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© Issue No. 640 June 2, 2025

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## COPPER WIRE THEFT A HOT TOPIC AT DMEA MEETING



During the May 27 meeting, the DMEA board discussed the theft of copper wire from their substation. (L to R) Wire that has been burned, wire that has been stripped. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On May 27, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, determination of a quorum, and agenda approval. Director Ryan Sedgely attended virtually, all other board members were present in person, with Director Jock Fleming arriving shortly after the meeting was called to order. **Introductions:** Attendees were comprised of board members, department heads, and guests. Guests included DMEA members Joseph Gill and Sean Ryan, who attended virtually, and Shelly Kelly, DMEA board candidate for District 4, who attended in person.

**General Business** included Membership & Meter Report and approval of the

*Continued pg 19*

## 'OUT OF THIS WORLD!'

**Telluride Bluegrass welcomes 2024 band contest winner Still House String Band to the main stage in 2025**

By B. Switzer

TELLURIDE—Listen to the Still House String Band, and you may feel transported to a mountain dance hall someplace, back in the day—except with today's sound quality, and if you're lucky enough to see them in person, a great stage show.

The SHSB consists of Clinton Knorpp (banjo), Kyle Lockhart (mandolin), Jeanette Adams (upright bass), Kyle Elliott (dobro) and Everitt Merritt (guitar). Based in Grand Junction, the band has been playing together since 2015.

Last year, SHSB won the "band contest" at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and, therefore, they have the pleasure of playing at the Festival this year; they will take the main stage as the opening act on Saturday, June 21. I asked Clinton how the SHSB felt about playing the main stage at Bluegrass this year, and he simply said, "Out of this world!"

Although all of the band members presently reside in Grand Junction, Knorpp is



Photos courtesy of the Still House String Band of Grand Junction, above.

*Continued pg 3*

[BOCC Continues Hearing on  
Ranger Ranchettes Special Use!](#)

[Lauren Hall Ruddell:  
Your Brain on Nature!](#)

[Missing, Or Just Left of His Own Free Will?  
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# UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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**



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**Of Counsel:** B. Switzer, Esq.

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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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## OUT OF THIS WORLD From pg 1



**Still House String Band. Courtesy photo**

originally from Amarillo, Lockhart is from Chicago, Merritt is from Ft. Collins, Adams is from Michigan and Elliott is from Fruita.

When asked what inspires the SHSB, Knorpp explained the band's outlook for the new generation of bluegrass musicians. These younger folks will shape the new landscape of the bluegrass genre, while honoring the tradition of the likes of Bill Monroe, Flatt and Scruggs and the Stanley Brothers. "We are pleased to be 'carrying the torch forward.'"

Catch The Still House String Band at any of the following venues this coming spring and summer: June 5, Palisade; June 6, Palisade Peach Festival; June 21, Telluride Bluegrass Festival; July 4, Crested Butte South; July 16, Glenwood Springs; August 29, Paonia.



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# A GOOD DEED, A GOOD TIME, GOOD COMPANY AT MONTROSE GOODWILL



Montrose Goodwill presented a check to the Village on San Juan, and welcomed everyone to Customer Appreciation Day on Saturday, May 31.



Goodwill Community Engagement Manager Ashley Furst, below, was in town for the special celebration. Photos B. Switzer.





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# HAMS PLAN A BUSY WEEKEND

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Amateur radio operators from the Montrose Amateur Radio Club are planning a busy weekend June 6-8, 2025, with two events, the 2025 Museum Ships Weekend and the annual Tailgate Party. Both events are open to the public. The Annual Tailgate Party will be June 7 from 8AM to 11AM in Delta at the Lions Pavillion, Confluence Park. There is an opportunity to buy, sell, or swap amateur radio gear. According to Steve Schroder the event chairman, "It is also a good opportunity to meet area hams in person, not just over the air. Tables for sellers are five dollars. Admission is free and all attendees are automatically entered in the door prize drawings. You must be present to win."

June 6,7,8 will be the 2025 Museum Ships Weekend, an international event sponsored by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station. Museum ships and ship memorials around the world will be

on the air celebrating the history and service of their respective ships. Our ship here is the USS Montrose, an attack transport that served with distinction in WW 2, Korea, and Vietnam. The ship's memorial consisting of an interpretive sign and the ship's bell is currently located in the new City Hall on Main Street. According to Royce Seymour event chairman, "We will operate our radio station from the pocket park diagonally across

the street from City Hall. Good times for the public to visit us will be from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday and Sunday. We will operate outside these hours Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday, as band conditions and thunderstorms allow. Come visit us to learn about ham radio and the USS Montrose," he said.

For additional information on both these event contact Lew French at 970-471-6142.



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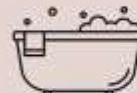
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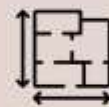
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DMEA ADDRESSES COPPER THEFT INCIDENT, URGES PUBLIC VIGILANCE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) is calling attention to a serious copper theft incident in April. It caused a service disruption at one of its substations and interfered with routine meter data collection.

The theft damaged critical infrastructure and created a ripple effect that impacted the billing process for members in specific billing cycles. As a result, some members may notice that their bills reflect an unusually short or extended billing period. While the timing of the billing may look different, the total energy usage is still accurate and fully accounted for across the two affected cycles.

"Copper theft is not a victimless crime," said DMEA Chief Administrative Officer Kent Blackwell. "It threatens the safety of our crews, disrupts electric service, increases operational costs, and ultimately affects our entire membership. We are working closely with law enforcement and enhancing substation security to prevent future incidents."

In response to the theft, DMEA has increased surveillance and installed additional security measures at substations. The cooperative also regularly reviews long-term infrastructure hardening strategies to protect the grid from similar threats.

DMEA is asking the community to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity near substations, power poles, or other utility equipment. Quick action by members of the public can help prevent dangerous and costly disruptions to electric service.

"This type of crime impacts more than

infrastructure—it impacts people," said Blackwell. "We're grateful for the support of our members and their help in protecting the integrity of the electric sys-

tem."

Members with questions about their bill or this incident can call DMEA's customer support team at **877-687-3632**.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REC DISTRICT REISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION TO SAVE \$275,000 ANNUALLY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that through the strategic reissuance of its Certificates of Participation (COPs), it will save approximately \$275,000 each year. This fiscally responsible move enhances MRD's ability to deliver high-quality parks, recreation programs, and community services without increasing costs to taxpayers.

This financial milestone was made possible in part by an upgrade to the S&P Global bond rating from BBB+ to A, reflecting the agency's improved financial outlook and responsible fiscal management. The reissuance of the original COPs—approved by voters through a 0.3% sales tax measure in 2014 and supported through an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Montrose—is now producing even greater long-term value for the community. These savings are the result of careful financial planning and a long-term commitment to stewarding public funds wisely. By lowering its annual debt service, the MRD can redirect more resources toward improving and expanding the services that make this community a great place to live, work, and play.

"This reissuance is a smart financial move that reflects our commitment to responsible governance," said Mari Steinbach, Executive Director. "It allows us to reinvest directly into the community—supporting the people, places, and programs that matter most."

The MRD extends sincere gratitude to the dedicated staff, our partners at the City of Montrose, and—most importantly—our encouraging and supportive residents and visitors. Your continued trust and enthusiasm make achievements like this possible. Together, we're building a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant Montrose.

For information about the Montrose Recreation District visit <https://www.montroserec.com/>

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### US 40/CO 13 CRAIG SIGNAL UPGRADES PROJECT TO BEGIN JUNE 9

*Special to the Mirror*

CRAIG — The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin traffic signal upgrade work on June 9 at two intersections within the City of Craig limits. The project is expected to continue through late August. Sturgeon Electric, based in Denver, is the contractor for the project.

One location is at the intersection of US Highway 40 (West 4th Street) and Ranney Street. Planned upgrades include new pedestal poles with pedestrian push buttons and video detection equipment to improve traffic signal efficiency.

At the intersection of Colorado Highway 13 (Yampa Avenue) and 9th Street, work will involve the replacement and reconstruction of the existing traffic signal. This will include installation of traffic signal equipment, pedestrian poles and push buttons, as well as updated curb ramps. The project team anticipates this portion of the work to be completed before the start of the school year in August.

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**Saturday, June 7<sup>TH</sup>, 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**
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## REP HURD SHOULD FIGHT FOR JOBS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND RURAL COLORADANS

*Editor:*

In response to Kevin Williams's op-ed in the Grand Junction Sentinel "Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder" it should be noted that in Colorado's 3rd congressional district, \$2,782,566 was awarded to local businesses for renewable energy infrastructure because of the Inflation Reduction Act. These grants don't just provide greater energy production efficiency; they mean jobs, lower heating and cooling bills, and greater rural prosperity.

But the megabill being pushed through congress would make it harder for homes

and businesses to make these efficiency improvements, and it would throw a wet blanket over energy development on the western slope.

The bill includes an immediate cessation of the clean energy tax credits for homeowners, rural electric co-ops, and private energy developers which many projects depend on to make these investments in our electric grid. According to CPR this change to the tax code would cost Colorado almost 17,000 jobs.

So why did Representative Hurd vote for it? According to the same CPR article Rep.

Hurd signed a letter in support of these tax credits and correctly stated that developers need to plan many years in advance and this change would pull the rug out from under them.

That's not good governance.

We need to know that the US government will follow through on its promises, and that Rep Hurd will keep his, and fight for jobs, energy efficiency, and rural Coloradans.

Thank you,

*Jennifer Jones*

*Western Colorado Alliance*



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## FRUITA WELCOME CENTER AND RESTROOMS CLOSE FOR RENOVATIONS

*Special to the Mirror*

MESA COUNTY — The Colorado Department of Transportation will close the Fruita Welcome Center and restrooms located on Colorado Highway 340 for renovations beginning in June 2025.

The project, at Exit 19 off of Interstate 70, will consist of renovating the welcome center and rest area inside and out, along with adding two monument signs, a children's play area, and areas designed for photo opportunities.

The project is expected to be completed in February 2026.

The Western Slope Vietnam Memorial, several parking spots in the southwest portion of the lot, and the travel trailer/recreation vehicle grey and black water dump station will remain open and available to the public.

The welcome center and restrooms will be closed for the duration of the project.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDS FIVE NEW OFFICERS, PROMOTES VETERAN TO SENIOR COMMAND

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Montrose Police Department welcomed a new deputy police chief and five new officers to its ranks on May 20, filling vacant positions within the agency. Officers Shad Lindsey, Vincent Maffett, Derek Stickney, Travis O'Donnal, and Cameron Healy were officially sworn in during a ceremony held prior to the City Council's regular meeting on Tuesday evening, May 20. Veteran police commander Larry Witte was promoted to deputy police chief.

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

Hall said the swearing-in process for new police officers is one of his favorite responsibilities as chief of police. The five officers come to the Montrose Police Department with a wide range of law enforcement experience.

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

To maintain that support, Hall said, requires local police officers to hold themselves to the highest personal standards, both on and off duty. Hall said the officers are embarking on a career in a profession that is only meant for a few "because it is a calling."

Hall told the new officers that they will make mistakes, but to never sacrifice their



*From left to right, Deputy Police Chief Larry Witte, Police Chief Blaine Hall, officers Cameron Healy, Derek Stickney, Travis O'Donnal, Shad Lindsey, and Vincent Maffett, and Deputy Police Chief Tim Cox. Photo courtesy City of Montrose.*

morals or their integrity because what they do on the job is a reflection of the Montrose Police Department as a whole.

"Do not betray the trust of our citizens that have put their trust in you, because that trust is what makes it so great to serve as a police officer in our community," Hall said. "We are not just the Montrose Police Department, the Police Department is part of the city, and our officers live within the community that we live in, and they are proud to live in this community to keep it safe."

Hall also thanked the community for their support of the Police Department and its officers stating Montrose's high level of community support does not exist every-

where.

Commander Larry Witte also reaffirmed his oath to the community and his family as he was sworn in as the city's newest Deputy Police Chief.

Witte brings over 18 years of experience as he continues his service to the City of Montrose.

"We are very fortunate to have these officers joining us and for Deputy Police Chief Witte to continue serving the Montrose Community in his new position," Hall said. "Our agency is moving forward in a very positive direction."

For more information about the Montrose Police Department, visit [www.MontrosePD.org](http://www.MontrosePD.org).

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# COPPER WIRE THEFT A HOT TOPIC AT DMEA MEETING From pg 1

of the (amended) minutes from the April 2025 Regular Meeting.

**Informational Item:** Committee Chair Reports

**Finance, Audit & Rates** – Damon Lockhart, Chair.

Lockhart said, "We did not have a meeting."

**Engineering, Construction & Energy Services** – Enno Heuscher, Chair.

Heuscher said, "We had nothing."

**Member Relations** – Kevin Williams, Chair.

Williams said, "We had a meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The notes are in your packet. I've had members approach me about having a Member Advisory Board Committee. It would be an overlap of the [DMEA] Board and a committee, so we will not pursue it at this time. We discussed the [upcoming] board election and Operation Round-Up."

**Executive** – Stacia Cannon, Chair.

Cannon said, "We met May 8<sup>th</sup>. We've now met a couple of times to go over Bylaws. We discussed billing issues [related to] copper theft. I stepped out of the meeting, so I'll let Kevin [Williams] take over the report."

Williams said, "We focused on complying with Colorado statutes, clean-up in terms, simplifying where we can, and [eliminating] redundancies. It was a three and a half hour meeting. It was robust and constructive and it's up to the board on how to proceed with the Bylaws."

Cannon noted various areas that were addressed in the recent survey. She said, "We went over the survey and it was a great exercise as we head into our strategic planning this summer." Cannon wrote a condensed version on the survey which she will share with the board. She said, "It's six pages rather than 92 pages."

**Informational Item** - CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston said, "We're having more safety training and liability training. We're still four weeks out for system design. Four weeks is pretty optimistic." Johnston touched briefly on energy assessment, the strength of hydro, and the inspection and replacement of some power poles. He said, "There will probably be some type of event when Garnet Mesa is in full produc-

tion, but we are not leading on Garnet Mesa. We had a Lineman Appreciation lunch. Linemen are a special part of our organization. On vegetation management, progress is still being made since last month."

DMEA staff continue to participate in presentations on cyber security. Johnston said, "We tell our story and the pains we went through. [Last month] we're 100 percent on phishing. Nobody bit, and that's fantastic."

Johnston was invited to address the Montrose Forum. He said, "There were about 40 in attendance. There was a lively Q & A. We seemed to be well received. The new bill format is live. It's always tough to do when you are in a billing system [cycle]. The copper theft is [happening] to us and Tri State as well. It seems to be happening not just with us, but we are seeing it with others. People do call in when they see something suspicious around our substations. Substations are a very dangerous environment. Four or five years ago a lineman passed away at a substation."

The staff, who are proactive with the theft of copper wire, contributed to the discussion and updated the board on what they have learned. Staff said, "There's been 500 plus pounds of wire stuffed in a car [sold to Recla Metals]. They [Montrose Police Department] took his car but let him go. We're connecting the dots. Recla Metals told us, "If I call you with every suspicious person that came in with copper wire, I'd be calling you all the time.""

Cannon complimented the staff on the recent DMEA news release concerning the theft, but she had some critique. She said, "It sounded like we were saying "If you see something, say something," but what am I looking for? Is it a flatbed truck, parked cars?"

Staff said, "We can't identify that the



*The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) May 27, 2025, regular Board of Directors meeting was held in the Grand Mesa Boardroom. Reporting on the upcoming board election, 2,975 ballots have been received as of May 27. Staff reported, "That's shy of seven percent. We would like to have 20 percent. A little more than half have voted by mail [rather than electronically]." Photo by Gail Marvel.*

copper came from the substation."

Johnston said, "We are looking for activity around substations, we're looking for help with eyes in the community." Johnston noted that some substations are in remote areas.

**Note:** The Mirror contacted Recla Metals and learned from an employee that in the last six months the suspicious individual has brought in approximately two tons of copper. He said, "It's been brought in by the carload. We have no way of knowing where the copper comes from. Thieves either strip the wire, or they burn off the coating. We didn't know about the substation thefts, but thefts will happen anywhere they can find copper."

The theft of the copper wire did not interfere with DMEA's meter data collection; however, it impacted the billing process in some specific billing cycles.

Director Lockhart asked if any board members were getting calls from constituents. Laughter erupted when Fleming quipped, "I didn't get any phone calls, but my wife yelled at me!" Staff reported that about half of the meter accounts were affected and those bills will now reflect either a short or an extended billing period.

Reporting on the upcoming board election, 2,975 ballots have been received as



## COPPER WIRE THEFT A HOT TOPIC AT DMEA From Previous pg

of May 27. Staff reported, "That's shy of seven percent. We would like to have 20 percent. A little more than half have voted by mail [rather than electronically]."

Mailed ballots must be received by June 10; drop ballots by June 11, and in-person voting will be June 12 from 4:30 – 5:30p.m. The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on June 12, 4:30 – 8 p.m., at Hotchkiss K-8 school, 465 Lorah Lane, Hotchkiss.

Johnston said, "We have seven interns for this summer [slotted in a variety of departments] and 133 full employment. We are positive in all areas of financials. Revenue is less than budgeted. Power transmission costs are up [from Tri State]. The average budget year-to-date is right on. There are annual salary increases."

Referencing the new format for financials Williams said, "I like the narration reports on financials."

Fleming said, "It hits the target areas that stand out."

Metheny said, "I like the [narrative] format."

Johnson's CEO report also covered the MECA Safety Summit, leadership team building at Ridgway, and the Light Up the Navajo program.

### **Informational Item: Director Reports Western United Electrical Supply Corporation (WUES) Report** – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "The end of April they gave raises to the staff. We approved the audit. The next meeting is in August. Usually we meet quarterly, with additional meetings. So about six times a year."

### **Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Report** – Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, "I don't have anything to report. The two major topics are the CEO search continues. They have 17 candidates at this time in the pool. There's a lot of work being done on the purchase of the new building."

### **Conferences, Webinars & Meetings**

Cannon reported on a CoBank webinar. She said, "It was very interesting, and they discussed internal conflicts in the cabinet that I hadn't heard about. How different departments impact the Farm Bill."

### **ACTION ITEM: Other Items**

### **Resolution 2025-3 regarding Readoption of a Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan**

Sarah Abbott, General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer said, "This is a re-adoption of a plan that lapsed." Currently only one person is eligible for the compensation plan. Passed unanimously.

### **Capital Credit Allocation**

Chief Financial Officer Bob Farmer presented two options for allocating Capital Credits at a future date. Option one was revenue based; option two is based on kWh. Farmer said, "Both methods are common in the co-op industry. Last year you chose the revenue option." The revenue option was approved unanimously.

### **Member Comments:**

Board candidate Shelly Kelly said, "I'm attending another meeting. I've had lots of support from the community [as a candidate]. I find your meetings interesting."

### **Executive Session:**

Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters

Board Policy Updates:

104: Board Relationship to CEO & CEO Authority

114: Equal Opportunity Employer & Non-Discrimination

115: Whistleblower

Bylaws

Confidential Board Governance Matters

**Executive Session Summary** – Amy Taylor, Chief of Staff.

In an email Taylor summarized the action taken by the board after exiting the executive session:

"At 7:43 p.m., upon motion from Director Fleming, seconded by Director Sanchez, the Board unanimously exited Executive Session. Upon motion from Director Williams, seconded by Director Gray, the Board unanimously approved the updates to Board Policy 114. Upon motion from Director Metheny, seconded by Director Heuscher, the Board unanimously approved the updates to Board Policy 115. Having no further business to conduct, the Board adjourned its Regular Meeting at 7:44 p.m."

**Background-** During meetings the board hears verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities. Co-op membership has access to some of the written staff reports submitted for board approval, i.e., minutes of the previous meeting, CEO report, and action items (resolutions).

Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their DMEA accounts.

Dist. 1 – Ryan Sedgeley, 370-220-6086 [ryan.sedgeley@dmea.com](mailto:ryan.sedgeley@dmea.com)

Dist. 2 - Steve Metheny, 970-209-6172, [steve.metheny@dmea.com](mailto:steve.metheny@dmea.com)

Dist. 3 – Jacob Gray, 970-778-9512, [jacob.gray@dmea.com](mailto:jacob.gray@dmea.com)

Dist. 4 – Emily Sanchez, 970-209-4582, [emily.sanchez@dmea.com](mailto:emily.sanchez@dmea.com)

Dist. 5 – Kevin Williams, 406-839-1603, [kevin.williams@dmea.com](mailto:kevin.williams@dmea.com)

Dist. 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, [damon.lockhart@dmea.com](mailto:damon.lockhart@dmea.com)

Dist. 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, [enno.heuscher@dmea.com](mailto:enno.heuscher@dmea.com)

Dist. 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, [stacia.cannon@dmea.com](mailto:stacia.cannon@dmea.com)

Dist. 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, [jock.fleming@dmea.com](mailto:jock.fleming@dmea.com)



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO STATE LAND BOARD JUNE MEETING

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER –The Colorado State Land Board is holding its next monthly public board meeting in Denver, Colorado on Thursday, June 12, 2025. Items on the agenda include mineral leases, renewable energy, trust lands disposition, policy review, consideration of the appointment of Nicole Rosmarino for the next State Land Board Director, among other items. The agenda and Zoom registration information for this meeting will be posted roughly June 5,

2025, on the State Land Board's website: <https://slb.colorado.gov/public-meetings>.

There are three ways to submit public comments for review by the Commissioners; submitting comments on State Land Board's [online public comment form](#), submit written comments in advance by mailing them to [our main office in Denver](#) or make real-time comments during the meeting using the 'raise hand' feature in Zoom or by raising your hand in person. Depending on attendance, time may be

limited for making live comments during the meeting.


**What: State Land Board Monthly Meeting**

**Who:** State Land Board Commissioners

**Where:** 1127 Sherman Street, Second Floor Board Room, Denver, CO 80203, or virtually via Zoom

**When:** Thursday, June 12, 2025

For members of the media who plan to attend, please RSVP to Emily Barbo at [emily.barbo@state.co.us](mailto:emily.barbo@state.co.us).






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While the Federal Government is doing its job by restoring Citizen's 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights through things like removing the unconstitutional \$200 stamp tax on suppressors, and ensuring they are removed from the National Firearms Act (NFA) through the "One Big Beautiful Bill". While there is still much to do to codify the D.O.G.E. cuts where they have found flagrant fraud, waste and abuse, they are working hard to ensure this gets done quickly.

It is time to contact our Congressman for Colorado's 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Jeff Hurd via [email](#) at or call the GJ Office (970) 208-0455, Pueblo Office (719) 696-6968, Durango Office (970) 317-6167 or D.C. (202) 225-4676 and tell him to vote yes on codifying the D.O.G.E. cuts!

Senator Bennet can be reached via [contact form](#) or by phone at 866-455-9866

Senator Hickenlooper can be reached via [contact form](#) or by phone at his Washington D.C. Office at 202-224-5941 or the Denver Office at 303-244-1628

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## TRUMP DELIVERING ON PROMISES: A RESPONSE TO JON SERING

*Editor:*

Jon Sering's recent letter to the editor insists that all current national challenges fall squarely on President Trump and the Republican Congress, dismissing the lingering effects of past administrations. This view oversimplifies governance and ignores the bold, voter-backed agenda Trump is advancing under his constitutional authority. For millions, his decisive leadership, grounded in Article II powers, is fulfilling campaign promises. **YES, that is what we voted for.**

Sering argues that, 100 days into Trump's second term, the Biden administration's influence is irrelevant. Yet, today's challenges, from inflation to global instability, stem from years of misguided policies. Trump inherited an economy strained by excessive spending and regulatory overreach. His tariffs, which Sering claims raise prices, protect American workers and revive industries, a policy rooted in his Article II authority to conduct trade negotiations. Since January 2025, over 200,000 manufacturing jobs have been added, per Labor Department data, proving these policies work. Courts attempting to block such executive actions overstep their authority, interfering with the president's constitutional prerogative to set trade policy. Trump is not acting rogue; he's executing the law as voters intended. **YES, that is what we voted for.**

On immigration, Sering criticizes deportations as lacking due process, but Trump is exercising his Article II powers to enforce federal immigration laws, prioritizing the removal of individuals with criminal records or expired visas. Those here illegally, having violated **8 U.S.C. § 1325** by improper entry, should not be afforded the same protections as citizens. Due process and constitutional safeguards exist primarily to protect American citizens, not those who broke the law to

enter. Those who break the law to enter the country illegally should be ushered out as fast as possible to mitigate the costs to the American Taxpayer, something the previous administration had no regard for. Trump's policies align with the border security Americans demanded. And the resettlement of Afrikaners from South Africa, which Sering questions, addresses a humanitarian crisis, violent attacks on farmers, recognized globally. Judicial attempts to halt these executive actions encroach on the president's constitutional role as commander-in-chief and chief executive. Trump's balanced approach, securing borders while aiding the persecuted, is lawful and reflects his mandate. **YES, that is what we voted for.**

Sering's critique of Trump's foreign policy, particularly on Ukraine and Canada, misrepresents progress. The Ukraine-Russia conflict is a decades-old quagmire, and Trump's push for negotiations, backed by his Article II authority over foreign affairs, seeks a resolution while maintaining U.S. support. His stance on Canada, highlighting a \$71 billion trade deficit in 2024, per the U.S. Census Bureau, pressures fairer terms for American workers. Courts have no business undermining these diplomatic efforts, which fall squarely within the president's constitutional purview. This unapologetic defense of U.S. interests is why voters chose Trump. **YES, that is what we voted for.**

Sering raises concerns about January 6 pardons and ties with leaders like Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman. Pardons are a core Article II power, and Trump's actions correct perceived prosecutorial overreach, a stance his base supports. Foreign alliances, like those with Saudi Arabia, prioritize strategic stability, a presidential prerogative courts cannot lawfully override. The Qatar plane allegation, which Sering calls a bribe

was actually initiated under the Biden administration, lacks evidence and distracts from Trump's diplomatic wins. Voters wanted a leader who uses constitutional authority decisively. **YES, that is what we voted for.**

Sering's fears about environmental rollbacks and entitlement cuts are speculative. Trump's deregulation, authorized under his executive powers, slashes bureaucratic red tape, fueling growth like the 3.2% GDP increase in Q1 2025. No legislation threatens Social Security or Medicare; Trump has vowed to protect them. Project 2025, which Sering ties to Trump, is a think tank proposal, not policy. Environmental policies balance growth with stewardship, and judicial interference in these executive decisions oversteps constitutional bounds. Voters backed this pragmatic, lawful vision. **YES, that is what we voted for.**

Sering calls Trump's communication style incoherent, but his unfiltered voice connects with millions tired of polished rhetoric. His speeches, raw and direct, reflect a leader focused on action over optics. Results, like job growth and economic gains, speak louder than polished paragraphs. This authenticity, backed by his constitutional mandate, is what voters craved. **YES, that is what we voted for.**

Sering's call to end the blame game is fair, but pinning all issues on Trump ignores the mess he inherited. His administration is tackling entrenched problems with the courage and constitutional authority voters demanded. Rather than divisive criticism or judicial overreach, let's rally behind policies that prioritize American jobs, security, and strength. Trump's lawful agenda is the change millions championed. **YES, that is what we voted for.**

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

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# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE - PTSD



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.  
Courtesy photo.

## Greetings Mirrorites!

Last week I heard a fascinating story on magic mushrooms and their beneficial effects on PTSD when all other therapies had failed. No mention of nature-based interventions was offered, so it made me wonder if there is something other than shrooms and pharmaceuticals that can help out the really tough cases. Fearing the worst, I found a little research has indeed been done, so I was pleasantly surprised.

First, a little bit of primer about what PTSD is as we currently understand it. Poor sleep, anger management difficulty, and flashbacks from triggers are symptoms we see in the news frequently. The underlying brain structure changes that cause the symptoms are seldom explained. One of the most horrifying features of this malady to me concerned memory, the amygdala, and the hippocampus.

Impaired memory integration is the term for what should be experienced as something from the past as happening right now, even when it isn't. Normally, memories are processed and stored in a way that allows us to know they're in the past. In PTSD, traumatic memories are often fragmented, poorly integrated, and lack a time-stamp—so the brain struggles to categorize them as "over." With PTSD, a hyperactive amygdala, responsible for the very important survival instincts of fight or flight, and appropriate fear response becomes overactive. Sufferers of PTSD often



Although exercising in nature helps the traumatized brain heal, goofing off is important too! Courtesy photo.

display an overly active amygdala, and counterintuitively, have shrunk amygdalae. I would think that bigger is worse, but apparently this is not so. Further, communication between the prefrontal cortex and the amygdala is weakened, making it harder to rationally override fear signals. This may be why [exposure therapy](#) does not work for some, since the therapeutic experience can be so overwhelming that the brain never makes the needed adjustments. A gentler and safer form of therapy could be better for some patients, such as that provided by time in restorative natural settings. And then there is the memory issue.

PTSD changes the structure and function of the hippocampus. This organ normally helps contextualize and time-stamp memories, and is often smaller or under-functioning in PTSD. This makes it hard to recognize a memory as being from the past, especially when it's emotionally charged. This need not be a permanent condition, and effective therapies can promote neurogenesis in as little as 6 weeks. That is, of course, for those patients who respond well to conventional therapies. For some patients, there is not only a shrinkage in the hippocampus (in this case a bad thing), but there may be a discon-

nection between the hippocampus and the prefrontal cortex in ways that help the victim differentiate the past and the present. "Flashbacks" and intrusive memories can result. To the victim, these are not just horrible memories—they are sensory, emotional re-experiences of the trauma. Some people may see, hear, feel, or even smell aspects of the trauma again.

The answer is of course to bring these structures and networks back to fully functioning order the way they were before the trauma. The role of nature in this is not well studied, as I suspected, but more attention is being paid, especially to the way Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) plays a role in neuroplasticity, which is critical for rebuilding and 'beefing up' the affected areas.

As mentioned in a full article in The Mirror a couple of years ago, the role of BDNF is one of the top three things people with neurodegenerative disorders need to bolster. This substance can halt or even reverse symptoms of dementia, especially when caught early. Daily exposure to pleasing landscapes has been shown to significantly increase neuroplasticity and increase hippocampus function. A [90-minute](#) walk in nature is enough to increase BDNF by beneficial amounts. For PTSD it is there-



# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE - PTSD From previous pg

therefore likely that two 90-minute walks per week for six weeks might very well begin the process of brain reset. The studies done so far, just a couple, show some improvement, but not as strong as for patients for whom traditional office-based therapies are effective. At this time it appears that nature-based interventions should be part of a comprehensive therapeutic program, with or without magic mushrooms. For many veterans, nature therapy needs more conventional support since psilocybin mushrooms are not approved by the VA, and a person taking this privately and then being tested for controlled substances might lose their VA benefits.

Time spent in nature doesn't pose this problem. For some patients in urban settings, nearby restful nature access can be a challenge. When this is so, a residential program such as 'care farming' might be very healing. An abundance of research, mainly out of Europe, indicates multiple benefits for combat-related PTSD. They have shown that nature exposure reduces cortisol, improves mood, and enhances hippocampal function. The required physical activity boosts BDNF and neuroplasticity, helps regulate sleep and energy, while exposure to farm animals increases oxytocin, reduces hypervigilance, and builds trust. The routines and daily responsibilities reintroduce a

feeling of personal agency while combating helplessness and disconnection. Folks who suspect they might have this condition or that it is emerging might want to be proactive if they live in this beautiful area and get outdoors for an hour and a half every so often. Solo is fine, but calm and non-judgmental companionship seems to be effective as well. Combine this with other measures as needed, just bear in mind that shrooms aren't the only means of achieving a sound brain and body. Get out early in the day in the coming summer heat when you need to and be well.  
The Mindful Naturalist

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### UNBIRTHDAY PARTY FUNDRAISER CELEBRATES GROWTH AND IMAGINATION AT MONTROSE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Montrose Children's Museum is thrilled to announce *The Unbirthday Party*, a whimsical fundraising celebration marking one year in its current location. This fun-filled event will take place on **Saturday, June 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Montrose Pavilion and aims to support the museum's long-term sustainability, expanding its interactive exhibits and enriching educational programs.

To help fuel the next stage of the museum's growth, a generous donor has pledged a matching gift of up to \$10,000—doubling the impact of every dollar raised during the event.

"We've grown so much in our first year thanks to the community's enthusiasm and we are full of gratitude for the support we've received," said Mallory Shaffer, Executive Director of the Montrose Chil-

dren's Museum. "The Unbirthday Party is a celebration of imagination, collaboration, and what's possible when people invest in playful learning. With the donor match, every contribution will go twice as far toward building a stronger, more innovative museum for kids and families." The event is supported by a dynamic group of community partners, including the City of Montrose, Kin Connect, Alpine Bank, Walmart, DMEA, TEI Rock Drills, and many others who are committed to helping children in the region learn through play.

Families attending *The Unbirthday Party* can look forward to:

- Live music by *La Familia Music Group*
- Colorful face painting by *Toadstool Face painting*
- Whimsical balloon art by *Twisted Critters*
- Delicious tea and sweet treats
- Creative stations, including custom hat

making

-Games and activities for all ages  
-and an **interactive story walk** experience  
Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available now through the museum's website. The museum is also seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help bring the event to life—whether by assisting with activities, welcoming guests, or supporting operations behind the scenes.

All proceeds from the event will go toward enhancing exhibits, maintaining accessibility for all families, and growing programming that fosters creativity, curiosity, and connection.

Don't miss this unforgettable celebration of play, progress, and possibility. Come one, come all—it's everybody's Unbirthday!

**To purchase tickets, become a sponsor, sign up to volunteer, or donate, visit:**  
[www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org](http://www.montrosechildrensmuseum.org)

# BRAND NEW CHAMPION-YORK HOME



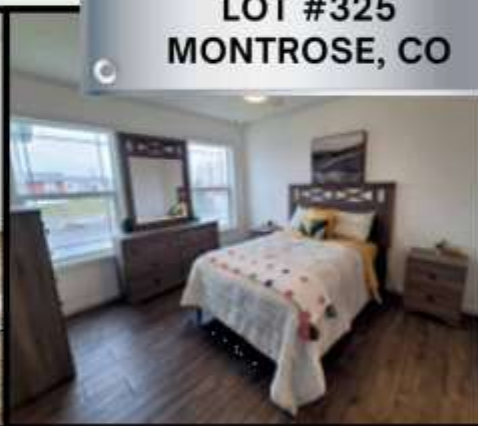
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970-615-9412



[julie@thehiddenlakecommunity.com](mailto:julie@thehiddenlakecommunity.com)



[www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com](http://www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com)

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





# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DRAWING THE LINE, WHY I'M TAKING A STAND AGAINST FEDERAL LAND GRABS

By Sean M. Pond,

Montrose County Commissioner, District 3  
The views expressed here are my own and do not represent an official action or position of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners.

I took an oath to uphold the Constitution and defend the land, rights, and way of life of the people in Montrose County. Right now, that means standing up to two major federal land grabs.

We already stopped the proposed 500,000-acre Dolores National Monument and the 68,000-acre National Conservation Area that followed. Now, the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act and the Dolores River NCA are back with the same playbook, lock it up, call it conservation, and sell out the people who live and work on the land.

The GORP Act

GORP proposes over 730,000 acres of new federal wilderness, conservation, and special management areas in Gunnison, Delta, Ouray, Hinsdale, Saguache, and Pitkin Counties. It bans new oil and gas leases, mining claims, and timber harvesting. Montrose County isn't inside the map, but we're directly affected, economically and environmentally. Our downstream grazing, timber flow, water supply, and public access are all at risk.

It also restricts off road use like ATVs and side by sides, bans motorized access to many trails and roads, and could limit

hunting and fishing. That hurts outfitters, guides, local retailers, and families. GORP doesn't just block industry, it threatens our way of life.

Worse, it undercuts wildfire mitigation. These designations make it harder to thin fuel loads, clear access routes, or perform controlled burns. Blocking motorized access doesn't protect land, it turns it into a tinderbox.

The Dolores River NCA

This 52,872-acre proposal in Montezuma, Dolores, and San Miguel Counties is no different. It restricts future use, access, and opportunity under the false promise that it'll "prevent" a monument. That's not true. Presidents can declare monuments at any time, and Congress can override local plans.

How It Keeps Happening

I believe Congressman Jeff Hurd co-sponsored GORP based on what he heard from county commissioners who claimed there was local support. But that support doesn't reflect the voice of miners, ranchers, oil and gas workers, or everyday users of public land.

Environmental activists have pushed this for 15 years. They wear people down. And in many of these counties, low voter turnout lets activists win elections and plant themselves on boards and commissions.

Many of these officials aren't local and don't represent the people who built these communities. They're just the ones

who showed up, and no one challenged them.

Congressman Hurd Is Listening

Jeff Hurd is a friend. We talk openly and often. I respect him. He hasn't done anything wrong, he made a decision based on what he thought was accurate. But now he needs to hear from you. He's listening. Let him know where you stand.

Time to Get Involved

If we don't get active, we're going to lose the last free and wild place in Colorado. Get off the tractor, step out of the shop, bring your kids, run for a board, or show up to a meeting. The Rocky Mountain Heist is real, and we're in its crosshairs.

My Stand

I oppose GORP. I oppose the Dolores River NCA. I oppose any designation that locks up land, cuts off access, and silences rural voices.

Take Action

Rep. Jeff Hurd

(202) 225-4761 |

[jeff.hurd@mail.house.gov](mailto:jeff.hurd@mail.house.gov)

Sen. Michael Bennet

(202) 224-5852 |

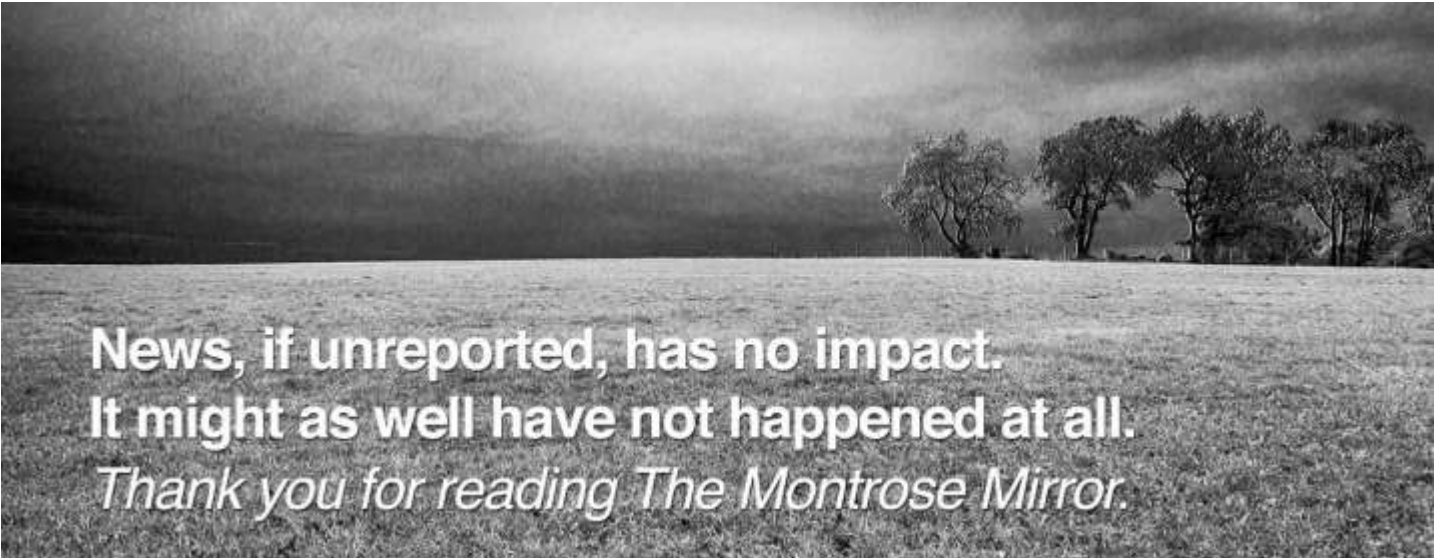
[senator\\_bennet@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:senator_bennet@bennet.senate.gov)

Sen. John Hickenlooper

(202) 224-5941 |

[senator\\_hickenlooper@hickenlooper.senate.gov](mailto:senator_hickenlooper@hickenlooper.senate.gov)

Don't wait. Speak up. If we don't fight now, we won't have anything left to defend.



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

## SOLAR FARMS THREATEN PROPERTY RIGHTS IN MONTROSE COUNTY

*Editor:*

Large-scale solar farms, while promoted as clean energy solutions, pose significant threats to private property rights and the quality of life for Montrose County residents. These projects risk undermining the autonomy and liberty foundational to American values by pressuring landowners and creating nuisances like noise and vibration for neighbors. In Montrose County, where the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is developing zoning standards for solar farm applications as a moratorium set in October 2022 may expire, these concerns are urgent. I oppose rapid solar expansion due to its impact on property rights, disturbances, inefficiencies, environmental costs, and aesthetic damage, urging the BOCC to extend the moratorium and prioritize reliable alternatives like nuclear power.

**Private Property Rights and Neighbor Concerns**

Private property rights, enshrined in the Constitution, are essential to American freedom. Solar farms threaten these rights through aggressive land deals and unmitigated nuisances. In Montrose County, developers often pressure landowners into leasing or selling property, undermining rural sovereignty. A 2024 Montrose County Planning Commission survey found 68% of residents prioritize property rights and quality of life over energy projects. Residents like Barbara Hulet, living near the Delta-Montrose Electric Association solar farm, report persistent noise and vibrations from sun-tracking panels, violating their right to quiet enjoyment. A 2024 Texas federal court case (*Hicks v. Andrews*) ruled solar farms can be nuisances if they significantly impact neighbors, highlighting the need for careful analysis. The BOCC must prioritize zoning standards that protect landowners from coercive deals and shield neighbors from

disruptions, as seen in the rejection of the Garnet Mesa Solar Farm in Delta County over agricultural and community concerns.

**Efficiency and Reliability Issues**

Solar energy's low efficiency and reliability make it a risky choice for Montrose County's energy needs. Solar systems generate power only when the sun shines, with an average U.S. capacity factor of 24.7%, compared to nuclear power's 92.7% (EIA, 2025). This gap is critical in rural areas where stable power supports agriculture and businesses. California's 2023 heat-wave power shortages, caused by low solar output, highlight the need for fossil fuel backups, undermining solar's "clean" credentials. A 2024 International Energy Agency report notes solar integration requires costly storage, increasing energy costs by up to 20%. These inefficiencies threaten property owners by reducing land value and utility due to unreliable energy.

**Environmental and Aesthetic Costs**

Solar farms require vast land, transforming private properties and scenic landscapes into industrial zones. A 2023 Nature Conservancy study estimates solar needs 8-10 acres per megawatt, compared to nuclear which uses just 0.13 acres. In Montrose County, where natural beauty drives tourism, solar projects risk devaluing properties and harming biodiversity, including habitats of species like the Gunnison sage-grouse (CPW, 2024). Decommissioning solar panels, containing hazardous materials like cadmium, poses environmental challenges (EPA, 2024). The Ivanpah Solar project in California, spanning 3,500 acres, has underperformed and become an eyesore, illustrating these risks. **Nuclear Power** as an Alternative Nuclear power, particularly **small modular reactors (SMRs)**, offers a reliable alternative that respects property

rights. A single SMR can power 10,000 homes with minimal land use, requiring refueling only every 10 years (NuScale Power, 2025). With a capacity factor above 90%, nuclear provides stable, zero-emission energy without solar's land-intensive drawbacks or nuisances. Colorado's 2025 designation of nuclear as a clean energy resource (HB25-1040) supports its adoption. SMRs' passive safety systems and long operational lifespans (60-80 years) ensure stability compared to solar's 20-25-year cycle (DOE, 2025).

**Policy Considerations**

The push for solar overlooks trade-offs, including property rights erosion and neighbor disturbances. The 2023 closure of Montrose County's Nucla coal plant, driven by climate policies, left economic challenges without viable replacements. Coal and gas plants offer higher reliability (42% and 54% capacity factors) than solar's 24.7% (EIA, 2025). The BOCC's proposed zoning standards must address public concerns about visual impacts, environmental degradation, and residents' rights to avoid long-term harm. Nuclear power balances clean energy goals with reliability, preserving Colorado's landscape and landowners' autonomy.

**Conclusion**

Solar farms threaten Montrose County's property rights and residents' quality of life through coercive land practices and nuisances like noise. Their low efficiency, environmental costs, and aesthetic damage make them unsuitable. Nuclear power, with its small footprint and high reliability, better aligns with the county's priorities. The BOCC should extend the moratorium, refine zoning to protect landowners, and prioritize nuclear energy to uphold property rights and ensure a stable future.

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



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CBI LAUNCHES INVESTIGATION AFTER BODY FOUND IN BURNING CAR

#### Colorado Bureau of Investigation

CBI – PUEBLO-The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched a death investigation after a body was discovered in a burning vehicle south of Pueblo early this morning.

Just after 1 AM, a passerby alerted 911 to a car fully engulfed in flames on the west side of the frontage road parallel to Interstate 25, facing northbound near mile-marker 92.

The Pueblo Fire Department quickly responded and extinguished the fire. Upon further inspection, firefighters discovered a body inside the vehicle. The Colorado State Patrol and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control both responded to the scene to assist.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation was subsequently called to process the scene and has taken the lead in the ongoing investigation. An autopsy will be conducted by the Pueblo County Coroner to determine the cause and manner of death, as well as to identify the victim.

No further information is available at this time.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

*Editor:*

Memorial Day is a time of reflection on the lives of heroes from our past who sacrificed blood, sweat, tears, and even their lives in order to build and preserve our nation. Each year, I look forward to commencement addresses given to graduates at our universities and colleges; admonishing them to make the most of their lives, and to reflect upon the privileges they have enjoyed in getting an education. The speeches contain advice to young people as they embark on their chosen careers. Here are some inspiring words for young people to live by, taken from commencement addresses by a few of our presidents:

Thomas Jefferson – “In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock”

Harry Truman - “It's amazing how much you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit”

Teddy Roosevelt - “If you believe that you can, you're already halfway there”

Franklin Roosevelt- “If you treat people right, they will treat you right 90% of the time”

Dwight Eisenhower - “Accomplishment will prove to be a journey, not a destination”

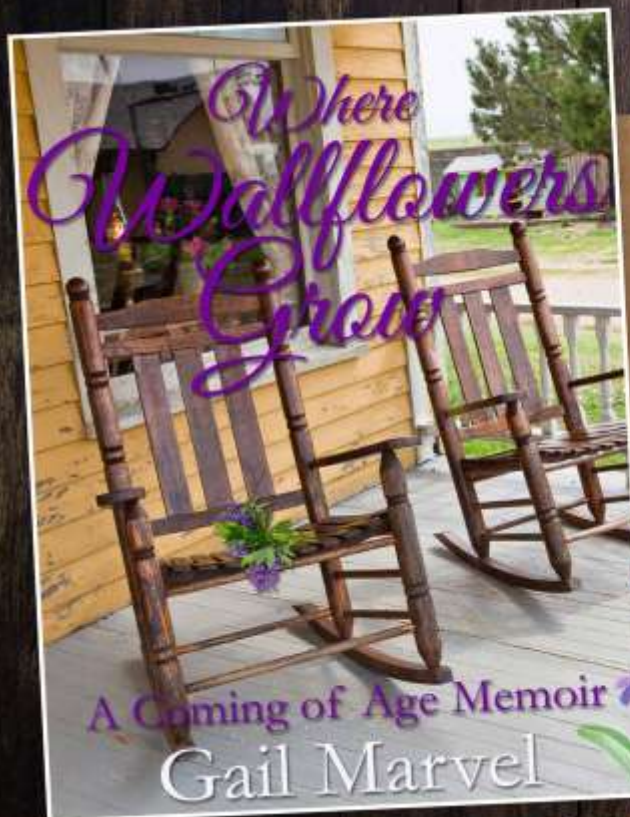
Barack Obama - “This generation, your generation is the one that must find a path back to prosperity and decide how we respond to a global economy that left millions behind even before the most recent crisis hit — an economy where greed and short-term thinking were too often rewarded at the expense of fairness, and diligence, and an honest day's work”

Donald Trump - (To graduating West Point cadets): “He ended up getting a divorce. Found a new wife. Can you say a trophy wife? It didn't work out too well. That doesn't work out too well, I must tell you. A lot of trophy wives. It doesn't work out. It made him happy for a little while at least. He found a new wife. He got a big yacht.”

Such are some reflections and words of wisdom passed on to our next generation of leaders from those who held the highest office in the land. You can tell a lot about the values a leader holds by the words they leave for posterity.

*David Congour*

*Montrose, Colorado*



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

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**

*Montrose Author & Reporter*

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





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kitchen that's equal parts stylish and functional. A newer deck just off the kitchen invites easy indoor-outdoor living, perfect for morning coffee or weekend gatherings. Each bedroom has access to its own bathroom—including a newly tiled 3/4 bath with a sleek walk-in shower, creating two true en-suites. The upgrades continue with a three-year-old roof, new concrete walkways, and a detached garage that's anything but ordinary—fully insulated, heated, and complete with its own water heater servicing the attached bath in the ADU/office/3rd bedroom.

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**CONTACT: LESLIE GORE**

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION, TRI-STATE ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT IN MONTROSE COUNTY

*Special to the Mirror*

NUCLA AND WESTMINSTER-San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association have announced a series of projects, donations and a workforce development program to support Montrose County, Colo.

"San Miguel Power Association is one of the largest employers in the West End of Montrose County, and we are gratified to be part of these significant developments, which will support new jobs and the local tax base," said San Miguel Power CEO Brad Zaporski.

Tri-State CEO Duane Highley said the new projects and donations are a continuing effort to support Montrose County and the Nucla-Naturita, Colo. area.

"Tri-State's and our members' investments will continue to support communities across Montrose County, with new employment opportunities and significant contributions to the local tax base," Highley said.

### **Electric co-ops announce new solar facility**

Working with local communities and stakeholders, SMPA is proposing a 20-megawatt solar facility on the local electric distribution system in Montrose County.

The project is part of Tri-State and its members' innovative Bring Your Own Resource program. SMPA intends to use \$9.8 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture Empowering Rural America (New ERA) investment for the project. SMPA will work with Tri-State and local, private landowners on the project.

"New ERA represents a significant opportunity for SMPA to once again partner with our local communities that are experiencing impacts from the retirement of fossil fuel generation," Zaporski said. "This is a shining example of partnership in action to help bolster our rural communities."

Tri-State members Gunnison County Electric Association in Gunnison, Colo., and

Empire Electric Association in Cortez, Colo., also are partners in the SMPA solar project.

### **Donation to the West End Pay It Forward Trust, workforce development program**

Tri-State announced an additional \$400,000 donation to the West End Pay It Forward Trust Resiliency Grant Program (WEPIFT) in Nucla, a local endowment fund supporting community development. The Telluride Foundation announced an additional commitment of \$400,000 through its own community grant programs dedicated to the West End. Tri-State previously made a \$500,000 donation to WEPIFT in July 2020.

WEPIFT has been supported by the Telluride Foundation since the trust's inception, including grants, programs and initiatives, and resources, including the grants enabled by the original Tri-State donation.

### **Tri-State to locate 50-megawatt storage facility in Montrose County**

As part of an April 11 filing with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CoPUC), Tri-State announced its preferred portfolio for Phase II of its 2023 Electric Resource Plan. Tri-State disclosed the plan includes a 50-megawatt battery storage project in Montrose County, scheduled to be online in 2026.

"Tri-State is delivering on its commitment to a reliable, affordable and responsible electric system to serve its rural members well into the future, and Montrose County will be a part of that solution," Highley said.

The Montrose County storage facility is one of 10 new resources totaling 1,657 megawatts across Tri-State's four planning regions. Tri-State forecasts that 70% of the energy it provides to its members will come from renewable resources in 2030.

### **Former New Horizon Mine water treatment facility; workforce development training**

Included in today's announcements are plans for a new "reverse osmosis" water treatment facility at the former New Hori-

zon Mine in Nucla, Colo. The facility will treat water from a spring located on the mine site before being discharged into Tuttle Draw, which flows into the San Miguel River.

Groundwater, which upwells at the former New Horizon Mine named the "Dakota Spring," contains elevated minerals and metals.

The on-site water treatment plant will include a reverse osmosis system designed to remove elevated impurities. This process involves forcing water through a semi-permeable membrane under pressure, allowing water to pass through while collecting salts, minerals and other impurities.

Construction activities will begin on the water treatment facility in 2026, and operations are planned to begin in 2027. The current design requires 4-5 individuals to operate the facility.

The Telluride Foundation will work with Tri-State on a workforce development program, which could include training workers for the water purification plant at the former New Horizon Mine.

###

### **About San Miguel Power Association**

San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is a member-owned, locally controlled rural electric cooperative with offices in Nucla and Ridgway. SMPA was established in 1938 for the purpose of supplying central station power to the rural farms and dwellings in the San Miguel Basin area, and today serves approximately 10,500 members and 15,000 meters and supports local communities.

### **About Tri-State**

Tri-State is a power supply cooperative, operating on a not-for-profit basis, serving electric distribution cooperatives and public power district member-owners in four states.

Together with our members, we deliver reliable, affordable and responsible power to more than a million electricity consumers across nearly 200,000 square miles of the rural West. Visit [www.tristate.coop](http://www.tristate.coop).

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# BOCC CONTINUES HEARING ON RANGER RANCHETTES SPECIAL USE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners convened for a special meeting on Wednesday, May 28. All three commissioners were present for the session, which included a well-attended public hearing on the [Ranger Ranchettes Special Use proposal](#).

The meeting agenda states, *"This Agenda covers the Agenda from the May 14, 2025 cancelled meeting. The May 14, 2025 was deemed final on May 13, 2025 - no additional items will be added."*

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares called the meeting to order; following the Pledge of Allegiance Mijares opened the floor to public comment.

Those who offered comment included Julie Yarnell, Sue Gattis, Ray Langston, Diane Carabetta, Joe Carabetta, and Rachel Studley.

Julie Yarnell thanked the BOCC for hosting the Coffee with a Commissioner events. "I've attended two so far with Commissioners Mijares and Hansen, and they were very positive experiences. It was nice to connect on a personal level, and we were respectful and listened to each other's views even though we didn't necessarily agree on everything. I look forward to having the opportunity to meet with Commissioner Pond at the next one."

Yarnell thanked Commissioner Hansen for bringing a pen and paper during the conversations. "She was really listening and writing down our concerns. I encourage you to continue activities such as these...I also encourage you to try and schedule a nighttime meeting for constituents who have to work during the day..."

Yarnell went on to address Commissioner Sean Pond. "...his op-ed in the *Montrose Mirror* on May 12 alleging conspiracy theories against Commissioner Hansen, name calling against constituents Ray Langston and Amy Tooker as well as local Press Publisher Dennis Anderson, were unacceptable and unprofessional coming from a county government official. They deserve apologies from you. This is not productive for our county; you need to block

out the noise and do your job...we expect respectful behavior from our commissioners as they are government leaders and a reflection of our county..." Yarnell asked commissioners to set aside party differences and work for all of the citizens.

Sue Gattis spoke next, saying that she agreed with Yarnell. "...I was appalled at this opinion piece. Frankly I thought it was ninth grade drivel, not appropriate for any county commissioner elected by the people. He definitely owes Sue Hansen and the rest of the people he named an apology. If you have something to say about Sue Hansen and how bad she is and how she was not deserving to be chair, you have a duty to tell us. We need to know the facts. Instead, you did innuendo...it was claptrap. It was terrible...it is not becoming to an elected official in Montrose County."

"We are better than that..." Gattis said after saying that an apology was due.

Ray Langston also spoke about Commissioner Pond's op-ed. "I think that was a big mistake on your part, to chastise your constituents for our public views. I have given you a fair opportunity to serve the citizens of this county, but you choose to take the low road. I agree that you do owe me, Commissioner Hansen, Kay Heinschel, an apology for your remarks in that article."

Diane Carrabetta spoke. "I would like to thank Commissioner Sue Hansen for always taking into consideration the people that she serves...that is so important. I do believe too, that it should be a written apology in the *Mirror* to debasing your constituents for whom you serve..."

Joe Carrabetta commented on a recent Facebook post by Commissioner Pond concerning solar farms. "...I think you have to look at what is the solid waste disposal of the components of the solar farm. I think those costs should be borne by the owners of the solar farm and not on the taxpayers of the county. Also, the damage it does to the land...I would consider an 'ugly tax' because in my opinion, these ground-based solar farms are ugly." He reminded commissioners that they

are the local leaders of the Republican party, and of "Ronald Reagan's rule, the 11<sup>th</sup> commandment. Don't speak ill of other Republicans."

Rachel Studley spoke. "I don't usually get up and speak but I do believe in holding people accountable, and again Commissioner Pond you weren't an elected official, you were appointed and you do have a duty to do your job, and your job is to be professional, kind and tactful and represent all citizens of Montrose County, not just the ones that agree with you."

"No better way to say this than your own direct words, and I quote, 'It's time to say, 'sit down, stop dividing us, you've done enough damage.'"

## COUNTY MANAGER-CONSIDERATION FOR REMOVAL OR CHANGES

Interim County Manager Leslie Quon had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve Consent Agenda items, with Resolution No. 26-2025 assigned to Item Five.

## MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session and convened as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, approving:

- The [temporary distillery liquor sales room](#) at Rimrocker Trailhead for the Electric Hills Mountain Bike Race;
- The [renewal of the Beer & Wine liquor license](#) for Billy Goat Hop Farm; and
- The [temporary distillery liquor sales room](#) at Boot Stomp Event on June 6, 2025 at Storm King Ranch from 5:30PM to 10:30PM for Montrose Regional Health Foundation.

## GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve [Resolution 27-2025](#) "and the Chair's signature on the State of Colorado/CDOT agreement #25-MTJ-01 in the amount of \$149,697 with a local match of \$149,697 and Federal Funding of \$5,688,496 for participation in the Rehabilitation Project of Taxiway C & D at Montrose Regional Airport. As reviewed by Counsel."



## BOCC CONTINUES HEARING ON SPECIAL USE From previous pg

Following approval, BOCC Chair Scott Mijares thanked Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold, "Thank you for making this the best airport on the Western Slope. It's a gem..."

Budget Manager Lanny Paulson presented information; following a public hearing Commissioners voted to adopt Resolution No. 28-2025, to approve the 1st supplemental appropriation to the Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025.

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

There was one Planning & Development item, which was continued from the meeting of April 16:

**The Ranger Ranchettes Special Use [SU24-005] proposal** to allow construction of personal hangars and/or hangar homes as well as ensuring continued access to and use of the existing historic airstrip at Parcels 399318206001, 399318207001, 399318207002, and 399318207003. The zoning is General Agricultural, the Applicant is Dan Penasa.

According to the Project description, *"The Special Use Permit proposes to expand an existing airport. The expansion will not alter or expand the runway, but is proposed to add four new hangars to the airport. The special use permit area is approximately 34 acres in size and is zoned General Agricultural (A). The site is located on 6300 Road south of Pearl Road... The applicant indicates that the subject properties have access to the airport. However, without the SUP, property owners could not build hangars to store aircraft and properly utilize the existing airport."*

Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond gave an overview and presented the criteria to be used to either approve or deny the special use application.

Some of the comments received on the proposal are included in the special meeting packet. A written comment from Neighbor Jennifer Osborn states, *"Our home is located north of the Ranger Ranch airport. We have concerns about the safety of take-offs and landings that are occurring directly over our homes. Like many of our neighbors, we have personally witnessed unsafe flight operations including*

*dangerous touch and goes, flying in the dark, and dogfighting maneuvers. It is our understanding that the pilots are supposed to use the southern portion of the runway, but they never do. They are flying low and directly over our homes."*

Applicant Dan Penasa discussed the proposal. "It's a historic use, and I believe that approval of this...there are conditions that we'd like to implement that can make this a better area for everyone. I know that a lot of the neighbors have concerns, and for any issues, or threats, feelings of fear that you may have experienced from certain individuals, I apologize for those...I understand your concerns...with approval of this we'd like to implement some improvements to the area...reduce the dust...upgrade the runway with some gravel product...safety is a big thing, people have felt threatened by some flying maneuvers out there...these flights have occurred when I haven't been around...by approval I think we can make things better...please, give us the opportunity to work with this and show you that we can provide a quality product."

Commissioner Sue Hansen referred to the safety concerns expressed in the public comments, "...the low flying, some of those acrobatic maneuvers..." "You indicated that you were going to put some controls on that, like what..."

Penasa said he has been instructed to work with local law enforcement. "They've been contacted once or twice...the FAA has rules for basic heights above the ground..."

He said he has not communicated about the person involved with the dangerous behavior, including communicating with the FAA, but is willing to. "Threatening behavior will not be tolerated by him...there's really just no excuse for it...I will continue to do everything in my power to curtail that."

Commissioner Scott Mijares asked about enforcement of rules, "...How do you plan to hold them accountable? Do you take away their takeoff and landing rights? What is it you have in place to hold them accountable?"

Penasa said he would like to hold a group meeting to come up with solutions.

Mijares asked whether homeowners would be allowed to have guests fly in. "They can have guests, with permission," Penasa said. "Our covenants allow guests...I think that's an important part of it."

Commissioner Pond asked what type of rules would be considered.

Penasa said establishing standard flight patterns, and use of the runway length as intended would be implemented.

David Lee commented on the proposal. "This is a private airstrip," he said. "...it's actual registered owner and manager is not Dan Penasa. The registered owner/manager is Tanya Newman...how much control will Dan have of any flying when he's actually not the owner or manager of the airstrip?"

Lee shared some recent history of the airstrip and the location of improvements. He noted that his own subdivision is just north of the airstrip. "We are the most affected by the flying here."

Lee raised concerns over zoning violations, and with regard to the frequency of takeoffs and landings, "...Only a couple of weeks ago we recorded 11 flyovers, basically starting at 7:16pm, going to 7:39pm...literally a little over two minutes per flyover, low flying, touch and go landings, circling back around...it is entirely disruptive for all of the residents in the surrounding areas for these planes to do this..."

He asked that the special use permit be denied.

Other neighbors also offered commentary. Among them was Pilot Jared Newman, who said that the special use should have conditions..."Dan himself said, there's not enough fire hydrants on the runway..."

Dust must be addressed, Newman said. "...I really do think that the runway should be fenced..."

Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold addressed some of the concerns. He said that the airport itself is not unsafe. "...People land on dirt air strips all the time." Fencing can be a double-edged sword, he said. "Most airports actually in America are not fenced...I don't think a fence around the airport

## BOCC CONTINUES HEARING ON SPECIAL USE From previous pg

makes it any safer.”

Commissioners continued to ask about specific concerns.

Penasa spoke again. He addressed several of the stated concerns. BOCC Chair Scott Mijares responded that any enforcement has to come from the FAA, and it has to be the owner of the airport that says who is not allowed to take off or land from the airport.

Penasa said that the owner was present; Owner Tanya Newman was asked to step up to the podium. She said she had not spoken to Penasa about rules enforcement. “Him and I haven’t spoken about it,

I think we would have to have a discussion.”

Hansen asked, “...If there were the opportunity for complaint, would you be willing to do that?”

Newman said she would have to know and understand the safety issue...“I’m not involved in the special use permit....”

Mijares said the issue needs more investigation, “We need to have things a little more solid...”

One more comment was allowed. Commercial Pilot Arjun Makhija said that the airstrip is a great amenity, but he has observed hazardous flying. During an auction

in the neighborhood with 150 attendees, a pilot performed “falling leaf” maneuvers directly above the crowd, Makhija said. “I was standing in my backyard while I witnessed this happen...the fact that the airport is owned and operated by the partner/wife of the person who is doing this is hugely problematic...I witnessed it.”

Following the Public Hearing, Hansen moved to continue consideration of the special use application to June 4, with public comment closed. Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the continuance. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THANK YOU COMMISSIONER POND

*Editor:*

This week, Anfield Energy announced that the Department of Energy approved the reopening of mining operations at their Velvet-Wood uranium mines in Lisbon Valley, Utah.

This accelerated approval was made possible by President Donald Trump declaring a National Energy Emergency and marks a turning point in America’s priorities regarding energy and mineral extraction policies.

Anfield Energy has announced that they intend to open an office in Nucla to manage the project, as well as pursue other properties, including the [Slick Rock project](#) here in Montrose County.

I would like to congratulate Commissioner Sean Pond for his hard work in opposing

the Dolores Monument. Through his leadership as a private citizen, and with the help of thousands of citizens, we were able to push back and defeat the efforts of radical environmentalists who wanted to lock up these lands.

As a Montrose Commissioner, Pond introduced a resolution stating that Montrose County would not participate in negotiations to restrict access to these critical resource areas through the implementation of a National Conservation Area (NCA). As County Commissioner for District 1, I was delighted to join Sean in adopting his resolution. It passed with a vote of 2 to 1.

In my opinion, Commissioner Pond’s efforts, combined with a federal energy and mineral policy, made this week’s de-

velopments possible. Developments like this will provide good jobs for the West End of Montrose County, jobs that will help hardworking people provide for their families and build a future for their children. They will also bring much-needed tax revenue into Montrose County through severance taxes.

I am so proud to serve the citizens of Montrose County with Commissioner Sean Pond. He is a man of vision, courage, and resolve. Commissioner’s outlook can be found in this [Rocky Mountain Voice Article](#).

Thank you, Commissioner Pond, and God bless.

*Sincerely,*

*Scott Mijares*

*Montrose County Commissioner*

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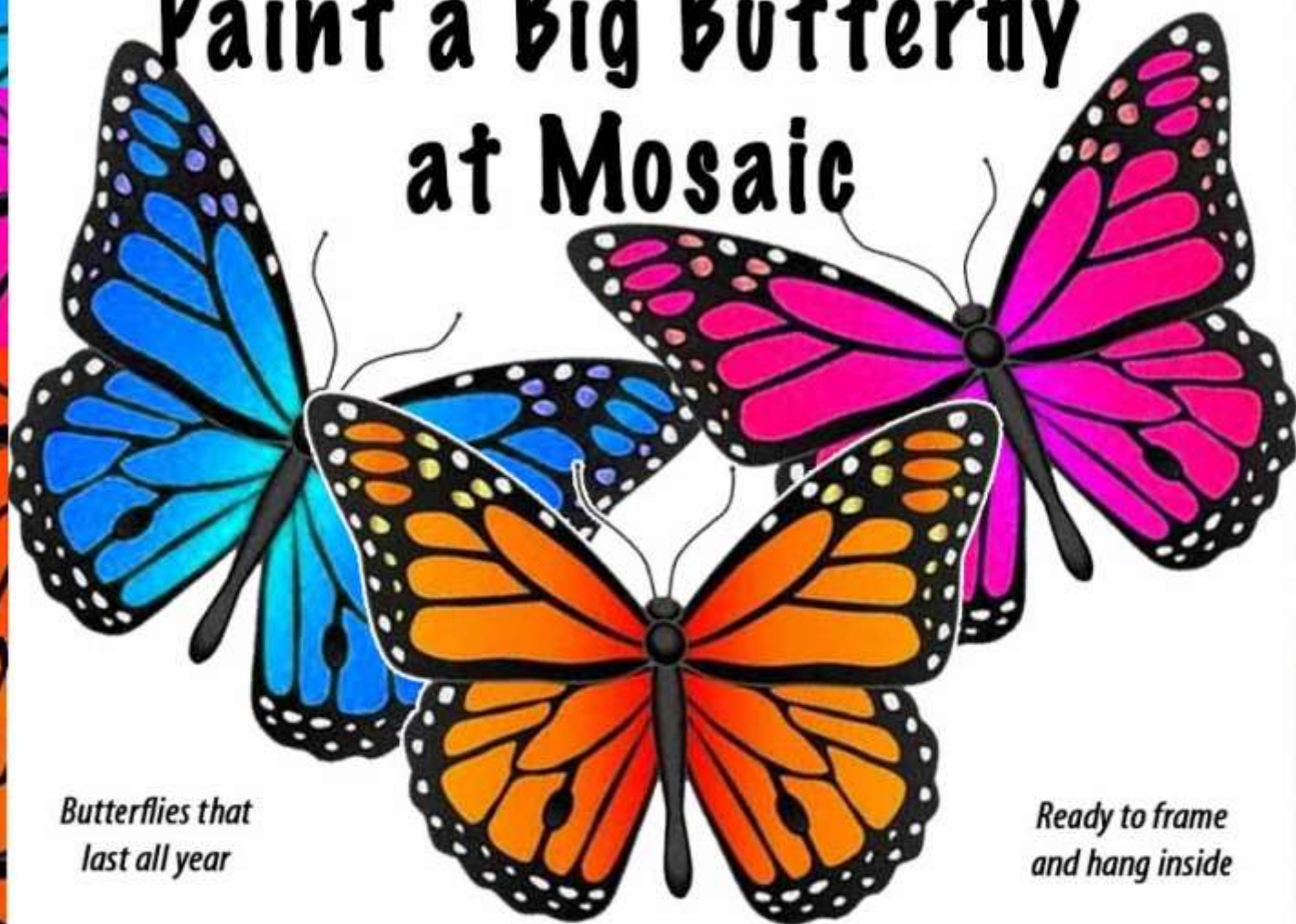
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# Thur., June 26, 5:30-7:30 pm

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## RESTORING THE PRESIDENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

*Editor:*

Critics have accused President Trump of violating the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 by impounding funds, but this overlooks a core constitutional principle: unconstitutional laws can be disregarded. The Supreme Court, in cases like *Shuttlesworth v. City of Birmingham* (1969), has affirmed that individuals may ignore unconstitutional laws. The Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) in 1994 stated that the President is not obligated to enforce unconstitutional statutes, a view supported by legal scholar Saikrishna Prakash, who argues the Constitution requires the President to disregard such laws. The Impoundment Control Act, which limits the President's ability to withhold funds, may infringe on Article II powers, and since its constitutionality remains untested by the Supreme Court, the President can act based on his constitutional interpretation.

### **Constitutional Framework and Impoundment**

The Constitution establishes a separation of powers: Congress controls appropriations (Article I), while the President executes laws (Article II).

The Impoundment Control Act disrupts this balance by restricting the President's ability to manage spending through impoundment, delaying or withholding appropriated funds. Historically, Presidents from Jefferson to Kennedy used impoundment to align spending with national priorities. Jefferson, for example, withheld \$50,000 for gunboats in 1803 due to resolved international tensions, and Nixon

impounded \$18 billion to curb wasteful programs. These actions reflect the President's role as chief executive, vested with broad discretion under Article II, Section 1, and the Take Care Clause (Article II, Section 3), which allows flexibility to ensure efficient use of funds.

The President's roles as Commander in Chief and chief diplomat further justify impoundment in defense and foreign policy. Truman and Kennedy, for instance, withheld funds for military programs to ensure readiness and cost efficiency. Impoundment also allows strategic withholding in foreign affairs, as seen in the Washington Administration's handling of French debts.

### **The Impoundment Control Act's Overreach**

Enacted in response to Nixon's impoundments, the Impoundment Control Act requires the President to notify Congress of any deferral or rescission of funds and release them within 45 days unless Congress approves otherwise. This law shifts executive authority to Congress, violating the separation of powers. Legal scholars like Mark Paoletta argue it unconstitutionally restricts the President's Article II powers. While Congress holds the power of the purse, it cannot micromanage spending execution, which is an executive function. The Act hinders the President's ability to respond to economic or security needs, undermining effective governance.

### **Counterarguments**

Opponents argue that Congress's power of the purse includes dictating how funds are spent, citing *Train v. City of New*

*York* (1975), where the Supreme Court required the EPA to disburse funds as directed. However, this case addressed statutory interpretation, not the President's inherent impoundment power. Similarly, *Clinton v. City of New York* (1998) struck down the Line Item Veto Act but distinguished it from traditional impoundment, which has historical precedent. These cases suggest the judiciary has not curtailed the President's impoundment authority, reinforcing the argument that the Act overreaches.

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

Restoring impoundment authority would promote fiscal discipline. With rising deficits, the President could withhold excess funds, for example, using \$750 million of a \$1 billion appropriation if it achieves the same purpose, preventing waste. The Act's requirement for congressional approval creates bureaucratic delays, hindering decisive action in times of economic or national security challenges.

### **Path Forward**

The Impoundment Control Act disrupts the constitutional balance by limiting the President's executive authority. To restore this power, the President could challenge the Act's constitutionality in court, seeking a Supreme Court ruling, or Congress could repeal it to enable effective governance. Reaffirming the President's impoundment authority ensures both branches respect their constitutional roles, fostering efficient and responsive government.

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



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO STATE PATROL FOCUSED ON DUI DRIVERS FOR 100 DEADLIEST DAYS OF SUMMER

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO—May is often the transition month in Colorado with “mud season” in the high country and warmer temperatures feeling steadier along the front range. As your event calendar picks up, imagine what it would be like to no longer have a driver’s license. Getting to that graduation party, barbeque or even work would depend on public transit or a ride from a friend.

A first-time DUI in Colorado comes with a license suspension of nine months in Colorado and Colorado State Troopers want you to avoid nine months of headaches by taking a moment to plan for one sober ride per celebration outside of your residence.

“The time spent on arranging a ride-share, making a plan to stay over at the location of the party or finding a designated driver is nothing when you compare it to the impact a DUI could have,” explains Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Impaired drivers account for 30% of Colorado’s traffic fatalities. The penalties are steep because they deserve to be.”

The Colorado State Patrol will launch a summer-long campaign called “Don’t Underestimate Impairment” from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, a time period known by traffic safety experts as the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer. The public can expect a no-tolerance approach to impaired driving from our daily enforcement patrols, in addition to monthly DUI Task Force Operations, DUI checkpoints and a statewide education campaign.

According to 2024 Colorado State Patrol crash investigation statistics, May was the top month troopers investigated injury and fatal crashes involving an impaired driver. Looking at the entire year, the top five counties where these injury and fatal crashes investigated by the Patrol occurred in 2024 were:

- Adams (57)
- El Paso (54)
- Jefferson (44)
- Weld (43)
- Larimer (30)



*CSP courtesy photo.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE COUNTY'S GAPVAX TRUCK GETS TO WORK

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-In partnership with the Shavano Conservation District and the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, the County took on the significant task of cleaning out dams in the Shavano Valley. Thanks to its high-pressure water and powerful vacuum capabilities, the GapVax truck efficiently removed built-up sludge and debris, helping to restore proper function and flow.

The truck also played a key role in Roatcap, where it cleared out culverts and drainage systems, improving water management and reducing the risk of blockages. From stubborn sediment to unexpected material, the GapVax handled it all with ease.

This new equipment is already making a strong impact throughout Montrose County, supporting ongoing infrastructure maintenance and enhancing community resilience.

A heartfelt thank you to our partners in this clean-up project — the Shavano Conservation District and the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association. Meaningful change begins with collaboration, and together, we're making a positive impact in our community!



*Courtesy photo Montrose County.*

### NEW RECORDING AND MOTOR VEHICLE FEES EFFECTIVE 07/01/2025

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute and Effective July 1, 2025: Recording Department filing/recording fees will be a flat fee of \$43.00. (\$40 + \$3 surcharge) Fees will no longer be based on page count of documents. \*Exception - Death Records will be a \$3.00 filing/recording fee.

Motor Vehicle Department fees for filing liens and security agreements will be a flat fee of \$40.00.

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

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### LORI MICHAELS PRESENTS HISTORY OF MONTROSE ALTRUSA CHAPTER

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose County Historical Society presents Lori Michaels, Vice President of the Montrose Altrusa, sharing the history of the Montrose Altrusa organization.

The public is welcome to attend this free program.

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

## IN SUPPORT OF MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

*Editor:*

This is my third letter to The Montrose Mirror supporting Montrose Classical Academy (MCA), a charter school. I frequently read information in the main stream media positive to both classical and charter schools, and I have yet to run across information negative to either.

My first letter (see Montrose Mirror July 22, 2024, page 41) emphasized that charter schools are not a partisan issue, as both our current Democrat governor Jared Polis and former Republican member of the United States House of Representatives Bob Schaffer have both played major roles in Colorado charter schools.

My second letter (see Montrose Mirror September 16, page 36) highlighted high test scores of students in charter schools.

This letter will show that charter schools increase the success of disadvantaged students.

An editorial, 'Colorado's Charter Schools Raise the Bar' in the September 17, 2024 Denver Gazette quotes Colorado's Common Sense Institute: "The charter sector overall has outperformed district-run schools, has produced higher college matriculation rates, and has narrowed gaps between more affluent, white students and low-income students and students of color. In addition, charter school students tend to fare better in their postsecondary achievement as well." This report uses Colorado Department of Education data to provide highlights of charter school performance in Colorado including that students of color have represented a larger percentage of charter enrollment than of non-charter enrollment every academic year since 2015-16 and that charter school students who graduated in 2016 obtained a postsecondary credential like a college diploma at a rate of 41.8% compared to non-charters' 32.8%. To see the actual data, go to [https://www.common senseinstituteus.org/colorado/research/education/higher-](https://www.common senseinstituteus.org/colorado/research/education/higher-education-launch-pad)

[education-launch-pad](https://www.common senseinstituteus.org/colorado/research/education/higher-education-launch-pad) If you read this, you will be, as I was, amazed at the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST). Seventy-seven percent of students receive free or reduced lunch across all DSST schools, compared with 45.7 percent across the state, on average. Sixty-one percent of DSST students are Latino, while the statewide proportion is 34%. Black students are 20% of the DSST student body, and 4.5% statewide. I want to emphasize that minority students are actually in higher percentages in charter schools and they outperform minority students in regular public schools. Since charter schools accept students without any demographic data, they cannot discriminate against or prioritize minority students. The key findings are really telling; most students are able to achieve better post secondary outcomes, and ultimately better lives. Since 42% of the students in Montrose schools qualify for free/reduced lunches, I believe Montrose would see results similar to those of DSST.

Jason Gaulden, a speaker at the 2024 Democrat National Convention, coauthored "Dollars and Data: Colorado Springs Educational Funding and Achievement." A key finding in the report was "In the Colorado Springs area, charter schools generally have better academic outcomes than the district-operated schools." One of the conclusions of the report was "If district 11 (the central school district in Colorado Springs) embraced charter schools into the solution set, it would attract more high performing charter schools that could help arrest and reverse the persistently declining enrollment." This may offer a solution to declining enrollment in Montrose. Another conclusion was that "Colorado Springs area district schools should continue to build on the number of rigorous, diverse, and family friendly charter schools. Charter schools are a value-add to the city's educational ecosystem and should expand to accom-

modate demand from families."

A very telling report from Arizona illuminated that public schools truly are not serving disabled, disadvantaged, and minority students. <https://www.common senseinstituteus.org/arizona/research/education/do-public-schools-serve-all-students>

The March 13, 2025 edition of the Colorado Sun published an article 'Colorado Charters Could Open Without School Board Approval in Low-Performing Areas Under Proposal.' This referred to legislation that was being considered this year by the President of the Colorado Senate, Democrat James Coleman. I have to wonder if the reason Coleman did not introduce this as a bill was he feared Republicans would support it and that Democrats would not, as they cater to teachers' unions that reject school choice. Montrose would benefit from this as it is a low-performing school district with a board that has rejected MCA, a charter school.

To summarize reasons to approve Montrose Classical Academy:

1. Choice in education is positive.
2. If you reject this charter school, it will appear that you fear it will outperform the rest of the district.
3. Charter schools offer better outcomes for all students.
4. There is more to lose than to gain by rejecting Montrose Classical Academy.
5. Charter schools are often mischaracterized as private schools, but that is not the case.

Sadly, it is commonplace to see intentional misinformation by special-interest groups that consider charter schools a threat to traditional, district-run public schools. (At the May 26, 2025 School Board meeting, one public commenter erroneously speculated that MCA would use Christian curriculum.)

6. Montrose Classical Academy will make Montrose a more attractive community.  
*Carol Antolovich, Montrose*



LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## GLENWOOD CANYON RETURNS TO NORMAL THRESHOLDS AHEAD OF PEAK TRAVEL

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and others, has updated safety protocols for [Interstate 70 through Glenwood Canyon](#) ahead of the 2025 summer travel season. These adjustments come after the 2020 Grizzly Creek Fire and subsequent years' mudslides prompted additional safety measures to protect both motorists and crews traveling on I-70 through Glenwood Canyon.

In collaboration with Glenwood Canyon stakeholder agencies, it has been determined that there is a reduced threat level compared to previous years, based on indicators such as burn scar recovery and debris flow potential. Officials are projecting normal [conditions](#) in Glenwood Canyon for the upcoming summer. As a result, CDOT and its partners will adjust inclement weather protocols.

While stakeholder agencies, such as USGS, NOAA and USFS, will continue to monitor and alert CDOT concerning weather forecasts and conditions, the following updated safety protocols will be implemented throughout Glenwood Canyon starting in June 2025. These adjustments aim to ensure continued safety and preparedness as travel volume increases in peak summer travel periods.

### **Glenwood Canyon safety protocols:** **Flash Flood Watch I-70 protocol**

Previously, under the I-70 Protocol, maintenance crews were stationed at the two primary closure points along I-70 at



*Westbound I-70 through Glenwood Canyon captured May 21, 2025. CDOT Courtesy photo.*

mile point 133 (Dotsero) and MP 116 (Glenwood Springs) when a Flash Flood Watch was issued. Moving forward, CDOT crews will implement standard traffic control measures at all closure points and will actively monitor conditions in Glenwood Canyon using cameras and personnel on the ground.

### **Flash Flood Warning I-70 protocol**

Under the previous protocol, I-70 through Glenwood Canyon would close when a Flash Flood Warning was issued, with maintenance crews coordinating with the Colorado State Patrol. This summer, however, crews will continuously monitor con-

ditions and keep I-70 open—along with rest areas and the recreation path—as long as it remains safe. This also includes maintaining access for both private and commercial rafting groups.

### **I-70 safety messages**

Motorists planning to travel on I-70, visit rest areas or use the recreation path in Glenwood Canyon should pay attention to road conditions on [COtrip.org](#) and the [COtrip Planner App](#), as well as nearby overhead I-70 digital message boards and weather forecasts. In the instance an extended closure is expected, CDOT will send information to stakeholders.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THERE ARE REASONS THE REST OF THE WORLD WANTS TO CRASH OUR BORDERS

*Editor:*

Let's start with a chuckle. The good news is that Democrats have finally figured out they have a "man" problem. The bad news is that they think all they have to do to stem the cascade of men leaving their party is to "tweak" their message to the guys (find better ways to lie to them). The people that can't define what a woman is are spending \$20 million to figure out how to speak to American men. The idea that they might want to stop vilifying men, fatherhood, marriage, and having babies rather than aborting them will never enter their minds. Men turned off by today's Democrat party are only one of their problems. The party has completely lost its connection with the working class and the trust of the common voter, and is quickly losing the minorities the party claims to champion.

Democrats have no idea how to counter Trump's positive agenda. So far, they are using unelected judges to issue illegal orders to slow his progress, but that won't last forever. Democrats unsuccessfully tried to hide Biden's declining mental capacities, and they are even less successful in hiding their agenda. They want an open border invasion of unvetted illegals, they want dudes to dominate women's sports, they're for sexually mutilating kids via transgender surgeries, they are pro-Hamas and antisemitic, and they want billions of taxpayer cash to continue flowing via federal bureaucracies through NGOs to their own pockets. They want to achieve what California has achieved – one party rule – and ignore the fact they have turned California into a progressive disaster. Most significantly, they want this country's wealth, power, and independence to be diminished.

The people controlling today's Democrat party have made it the laughingstock of the country. When people complained that prices were too high, they 'splained to us that we were too stupid to understand economics. When we were worried about the crisis at our southern border, they just flat-out told us there wasn't a problem – we just we can't comprehend immigration policy. They explained to us that slowing government waste and fraud is "dangerous to America" but pouring taxpayer money into corruption is "investing in the future." They explained

that Trump's tax cuts during his first term really only helped the rich and increased the national debt-- never mind the truth that those cuts helped taxpayers across the board and actually significantly increased the amount of money flowing into the Treasury. Now they are explaining to us dummies how it is better to buy from Chinese slave-labor factories than bring back American manufacturing jobs. They tell us that kneeling for the national anthem is real patriotism, but flying the flag on your truck is "extremism." They tell us that it is more responsible to rely on imported oil from dictators than drill here at home. Now they are telling us that there's no genocide against white farmers in South Africa, and we can't possibly let a few hundred of them migrate to the U.S. because, well, they're white. I could fill this page with other examples of Democrat pseudo-intellectuals treating voters as their vassals, but you get the point.

Not only have the majority of the American people had it with the constant Trump-bashing, it isn't working for Democrats. Look at the polls. Lawfare isn't working. Hysterical claims – Trump crashed the economy! – aren't working. Wild predictions – Trump will destroy democracy! – aren't working. No one is listening to the constant lies and fabrications coming from desperate Democrats with nothing else to offer. A prime recent example is the claim Trump disrespected the military and should be focusing more on care for our veterans. This was right after Trump redirected illegal immigrant housing funds to help American homeless veterans instead. As soon as he was inaugurated, Trump took action to reinstate, with back pay and benefits, thousands of U.S. servicemen kicked out for refusing the Covid jab. This week he granted a full pardon to an unvaxxed army officer who was persecuted by the Biden regime and court-martialed for not following Covid dictates. Trump and Defense Secretary Hegseth have taken multiple positive steps to re-focus the military on being combat ready. They have also successfully reduced the despicable patient waiting times at the VA. Prior to Trump, military recruitment wasn't coming near minimum goals. Under Trump that is no longer a problem – enlist-

ments have surged. Let's also not ignore the fact that Trump is actively working to end the Ukraine/Russia war, has forced the Houthi terrorists to stop attacking our navy in the Red Sea, and supports Israel's efforts to destroy Hamas terrorists. Ask the gold star parents who lost their sons in Biden's Afghanistan withdrawal debacle which president showed them respect and dignity. (Hint: not Biden.) Military people know who has their back, and could care less whether Trump insulted John McCain or whether your barber's uncle heard from his yoga instructor fifteen years ago that Trump badmouthed the military.

Whether you love him or hate him, at least Trump has a plan to make life better for the American people. He is tackling serious problems, most of which were created by Democrats. Writer Eric Utter gave me a new word this week, which is helpful in understanding today's Democrats. Oikophobia is basically fear and loathing turned inward – the disdain and hatred for one's own culture or homeland. Large swaths of Democrats believe in it, worship it, and project it ... and try by all means to get others to convert to it. It's their religion. That helps explain why the policies Democrats advocate make no sense and lead to devastation. Homelessness, crime, and drug abuse abound. Large swaths of Democrat cities like San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle have been transformed into dangerous hell-holes. Democrats don't let facts or history get in their way.

Never mind the fact that since its foundation, this country has done more for the advancement of mankind than the rest of the world, whether lifting people out of poverty or fighting for their liberty. There are reasons the rest of the world wants to crash our borders to live in the country Democrats hate. Advancements in medicine, manufacturing, science, etc., have resulted from our belief in our capitalist system and a commitment to hard work and discipline. "Progressives" despise all that. How else can we explain why they have nothing positive to offer? Democrats being intentionally destructive is actually worse than if they were just stupid or incompetent.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## POLITICAL AFFILIATION CAN ABSOLUTELY MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Editor:*

I would like to respond to the theory expressed last week in the Montrose Mirror opinion pieces that DMEA, School Board, and City Council races are non partisan because affiliation is not a part of the elected official's position as they function on our behalf. (Non partisan means that the Candidate's political affiliation is not included on the ballot.) Political affiliation can absolutely make a difference, as those elected SLANT in one way or another in some form. The only benefit this theory carries in Montrose, CO, is the chance that democrats have in getting elected—because Montrose does not typically elect democrats, unless, their political affiliation is NOT mentioned.

Political affiliation CAN MATTER, does not always clue us into the values a person holds, but does many times give us a hint as to how they will represent us as elected officials.

For example, Democratic policies tend to lean towards no value for innocent life (like abortion), extreme climate change ideologies; main stream media beliefs; steep government control; disregard for the Constitution; massive debt; hierarchy where government, doctors, and teachers know more than parents do about their

own children, etc.

Republican values tend to lean more towards valuing innocent lives; supporting mental health vs. permanent childhood sex changes; standing on the Biblical law of our Founding Fathers; supporting reliable energy sources; conservative stances; remaining out of debt; less governmental control; valuing and protecting the Constitution; parental rights above doctors, teachers or government, etc.

Vetting Candidates is vital along with considering their past community actions.

These are the questions I personally asked current DMEA Candidates that were important for me in making a decision:

What are your thoughts on solar fields and how much do you support them on a scale of 1-10?

How will you work to protect our electric bills from being any higher?

How will you support the use of coal and fossil fuels? On a scale of 1-10, how much do you support these energy sources?

Do you support the democratic climate change agenda aka The Green New Deal? Why or why not?

Do you support reliable carbon free nuclear energy?

Prager University is an excellent resource for any information you may need to edu-

cate yourself in what Montrose needs in a Candidate. Use their search bar. Here is a link to get you started:

<https://www.prageru.com/video/whats-wrong-with-wind-and-solar>

Speaking of DMEA, have you voted yet? Time is almost out! Log in to your Smart Hub account and VOTE! Click on link:

<https://dmea.smarthub.coop/ui/#/login>

Here is the link to the Montrose Republican website for Republican information on the DMEA Candidates. (Click on "View Candidates" once on website)

<https://www.montroserepublicans.org/>

The list of Republican Candidates for DMEA is: Ken Norris, Shelley Kelly, Emily Sanchez, Robert Hubbard, and Gary Hubbell

I, personally, am a Republican, not to be apart of a club, but because of the values Republicans are supposed to hold. I would like to guard and protect the values we hold dear and am pleased to get behind anyone who represents these upstanding values for our behalf. I understand that there are those who do not do a good job of representing that name or values, but my hope is that we will press on to uphold these principles that have sustained us for many years as a nation.

*~Jodi Woodden, Montrose native citizen*



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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## TIMOTHY JAMES RAMSEY *April 25, 1941- May 23, 2025*

TIMOTHY JAMES RAMSEY (Tim) of Montrose, CO went to be with his Lord and Saviour on May 23rd, 2025 @11:10 pm. He was 84 years old and a resident of Heidi's Chateau at the time of death. He is survived by his wife, Janet (Jan), of nearly 27 years; daughter, Shannon; son, Sean, and daughter-in-law, Joy; three grandchildren, Ayden & Heather Lykins and Bekah Ramsey; great grandson, Wyatt Zahn and sister-in-law, Karen Ramsey. He was preceded in death by his parents, Virginia (Crooks) and James M. Ramsey; brother, Gary Ramsey and previous wife, Kathy (Grout).

Tim was born in Puyallup, WA on April 25, 1941, and spent most of his life in the Tacoma, WA area. He attended both Clover Park and Wilson High Schools, graduating in 1959 from Wilson. As a youth, he attended Young Life and loved his time at their camp in Malibu, Canada. He spent 25 years as a Volkswagen dealership mechanic, along with other various jobs, mostly in the auto/trucking industry and also some time in the Army training as a medic. In the 70's, he and his family moved to Colorado Springs for a short time where he worked as an auto mechanic. At age 50, he attended Pierce College in Tacoma and received an associate degree in drug and alcohol counseling, after which he spent a few years working at Gig Harbor Counseling.

On December 27, 1998, in Normandy Park, WA, Tim married his present wife

and in 1999, moved to Log Hill Village in Ridgway, CO where he remained for 15 years. Tim was a volunteer Log Hill fireman for several years and served as their maintenance truck mechanic. He attended Ridgway Community Church where he was an active member. In 2014, he moved to Montrose due to medical reasons and attended Crossroads Church in Montrose for several years, volunteering for a short time in their Ranger program. Because of his great love for animals, especially dogs and horses, it was natural for him to spend time volunteering at Second Chance in Ridgway and various horse farms in the Montrose area. He was a member of the Black Canyon Car Club and volunteered his time "working" their car show every year. He also spent several years volunteering at Montrose Memorial Hospital, visiting patients in the Acute Rehab Unit.

Tim had many interests. His passion was really cars, and he enjoyed restoring several of them. He was an avid American Western history buff and wrote cowboy poetry, self-publishing a booklet containing a collection of his works, called "I Ain't Much A Cowboy". He loved taking the time to encourage people to remember what the Saviour did for them on the Cross by giving them a horseshoe nail and a card that said, "Jesus Took This For You". He enjoyed bead and leather work, country dancing (on occasion taught it) and country western music. He and his



wife enjoyed road trips and "getting lost in the woods" on the backroads of the San Juan mountains. The highlights of his life were trips to Hawaii, Australia and to the British Isles where he discovered his Scottish roots. He will be remembered fondly as "The Hat Guy", "The Car Guy", "The Nail Guy" and "The Animal Whisperer". Needless to say, he will be missed by those who knew & loved him.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, July 26th at Ridgway Community Church, Ridgway, CO. Cremation arrangements were conducted by Crippin Funeral Home, Montrose CO. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope West Hospice, Montrose Colorado.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.





# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## FLORENCE RITA VEO

***September 27, 1933 — May 21, 2025***



FLORENCE RITA (DELTONTO) VEO was born on September 27th, 1933 to Pete and Susie DelTonto in Montrose, Colorado. Growing up, Florence lived on the family farm working in the fields and helping her mother tend to her younger siblings and the house. She often spoke of her morning chores which included milking the cows before catching the school bus. She received her education while attending Montrose Schools.

While working at Maude Austin Drug Store in Montrose she met the love of her life, Ernest L. VEO. Ernie would order a strawberry milk shake and request real ice cream instead of ice milk. He was willing to pay the 5 cent surcharge for ice cream. After Florence got to know him better, the milk shakes were a little thicker and the 5 cent surcharge was "forgotten".

Florence and Ernest were married on December 14, 1952 and celebrated 71 years of marriage before Ernie's passing on May 9, 2024.

Florence accompanied Ernie during his enlistment in the U.S. Army where he

served at Fort Ord, California; Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Hood, Texas where their son David was born.

Upon returning to Montrose, the family expanded with the births of Dennis, Debra, and Terry.

Florence was a member of the United Methodist Church Women's Circle, and the Emblem Club of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Florence was a long time 4-H Club sewing leader.

During her employment years, Florence worked as a cook and eventually a manager for the school food service department of Montrose County School District. During her work with the school district, Florence became a member of the Colorado State Food Service Association (now known as School Nutrition Association) and rose to the position of State President; an accomplishment she was very proud of. During her tenure as president she and Ernie were able to attend the National Convention of the Food Service Association held in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was an experience they shared many times over the years.

Florence was also employed at Clubb's Ben Franklin Store and the local Walmart store.

Florence and Ernie loved to travel whether it was to visit their children, grandchildren or other relatives and friends. They were able to take an overseas trip and cruise the Mediterranean Sea spending a short time in Italy, the birthplace of her grandparents and father. A second overseas trip allowed them to visit the Netherlands on a river cruise.

Florence was known for her beautiful yard, large vegetable garden and immaculate home. Neighbors commented quite often how they would see her working in her yard or garden, and were amazed that even during her later years she was still

out in the yard on a daily basis tending her flowers.

Florence's greatest pride and joy was her family. She was a wife and mother first. She and Ernie traveled to various states to attend the high school and college graduations of their children and grandchildren. They traveled many times to Arizona to watch their grandchildren compete at the local county fair.

Florence was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her children, David (Jolene) VEO of Park Rapids, MN; Dennis (Kathy) VEO of Montrose, CO; Debra VEO of Green Valley, AZ; Terry (Patricia) VEO of Maricopa, AZ. Grandchildren: Kristopher (Bethany) VEO; Levi (Sara) VEO; Cash (Melissa) VEO; Jessica VEO (Darrell) the sole granddaughter who was born on Florence's birthday; and Logan VEO. Great-grandchildren: Jordan, Eli, Jaxon, Easton, Mason, Lainey, Lindey, and Dalton. She is survived by three sisters: Lena Whitworth, Alice Miller, and Annie Menica, and one brother John DelTonto; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She is predeceased by her husband Ernest VEO, both parents Pete and Susie DelTonto, an infant daughter, sisters Mabel DeVincentis, Pauline Garinger, Virginia Hadley, Betty DelTonto; and brothers Charlie, Jimmy, Joe, and Bobby DelTonto.

The VEO family would like to convey a heartfelt "Thank You" to all the Hope West Hospice nurses for the sincere and loving care they provided Florence during her final journey.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to Hope West Hospice or Christ Church of the Valley in memory of Florence Rita VEO.

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### PATRICIA "PAT" LEE DECKER

***July 17, 1948 — May 26, 2025***

PATRICIA (MCGINNIS) DECKER (Pat) was born on July 17th, 1948 to Aurthur "Paul" and Hazel McGinnis in Yuma, AZ. After graduating from Kofa High School class of '66, she attended classes at Arizona Western College. She then moved to Durango, Colorado to help her sister Shirley. The decision to enroll in courses at Fort Lewis led her to meet the love of her life, Timothy (Tim) Decker. They were married on April Fool's Day. In their 57 years of marriage, they settled on raising the family in Montrose, CO. They travelled the world together for both business and pleasure. In addition to being a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and friend, she was a business owner, with her favorite business being her beloved antique shop. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived and missed dearly by her husband, Tim; Sisters: Shirley McGinnis and Sharon Shepherd; Children: Tammi Wright (Rick) and Jasen Decker; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by both parents, and sisters Marjorie Grimm, and Charlotte Ralle. Private services will be held for the family and close friends, with a Celebration of life for all that knew and loved her in July.



### JUDITH (JUDY) IRENE BROWN

***June 13, 1942 — May 23, 2025***



JUDITH (JUDY) IRENE BROWN, age 82, of

Montrose, Colorado passed away on May 23rd, 2025, in Montrose, Colorado. Judy was born on June 13, 1942 in Long Beach, California to Spencer (Bill) Brown and Pauline Brown (Frost). Judy graduated from Montrose High School in 1960 and later pursued a career as an executive administrator. Judy worked for Colorado Land Bank for many years before retiring.

Judy will be remembered for her love of playing piano and teaching family and members of her church. She loved roses, yard sales, the outdoors, hiking, a good baked chicken, family and church. She was always up for an adventure, ziplining across the royal gorge only a year ago.

Judy is survived by her sister Joan Brucker of Illinois, many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by Her father Bill, her mother Pauline, her brothers Donald Brown, Danny Brown and Fred Brown. A memorial service will be held at Grace Baptist Church, on May 30, 2025 at 1020 S. 5th St, Montrose, Colorado 81401 at 2 p.m. Burial at Cedaredge Cemetery, Colorado, following the ceremony. A gathering in memory will be held at Grace Baptist Church in Montrose at 5:30.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Grace Baptist Church. The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to Pastor Shannon, her many friends from Grace Baptist Church and Valley Manor Care Center for their support and care during Judy's final days.

**"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." — Thomas Campbell**

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ISSUE 524 June 2, 2025

# ART & SOL

## MISSING OR JUST LEFT OF HIS OWN FREEWILL?

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-When Maurice Diehl, a well-known Montrose business man, took over as Exalted Ruler of the Montrose Elks Lodge in April of 1909, one of his fellow officers was Howard C. Roberts. Roberts was also well-known in Montrose. He was the manager of the Independent Lumber Company. Roberts was the Esteemed Loyal Knight and, if custom followed, he would be the Exalted Ruler in 1911, but something happened.

In mid-September of 1909, according to the *Montrose Press*, Roberts resigned his position, but agreed to stay on until his replacement was named. His resignation, according to the article, was owing to the health of his wife, who was in Denver at the time. Less than a year later, Roberts joined the Elks Lodge in Longmont, Colorado and took over the management of a lumber company there.

In March of 1911, Roberts was subpoenaed to testify in a court case in Montrose. He went to Montrose and fulfilled the subpoena. That is when things became interestingly odd; he did not return to Longmont. He seemingly just disappeared. The disappearance concerned Roberts' old friends in Montrose, and several newspapers picked up on the story, but no information could be found. On April 13, 1911 *The Montrose Daily Press* published the following article:  
**ROBERTS HAS NOT YET BEEN LOCATED**  
*Former Montrose Man Who Mysteriously*

*Disappeared Is Still Missing. The friends of H. C. Roberts, the former Montrose man, the mysterious disappearance of whom, was first told in The Daily Press Wednesday, have so far failed to locate him. Chas. A. Fischer, exalted ruler of the local Elks lodge, has vigorously searched thru the lodges in the various towns and cities, and also has taken the matter up with the Masons. The police of Pueblo and Denver, and the city authorities at Salida have been asked to take part in the search for the missing man.*

Among Roberts' friends in Montrose was former sheriff, A. H. Gill. Gill had been retained by the Montrose Elks Lodge, the Longmont Elks Lodge and the Montrose Masonic Lodge. He uncovered information that Roberts had possibly been in Salida and Pueblo, and had possibly gone to those cities via train. Meanwhile Howard Roberts' wife, who had taken a trip to Iowa, had returned to Longmont, where she reported that she had had no contact with her husband since he left for Montrose. Other friends in Longmont were contacted by local news agencies and opined that Roberts most assuredly had met with some sort of foul play. Other possibilities were also considered, as was apparent in the April 14 edition of the *Longmont Ledger*:

*HC Roberts, formerly manager of the Biggs-Campbell Lumber Co., is missing. Late in March he was at Montrose, Colo. as a witness in court, but left that town April*

*1st. He was last seen at Salida, so far as anyone interested, knows. When it was found he was missing, a man was sent to Longmont to examine his books, but they were found all right.*

*Mr. Roberts is said to be a man of excellent habits. He was a member of the Elks fraternity and that order is doing all that is possible to locate him, but it is feared that he has met with an accident. His wife was in Nebraska, and when no letter came from him, she wired to Longmont for news of him, but at the time of going to press, no news has been received regarding him.*

Roberts was the subject of headlines for several days. "ROBERTS STILL MISSING," "ROBERTS HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND," "LONGMONT MAN STILL MISSING" and "GILL STILL SEARCHING FOR MISSING MAN," were typical headlines in several newspapers.

Then in late April, Montrose Elks Lodge



**Picture of Howard Roberts that was distributed widely following his disappearance on April 1, 1911. Courtesy photo Bob Cox.**

**Continued next pg**

## MISSING OR JUST LEFT OF HIS OWN FREEWILL? From Previous pg

Exalted Ruler told members of the Elks that Gill had determined that Roberts had purchased a train ticket in Salida, but the ticket was not turned in at the railroad headquarters. Gill speculated that Roberts rode the train to Pueblo. He pointed out that, although Roberts was believed to have had luggage, none had been located. Roberts' wife, Charlotte, reportedly went

back to Longmont for a brief period and was later known to have gone back to Iowa.

She died in Kansas in 1957.

Meanwhile, the case just faded away. The next time Harold Chester Roberts surfaced he was in Washington state in 1919. While no documentation of a divorce from Charlotte was found, Roberts married Nellie

McLeod shortly after his arrival in Washington.

So, the who, what, when, and where may very well be determined, but the why was likely buried with Howard C. Roberts in Rosalia, Washington.

He died in 1954.

Nellie Roberts lived until 1971 and is buried beside her husband.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### DIVERSITY IS PRIDE: 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PRIDE ART EXHIBIT

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Join the Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) for Diversity **IS** Pride, the 2nd Annual Pride Art Exhibit. The opening reception for the exhibit will take place at the MCA on June 6 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. There will be food trucks and live music. The award ceremony (Judges Award and People's Choice Award) for the artists will take place at 6:30 p.m. Viewers can preview the show starting on June 2 and place their votes for the People's Choice Award.

The MCA is proud to showcase art from everyone, for everyone, at any time! The exhibit runs through Saturday, June 28. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### **About Montrose Center for Arts**

MCA is a non-profit organization totally served by volunteers. It depends upon support from membership, contributions, sponsorships, grant funding and the local community. To support the MCA and local artists on the Western Slope, become an MCA member. Stop by the MCA and sign up in person.

## ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-On June 13-14-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4p.m. | Saturday, 8 a.m. – Noon. Hillcrest Congregational United Church of Christ (611 S Hillcrest Dr, Montrose, CO 81401). Proceeds benefit the HCUCC Women's Union and disaster relief in St. Louis. Please bring your own bag(s) to the sale.



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Marsha Norton-Mixed-Media



Susan Kienholz-Watercolors



Dan Deuter-Oil Painter



Lu Anne Tyrrell-Photography

# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

## WEEKLY CARTOON

### SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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## Contact Author and Speaker:

🌐 [laurenhallruddell.com](http://laurenhallruddell.com)

✉ [agescapesnow@gmail.com](mailto:agescapesnow@gmail.com)

1/2 day retreats with the author beginning in May.  
Email for more info.



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## FRUITA FARMERS & MAKERS MARKET RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN WITH RECORD-BREAKING OPENING DAY JUNE 14

*Special to the Mirror*

FRUITA – The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the return of the Fruita Farmers & Makers Market to **Downtown Fruita at Civic Center Park** (325 E Aspen Ave.), launching its 2025 season on **Saturday, June 14 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

This year marks a milestone for the market, with **the largest opening day in its history**. More than **90 local vendors** will be on-site offering fresh produce, locally raised meats, baked goods, handcrafted items, and more.

“We’ve seen an incredible response from both local businesses and the community,” said **Allie Daniel, Senior Vice President of the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce**.

“Bringing the market back downtown has created a real sense of excitement. There’s a renewed energy, and it’s going to make this season something truly special.”

The Fruita Farmers & Makers Market will take place **every Saturday through October 25**, providing residents and visitors with a weekly opportunity to shop fresh, support small businesses, and enjoy a vibrant community atmosphere.

Opening day activities will include:

- Over 90 vendors featuring local food, handmade goods, and services
- The **Farmer Fred Scavenger Hunt** at the Fruita Chamber tent (also happening every Saturday)

-**Yard games and the City of Fruita’s Party Trailer**

-Sidewalk sales, pet adoptions, and community promotions throughout Downtown Fruita

The market is also proud to continue its monthly **Family Fun Day** tradition on the **second Saturday** of each month, offering additional family-friendly activities like bounce houses and themed entertainment.

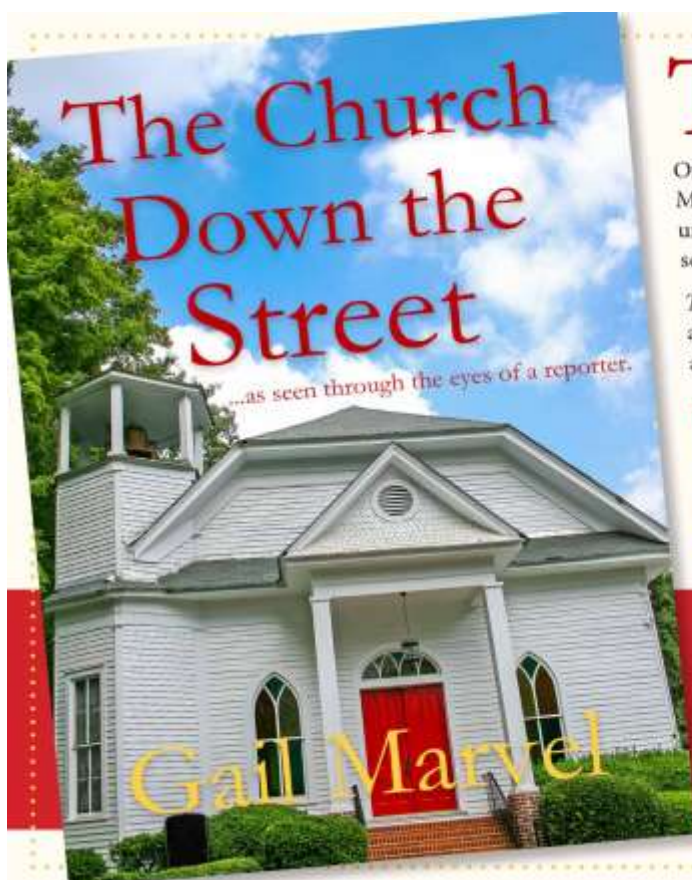
This event is made possible through the support of community partners: **Atlata Solar Center, Chesnick Realty, US Bank, and the City of Fruita**.

Each Saturday is also a reminder to support small businesses beyond the market. After shopping at the park, visitors are encouraged to explore downtown Fruita for shopping, dining, and other local experiences.

For more information, visit [fruitafarmersmarket.org](http://fruitafarmersmarket.org) or contact Allie Daniel at [allie@fruitachamber.org](mailto:allie@fruitachamber.org).



*Photo courtesy Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce.*



**T**he 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](http://Amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](http://wingedpublications.com).

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter






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This nicely designed home offers 1805 sq ft of comfortable living space, featuring a spacious common area and ample storage throughout. The wide entry hall welcomes you with 2 double-door storage closets, while the great room is bathed in natural light from a striking corner of windows. The kitchen boasts granite counter tops, stainless appliances with an upgraded gas range. A large dining area, along with a versatile cooking and serving island make entertaining family and friends effortless. Step outside to the covered back patio where you can unwind while enjoying the privacy of the large, low maintenance, fenced back yard.

The primary bedroom showcasing a vaulted ceiling and five piece en-suite bath with granite counter tops, tile finishes, private water closet and a generous walk-in closet. The guest hallway has an additional double door storage closet and 2 well sized bedrooms along with another full bath. The tandem 3 car garage has 578 sq ft of space and is perfect for your vehicles, recreational toys or even as a workshop. With this home conveniently located near the community's park and not far from downtown it's just waiting for your arrival.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## SOUTHWEST POET JULIANA ARAGÓN FATULA TO BE FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ON JUNE 3



**Juliana Aragón Fatula.**

*Special to Art & Sol*

TELLURIDE-

Juliana Aragón Fatula is a Southwest Colorado poet who puts literacy and social engagement at the forefront of her work in the world. She has three poetry

books, one of which won the High Plains Book Award.

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds is delighted to welcome her as our featured guest for our first Tuesday Bardic Trails zoom reading on June 3 at 7 p.m.

"I've gotten to hear Juliana read twice at the Crestone Poetry festival," said Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director, "and she was one of the most dynamic and

intriguing poets to perform there. I'm really excited to have her as our featured guest June 3<sup>rd</sup>."

Juliana Aragón Fatula is the author of *Crazy Chicana in Catholic City*, *Red Canyon Falling on Churches*, and *The Road I Ride Bleeds*. She identifies as Chicana with Ute, Diné, Pueblo ancestors and lives on her ancestors' homeland in Southern Colorado.

She is a member of Sandra Cisneros' Macondo Foundation, Colorado Alliance of Latino Mentors and Authors, Somos Chicanas, and an inductee to Return of the Corn Mothers.

For those that like prompts, this month's will be the "Tarot." Virtual attendees are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share each month after the featured reader, their own work or someone else's.

Next month's featured poet will be hip-hop performer Black Atticus, poet laureate of Cleveland – recommended to us by gourdita Zoey McKenzie.

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

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

Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library.

For more information, visit [the Telluride Institute website](https://www.tellurideinstitute.org).





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~SOFIA TALVIK~

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# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Contact Information:** (970) 249-2451  
<https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/> Rec-  
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [pgor-  
 don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-<br/>
  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](http://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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com)

Website: [ccvmontrose.org](http://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](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:spirit@communityspiritucc.org)

**Website:** [communityspiritucc.org](http://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](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),  
[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://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](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com), [www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://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](mailto:info@fpcmontrose.com), [www.fpcmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)

Website: [montroseucc.org](http://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](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

[montroseumc.org](http://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](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)

email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto: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](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org), [www.spiritaware.org](http://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., 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://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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## **Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado** *Invites you to attend*

A very special presentation by the

### **Colorado State Button Society**



**When:** Thursday, June 26, 2025

- 9:30 am Regular monthly Quilt Guild meeting begins  
You are welcome to attend this!
- 11:00 am – 4:00 pm “Lunch and Learn”
  - Bring your own lunch and spend as long as you'd like
  - Presentation by the Button Society representatives
  - Review and discussion of button competition trays
  - Evaluation and chat about attendee's buttons – **bring YOUR buttons!**

**Where:** Montrose County Event Center  
1036 N 7<sup>th</sup> St. Montrose, Colorado



### **What's in YOUR Button Jar?**

*Come learn about the intriguing world of buttons and button collecting. We're not talking about your average shirt button here! See and learn about the materials, history and the value of these gorgeous works of art.*

*The State and National Button Societies are 501(c)3 non-profits that rely on donations to operate.  
Cash donations are welcome and appreciated, as are donations of BUTTONS!*



Questions: contact Jean Hatfield 970-901-5239



# BRAND NEW CAVCO HOME



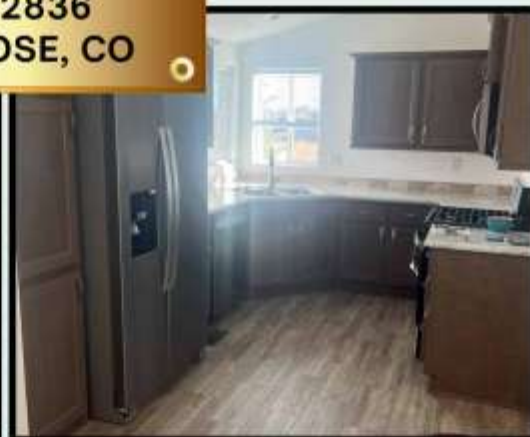
**CIMARRON CREEK**  
Welcome Home

**\$187,000**

5% Down/25 Year Term



901 6530 ROAD  
LOT #2836  
MONTROSE, CO



## PROPERTY FEATURES



3 Bedroom



2 Bathroom



Fully Furnished



1200 SF



8x8 Matching Shed

**\*ONLY \$2,316.00  
per month\***

(\$1,640.00 mortgage plus  
\$676.00 lot rent)

## CONTACT DETAILS

📞 970-249-0493

✉️ [manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com](mailto:manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com)

🌐 [www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com](http://www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com)

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



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 2ND SEMESTER HONOR ROLL 2024-2025

*Montrose County School District RE-1J*

### 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 4.0

Angelina Baughman, Luella Boisen, Sabra Busby, Monarch Faragher, June Freese, Juliette Giroir, Ava Godbe, Cara Good, Landree Johnson, Zachary Knight, Naomi Lokey, Amelia Miller, Samantha Milton, Benjamin Omvig, Ines Ortega, Ricky Pacheco, Jessica Pimentel, Dakota Romero, Angelo Rufolo, Canyon Warthen, Peyton Yehling

### All other 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99-3.50

Aspyn Alberts, Shayne Amurao, Noah Angeles, Harlie Archuleta, Morgan Carls, Bentley Carr, Liam Dillon, Olivia Dunagan, Aritzel Erives-Cervantes, Cali Espinoza, Genevieve Evans, Sofia Garcia, Khloe Gonzales, Joseph Graff, Carson Hatch, Scarlett Hodgman, Hunter Huber, Allison Jaime-Mayorga, Garrett Kay, Kathryn Leu, Beckham Maher, Francisco Maldonado, Jaime Maldonado, Blake McKenna, Corbin Miller, Sophie Mott, Jamie Mulloy, Lorenzo Munshaw, Sophia Parkinson, Jude Recacho, Oliver Sanchez, Bentley Schiller, Geraldine Segura, Kaiden Skowronek, Kimberly Tagle, Yaritza Tejeda, Avery Thompson,

Giselle Valdez, Elayna Valenzuela, Ellah Zimmerman

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 4.0

Noa Brown, Ellen Curtis, Christopher Grundhofer, Kennedy Harris, Luke Judkins, Aarogya Khadka, Hattie Maher, Kara-Leigh Nielsen, Braden Tobler, Lucia Tollini

### All other 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99 – 3.50

Charlie Alvarez, Layla Anderson, Jaxson Benner, David Brown, Kendall Clark, Madison Dean, Cruz Delgado, Nadira Dorzweiler, Jameson Downs, Rylan Dunn, Rylie Duteil, Emilio Eudave, Anitah Garcia, Brayson Garrison, Janey Gettinger, Gage Godbey, Emily Gomez, Dannaly Gonzalez, Ian Grimsley, Abel Heckman, Hayden Hewitt, Sophia Hindman, Hayes-Leigh Hughes, Kara Jakino, Bridger Jaramillo, Natalee Kelln, Emma Kuehn, Nestor Lara, Brett Lee, Kaylie Metcalfe, Paiten Ostaszewski, Desmond Otto, Tess Phillips, Connor Reed, Lizary Rosario-Nieves, Belinda Saldana, Koen Scheidegger, Aliece Schieldt, Bentley Shumway, Parker Strong, Trinity Sweetin, Cole Taylor, Mason Thomas, Easton Tomlinson, Bryce Velasquez, Jack Walker, Rebekah Whitcomb,

### 6<sup>th</sup> grad students with a GPA of 4.0

Elleska Baker, Charlotte Clowers, Maci Gray, Amelia Harrell, Liam Jennings, Dahja Johnston, Emily Manders, Avery Meaker, Valeria Medina, Anna Okhrimets, Elizabeth Omvig, Troy Pickett, Gavin Rainey, Jayda Rendon, Estrella Romo, Frank Silva, Eli Waschbusch, Ezekiel Wood

### All other 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99 to 3.50

Oscar Andress, Aspen Ballew, Rory Buckingham, Horatio Chen, Scarlet Kate Delacruz, Leland Delgadillo, Melody Diaz, Ysadora Diaz, Jesus Flores, Caleb Freese, Gael Garcia, Karma Gentry, Carter Hadlock, Elias Johnson, Charles Johnson-Freeman, Aaron Knight, Kinsey Kulbeth, Emily Lopez, Yanel Lopez, Carter Magnani, Neanaveh Maldonado, Remington Mangrum, Holden Mashburn, Iker Mendoza, Xiomara Nieto, Mariia Okhrimets, Carter Perpar, Emily Reiss, Julian Salgado, Greta Scheidegger, Dreydn Schiller, Arlo Sheets, Brody Sitton, Benjamin Soucy, Thomas Stewart, Julio Talamantes, Ashton Tanner, Carleigh Thiel, Joseph Tushinsky, Erik Valles, Gerardo Velazquez, Gaius Wageman, Brantley Whitcomb, Catalina Wogan



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# **Paint Your Pet** **at Endless Pastabilities** **Thursday, June 12. 6-8 pm on the patio**



**Includes a snack and an adult beverage or soft drink)**

Send photo to Kate of your pet. She will trace it onto 12x12 canvas for you and provide paints plus step-by-step instructions to paint it.



**\$45/pp • \$80/couple. Photo link on registration**

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| Chris Cooper.....970-270-3284     | Steve Zahnhiser.....970-765-1719 |
| Justin Covington.....970-275-4189 | Cheryl Larsen.....970-596-8801   |
| Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548      | Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018     |
| Mark Covington.....970-209-1956   | Office.....970-249-6658          |

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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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

**June 6-8**-Amateur radio operators from the Montrose Amateur Radio Club are planning a busy weekend June 6-8, 2025, with two events, the 2025 Museum Ships Weekend and the annual Tailgate Party. Both events are open to the public. The Annual Tailgate Party will be June 7 from 8AM to 11AM in Delta at the Lions Pavillion, Confluence Park. Admission is free and all attendees are automatically entered in the door prize drawings. You must be present to win. June 6,7,8 will be the 2025 Museum Ships Weekend, an international event sponsored by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station. Museum ships and ship memorials around the world will be on the air celebrating the history and service of their respective ships. Our ship here is the USS Montrose, an attack transport that served with distinction in WW 2, Korea, and Vietnam. For additional information on both these event contact Lew French at 970-471-6142.

**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](http://www.magiccircleplayers.com) or by calling the box office at 970-249-7828.

**June 13-14**-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Saturday, 8 a.m. – Noon. Annual Rummage Sale. Hillcrest Congregational United Church of Christ (611 S Hillcrest Dr, Montrose, CO 81401). Proceeds benefit the HCUCC Women's Union and disaster relief in St. Louis. Please bring your own bag(s) to the sale.

**June 14**-Annual Cobble Creek Garage Sale, 8am-2pm.

**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](mailto:vstockdale@montrosecounty.net) or 970-964-2479 or visit [www.tributetoaviation.com](http://www.tributetoaviation.com)



## MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT!



Sign of spring...Iris in bloom, Photo By B. Switzer.



The Montrose Rotary Club Fishing Derby at Chipeta Lake on May 17 was fun for the whole family. Courtesy photo.



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