giving the area currently known as the "Happy Hollow Children's Garden" a makeover. Before they get too far down the road, they are inviting the public to share their ideas and comments at an open house at the Botanic Gardens on Saturday, May 31 at 11:00 am to Noon. The Gardens are located at 1800 Pavilion Drive, just south of the Montrose Pavilion.

Many design elements will go into the reimagined garden. "It goes without saying that we'll incorporate accessible pathways, use water-wise plants and maintain our view of the San Juan Mountains," said MBS President Liz Mauch. The area will also likely be regraded so it's less of a "hollow" and more of a shallow bowl, which will create more usable space.

After a brief presentation on Saturday, the MBS board will invite people to share their priorities and additional ideas for the garden. "We want this space to be inviting to all ages and accessible to all physical abilities," noted Mauch.

If you're unable to stop by on Saturday, comments may also be submitted to the MBS board by emailing info@montrosegardens.org or by filling out a survey posted on www.montrosegardens.org/happy-hollow.

The Botanic Gardens is also hosting their Kids' Planting Day in Happy Hollow on Saturday, May 31, at 10 to 11 am. Co-hosted by the Montrose Regional Library's Bookmobile, the program is free and open to the public.

Through the development of the Montrose Botanic Gardens, MBS aims to provide horticultural education and leadership in the Uncompahgre Valley. This new project is an important part of that ongoing mission, and the MBS board and leadership are excited to be launching it.

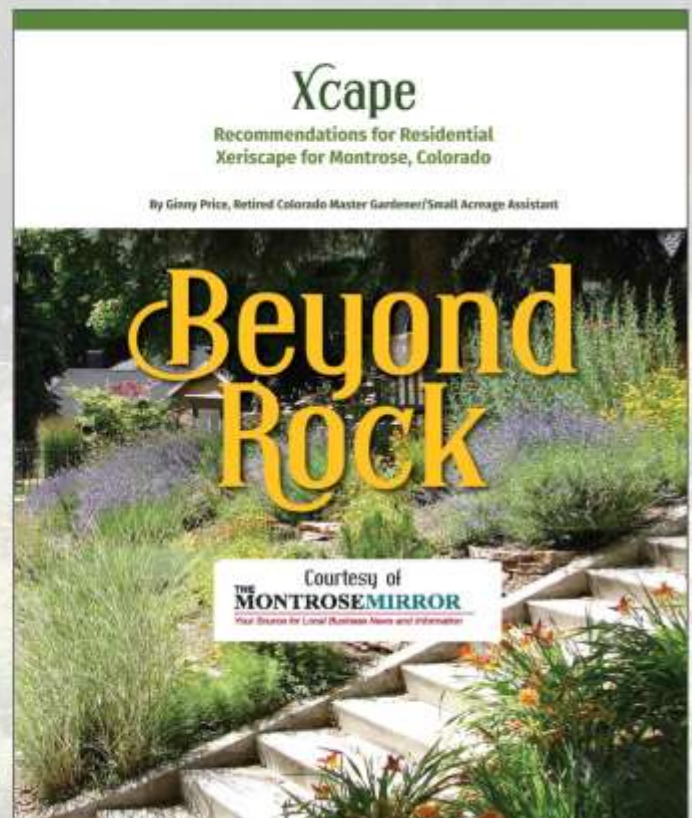


The project area includes not only Happy Hollow's raised garden beds inside the pallet fence, but also the surrounding area blanketed with rabbitbrush. Courtesy photo.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DISNEY HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR: MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

Thu Jun 12, 2025 - Sat Jun 21, 2025

Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life on your stage in Disney's High School Musical JR. It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs and Thespians all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The duo cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well. Directed by Lisa Rediger and Shannon Rediger. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

Performance times:

Thursday, June 12, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Friday, June 13, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, June 14, 2025 - 02:00 PM MDT

Saturday, June 14, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Sunday, June 15, 2025 - 02:00 PM MDT

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Thursday, June 19, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Friday, June 20, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, June 21, 2025 - 02:00 PM MDT

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ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

Celebration Kids: (age birth to 5th grade)
 programs offered both services.

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,
office@ccfmontrose.net,
www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249-9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook

Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-appropriate children's ministry during adult worship.

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

Worship Services: The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to den-tures.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

rose; Everyone is welcome. The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects. People of all ages are welcome.

There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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?



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The Satisfied Woman

THE POWER OF LETTING GO. RELEASING THE PAST TO EMBRACE YOUR FUTURE

Letting go is one of the most powerful—and often most difficult—acts of personal growth. It's a quiet revolution that takes place within, where we choose to loosen our grip on stories, beliefs, and wounds that no longer serve us. Hanging on to old narratives, past experiences, insecurities, and limiting beliefs is like carrying a heavy backpack through life. Eventually it weighs us down, draining our motivation, dimming our joy, and holding us hostage to a version of ourselves that no longer exists.

The past, while formative, is not a life sentence. Yet many of us live as if it is. We replay painful conversations, cling to regrets, or let our inner critic speak louder than our inner truth. We may even define ourselves by what hurt us: the failure, the betrayal, the moment we fell short. Over time, these thoughts harden into beliefs—beliefs that quietly dictate what we think we deserve, what we think we can achieve, and how we see the world.

Wayne Dyer wisely said, "When you change the way you look at things, the



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

things you look at change." This is not just a comforting idea—it's a profound truth. Our perception shapes our reality. When we hold on to the past through the lens of pain, fear, or inadequacy, we reinforce those experiences. But when we begin to shift our perspective—to see our wounds as wisdom, our failures as teachers, and our limitations as illusions—we create space for transformation.

Letting go is not about forgetting or diminishing the past. It's about making the conscious choice to stop allowing the past to define us. When we stop focusing on the negative, or the things we don't want, or something someone said, then we make room for the things we do want. We make room for new experiences. We create possibility. Wayne Dyer also said, "Most people go through life dragging around all their issues, like a big bag of diarrhea, then they periodically stop, smear it all over themselves, and then wonder why their life stinks..."

Here's what happens when we let go: Motivation returns. When we stop expending energy on what can't be changed, we free up energy to pursue what CAN be. The drive to grow, create, and explore returns when we're not anchored to yesterday's weight.

Joy becomes accessible. Joy is not something we have to earn. It's something we allow. But it can't thrive in a mind consumed by regret, comparison, or self-

judgment. Letting go clears the inner clutter, making room for presence, gratitude, and peace.

We reconnect with possibility. Every belief we hold shapes what we see as possible. When we let go of limiting beliefs—"I'm not good enough," "It's too late for me to...", "I can't just do that"—we begin to see new doors open. We begin to expect good things, and in doing so, we invite them in.

Letting go is not a one-time act, but a daily practice. It's waking up and choosing to see ourselves not through the lens of our flaws or fears, but through the lens of love, courage and truth. It's asking, "What can I release today that no longer serves who I'm becoming?"

You don't have to carry everything forever. You don't have to be the person you always were. Become who you were meant to be. Freedom begins with the willingness to open your hands, open your heart, and trust that what lies ahead is far greater than anything you're leaving behind. Sometimes we get stuck on the same page, but there's so much more to the book.

Let go—not to lose, but to make space. Not to forget, but to heal. Not to deny, but to transform.

Because sometimes the only thing standing between you and the life you were meant to live—is what you're still holding onto.

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THE
MONTROSE MIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

COMPASSION CORNER: JOE JOHNSON

Special to the Mirror

Editor's Note: The father in this picture, Joe Johnson of Montrose, has been a source for some of the Mirror's recent stories on the 7th Judicial District involving Judge Cory Jackson. A single father of two young children, Joe has been caught up in a cruel web of court proceedings as he attempts to keep his son and daughter from being returned to a harmful situation. I spoke with him just weeks ago;

since that time he has received more devastating news. He asked that we include this information in the Mirror. In his own words: "Two days after I saw you, I got the news which the scope was done a week prior. They took nine biopsies which I knew at that point something was wrong considering I have had a scope every year since 2023. Been having problems with my stomach and my throat since 2023. Have medical papers and images if you need to

see them for proof. I am scared but I can't go through this alone. Don't have family here. My mom has had cancer twice and beat it. My only sister died of cancer five years ago. All I can think about is my kids and right now I have been out of work for several months trying to hang on, bills and rent are past due along with other things but I am not stressing because it affects my health. Just trying to figure out how to get home for better health care at John Hopkins and to have support from my family to go through this. My insurance is only covering so much. Here is my link <https://gofund.me/528d3774>."

* TheJohnsonsFamilyFight

<https://spot.fund/TheJohnsonsFamilyFight>



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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

May 26-Memorial Day 2025

May 31-Historical Cedar Creek Cemetery Tour on May 31, starting at 4pm. Hosted by the Montrose County Historical Museum, this is a unique opportunity to delve into the history and legends of local pioneers. Tour will take place at Cedar Creek Cemetery, participants will not only learn about the individuals who shaped the region but also gain insight into evolving cemetery traditions over the years. Tour is broken into two parts because of the vast buried history. For those interested in attending, remember to RSVP by calling 970-249-2085. \$10 per person

June 12-21-Magic Circle Players Youth Theatre presents High School Musical Jr. Full show times and tickets are available online at www.magiccircleplayers.com or by calling the box office at 970-249-7828.

Sept. 13-14-The highly anticipated Tribute to Aviation, Montrose Regional Airport's signature event, is officially scheduled for Sept. 13-14, 2025. As one of the largest static aircraft displays in the western United States, Tribute to Aviation will showcase both military and civilian aircraft. For more information, please contact Vendla Stockdale at vstockdale@montrosecounty.net or 970-964-2479 or visit www.tributetoaviation.com

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MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT!



On Saturday, May 24 the 'Bring on the Summer' Outdoor Festival, hosted by Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) brought fun activities and friendship to Riverbottom Park. Pie Eating Contest photo is by B. Switzer.

249 8500

ANONYMOUS

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