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## NORRIS OUSTS FLEMING: DMEA ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL MEETING IN HOTCHKISS

Story and photos by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—Approximately 400 people attended the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) 2025 Annual Meeting, which was held on Thursday, June 12 at Hotchkiss K-8 School. As well as the business meeting, the three-and-a-half hour event included food trucks, live entertainment, games, and prize drawings. Six Grand Prizes (iPad, PlayStation 5, Milwaukee tools) were awarded, as were eight \$100 credits, courtesy of Guzman Energy.

DMEA President Stacia Cannon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a welcome to members. Except for Director Jock Fleming, all directors were present.

With minimal success, Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Williams tried to add humor to the Quorum Report and the Treasurer's Report. Reading the required script he said, "The meeting was properly noticed. There are at least 50 properly registered members. On Continued audit ended. There were strong financials

**Continued pg 4**



The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Annual meeting was held in Hotchkiss, CO on June 12. While incumbents Jacob Gray (District 3) and Emily Sanchez (District 4) retained their seats on the board, South Region Candidate Ken Norris defeated incumbent Jock Fleming. (L to R) DMEA Chief Executive Officer Jack Johnston congratulated Norris on his election to the DMEA board.

## RE-1J HEARS PRESENTATION OF 2025-2026 BUDGET



Leah Vandersluis asked about the loss of OHS Head Coach Roger Carlson. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—All directors were present for the regular meeting of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education on Tuesday, June 10, including Board President Sarah Fishing (District E); Vice President Steve Bush (District G), District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Directors voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.

### BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District D Director Tom West gave an update on the facilities Committee. New RE-1J Facilities Director Matt Smith was present at the board meeting, West said. "...He's in the middle of getting everything fixed...some merchandise, trucks and everything, is going to need to be sold—that's going to be part of the agenda, that's

**Continued pg 18**

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

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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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# Fireworks Storytime

Fireworks Storytime with the Montrose Fire Department

Tuesday, June 17

11am—12pm

Montrose Library

East Lawn



Join the Bucket Brigade to learn about fireworks safety with the local fire department!



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM PRESENTS SPOOKS, GHOULS, AND GHOST STORIES!

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Join the Montrose County Historical Museum on June 20 at 7 pm for an eerie evening of spooks, ghouls, and ghost stories as we explore the haunted history of downtown Montrose. Led by the museum's resident ghost expert, this chilling walking tour weaves together local legends and true tales from the town's shadowy past. Brave participants will wander dim alleyways and haunted corners of Main Street, hearing accounts of paranormal activity that have lingered through the years. You might even encounter something yourself... Stick around after the tour to share your own ghostly experiences! This is a family-friendly event and the tickets are \$10 per person. Be sure to sign up and have a spot saved for you. You can call 970-249-2085 or email at [info@montrosehistory.org](mailto:info@montrosehistory.org)

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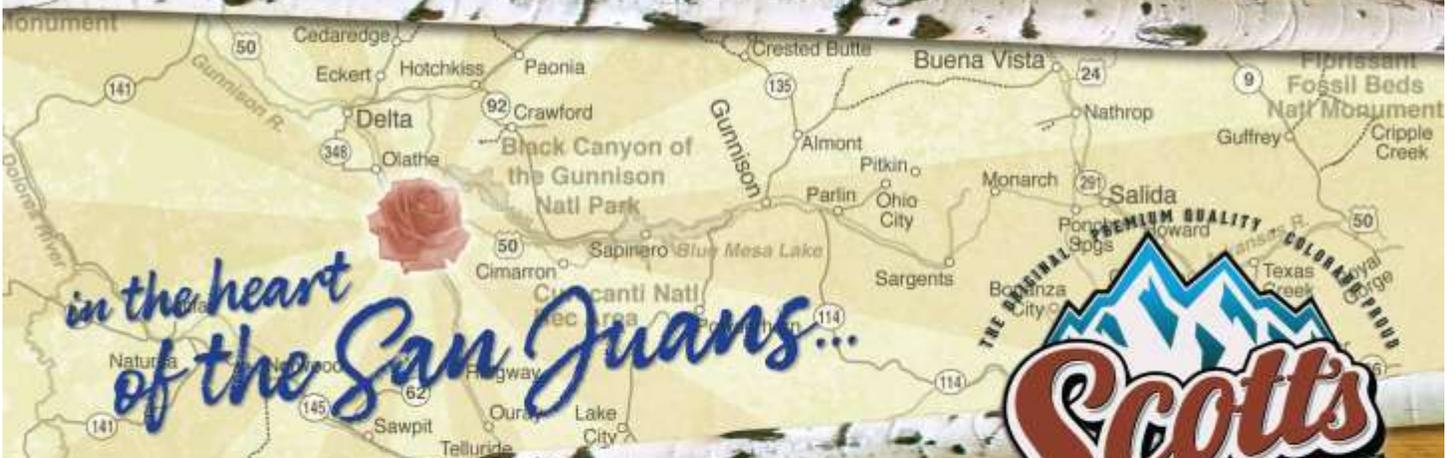
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# ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL MEETING From pg 1

for [DMEA and Elevate] for 2024.”

Cannon quipped, “Kevin is our comic relief, if you want more of what you just heard, you can attend our board meetings!”

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jack Johnston introduced and recognized industry leaders and prominent local officials. Highlights for 2024 included \$3.3 M returned to members in Capital Credits and six consecutive years without a rate increase. He said, “Our rates have been stable. This is good planning and stewardship. Over 7,100 people participate in Operation Round-Up each month. That’s \$50,712 that has been given to community members in need.”

Throughout his report, Johnston gave appreciation and kudos to DMEA employees. He said, “We have 129 employees, but this year we will top out at 150 employees. Safety is a priority. We want our employees to go home to their family every night.”

Power generated locally (solar and hydro) is 8.31 percent, while 91.69 percent comes from wholesale power supplier Guzman Energy. Johnston said, “With the Garnet Mesa Solar Project we will have more local power next year; 11 or 12 percent will be added to our local power supply mix. It will be in production in the next couple of months. We will have grazing sheep [around the solar array] in a few years once grass production is up.”

**Light Up the Navajo Nation**

Johnston said, “We sent two crews, over two weeks. Over 10,000 homes remain without power. We were the first Colorado utility to participate. In 2024, 170 families were connected. Volunteers make a difference.”

**Recap of DMEA’s 2024 activities:**

-Over \$222,000 given in scholarships and event sponsorships to 55 local organizations and events;

-17 community events;

-4,100 attendees at Friday Night Lights;

**Recap of Elevate for 2024:**

Johnston said, “We have 16,000 plus sub-

scribers. It’s been nine years in the making. Eighty-four percent of our membership is built out, by 2027 we’ll have 100 percent. All of Montrose and Delta counties.”

**Strong and Stable:**

-Built \$32.3M in fiber infrastructure in 2024.

-Added \$38.8M in total utility infrastructure in 2024 and kept long-term debt to only \$6.2M increase.

-Revenues climbed nearly 7 percent, and operating costs only rose 2.4 percent.

-Finished 2024 with \$8.6M in operating margins - nearly \$4 M more than 2023.”

**Audience Questions** (speakers not identifiable):

**In the future, can a map of districts be included in the ballot information so that members can know the districts?**

Johnston said, “The district map is on the website. There are seven districts and two regional districts. We will see if we can enhance our election process.”

**When the solar fields end, what happens to the toxic stuff when it’s done?**

Johnston said, “[Solar] panels have a life span. DMEA doesn’t actually own the panels. We are not familiar with the decommissioning plan.”

**What is happening with the solar array on HWY 50 [between Olathe and Delta]?**

Johnston said, “DMEA is not the owner of the project. There is a crypto data center, and we benefit from that.”

**No rate increases for six consecutive years. What about rate increases in the future?**

Johnston said, “We have reduced power costs, but there is upward inflation pressure that catches up with you. We will be joining an RTO [Regional Transmission Organization] and a cost will come with that. That’s for transmission interconnection. I can’t say that in 2026, with certainly or uncertainty, that we won’t have a rate increase. The bottom-line is that we can’t hold it forever; that there will be no rate increase.”

**AI coming up. How do we meet that huge**



*(L to R) CEO Jack Johnston, General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer Sarah Abbott, Board President Stacia Cannon, Director Kevin Williams, Director Ryan Sedgeley, Director Steve Metheny, Director Jacob Gray, Director Emily Sanchez, Director Damon Lockhart, and Director Enno Heuscher. Director Jock Fleming was absent. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

**demand for power?**

Johnston said, “Regardless of power costs, they [AI] don’t care about cost. In our corridor [Western slope] we are not a place for AI distribution to come here. We are mindful of it but not concerned about it today.”

**Election results – Sarah Abbott, General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer.** Abbott said, “This is one of the most contested races in DMEA history.”

**District 3**

Jacob Gray (incumbent)	3,362
Gary Hubbell	1,031
Demetri Stelter	409

**District 4**

Emily Sanchez (incumbent)	3,107
Robert (Jeff) Hubbard	1,215
Shelly Kelly	356

**South Region**

Ken Norris	2,254
Jock Fleming (incumbent)	1,280
Joseph (Joe) Simo	1,200

According to a DMEA press release: Of the **30,331** ballots mailed to DMEA members, a total of **4,899** valid member votes were cast for a return rate of **16.15%**. Of these votes, **3,115** were submitted via paper ballot (mail-in, drop off, or in person) and **1,760** were submitted electronically.

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# YOUR HARDWORKING NEIGHBOR NEXTDOOR-DEVIN BROWN

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Nextdoor platform is increasingly a way that local businesses connect with potential customers. Among those businesses in Montrose is one that offers a variety of services, and has received a number of positive reviews--Devin's Many Services. Primarily a Massage Therapist, Brown also offers landscaping services and pet sitting.

His Nextdoor site reads, "Book me for your yard's needs. Book me for physical healing and to relax with a tip-based massage. I love all the doggies and kitties and any animal--love to pet sit!"

The *Mirror* reached out to owner Devin Brown to ask about his diverse business model.

"Being a massage therapist is my ultimate goal," said Brown, who is 29 and came here from Houston, where he trained in

massage. "And I've been landscaping since I was a kid. I'm an extremely hard worker, with a good attitude—I don't take on anything I can't complete."

Brown has chosen not to work a nine-to-five job, as he has Autism and ADHD. "I struggle with being around a corporate environment."

When it comes to his career, it's not the money that matters most. "If I didn't have bills to pay, I wouldn't care about the money," Brown said. "When I work for an elderly client, I usually ask them what they think is fair for what I'm doing."

"I'm very happy," he said. "I love Colorado. The worst part of Colorado is better than the best part of where I came from—I hope I can turn this into a winter job as well."

Brown said he can handle whole, big projects on his own.



*Above, Devin mows a client's lawn with her push mower. Courtesy photo.*

"I'm the hardest working guy you're going to come across. Have an amazing, blessed day!"

## Save the Date!

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# Allison Nadel

And her ongoing physical and vision therapy treatments following brain surgery.

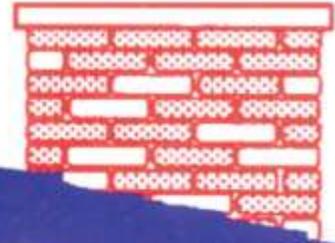
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY OF MONTROSE OFFICES TO CLOSE FOR JUNETEENTH

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— City of Montrose offices will close in observance of Juneteenth on Thursday, June 19, 2025. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

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

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

City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Thursday, June 19, will instead be served on Tuesday, June 17, and Wednesday, June 18.

- For routes west of Townsend Ave, trash pickup will occur on Tuesday, June 17.

- For routes east of Townsend Ave, trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, June 18.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service on Thursday, June 19, will instead be served on Friday, June 20.

Due to the holiday falling in the middle of the week, City of Montrose water utility customers are advised to report any issues to the on-call water service technician at 970.209.2317.

For more information, contact City Hall at 240-1400 or visit [CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday](http://CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday).

For information about the City of Montrose visit [CityofMontrose.org](http://CityofMontrose.org).

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## 2025 PALISADE PEACH FESTIVAL- A FRESH TAKE ON A TIMELESS TRADITION

Special to the Mirror

PALISADE- It's almost that time of year, when sweet summer days meet even sweeter peaches! The Palisade Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 2025 Palisade Peach Days, a vibrant celebration of over 100 years of peach-growing tradition, August 6–17, with the main festival taking place on August 15 & 16 at Riverbend Park.

As we approach the peak of the peach harvest, the festival offers the perfect opportunity to taste Palisade peaches at their very best, bursting with flavor, fresh from the orchards, and celebrated in every form from jams to cobblers to juicy slices straight from the farm.

Building on the success of last year's expanded format, Peach Days 2025 will again unfold across more than 10 days of events. This structure reduces the strain on the small town while offering more opportunities for locals and visitors alike to celebrate all things peach.

*"We're so proud of how this event has evolved while staying rooted in Palisade's agricultural heart,"* says Jessica Burford, President & CEO of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce. *"Spreading the events out allows us to better serve our community and gives visitors more ways to experience the collaborative spirit that makes this valley so special."*

What's New in 2025:

The festivities begin Wednesday, Aug. 6, with Walkabout Wednesday, a local art stroll through downtown Palisade. Thursday brings a hometown favorite, the Ice Cream Social & Street Dance, followed by the Just Peachy 5K & 10K and Peach Days Parade on Saturday, Aug. 9, and the Palisade Sunday Farmers Market on Aug. 10.

Everything leads up to the main festival at Riverbend Park on Aug. 15–16, featuring:  
 -Live music on the Peach Jam Stage  
 -Peach cuisine demos from local chefs  
 -Dozens of vendors and food trucks  
 -Family fun including kids' activities, contests, and more

While some past events like the car show have rotated out, the festival is focused more than ever on agriculture-forward experiences. Signature Agricultural Tours and the popular Dinners in the Orchard continue to spotlight Palisade's hardworking growers and the world-class produce they cultivate.

Whether you're a longtime local or first-time visitor, there's no better way to savor the season than at the Palisade Peach Festival, where Colorado comes to celebrate the peach at its peak.

For the full schedule of events and ticket details, visit [palisadepeachfest.com](https://palisadepeachfest.com)

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## DUNKIN® ICED COFFEE DAY RETURNS ON JUNE 18

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The start of summer just got a whole lot cooler! America’s largest donut and coffee brand is once again turning iced coffee runs into moments of joy with the return of **Dunkin’ Iced Coffee Day**. For one day only, on **Wednesday, June 18**, Dunkin’ guests can sip with purpose: \$1 from every iced coffee and cold brew sold at participating Dunkin’ locations nationwide will be donated to the Joy in Childhood Foundation, whose mission is to bring joy to kids battling hunger or illness.

Whether guests like it bold, sweet or with a splash of cream, their go-to iced drink will do more than fuel their days. This annual event, now in its fourth year, has become a powerful moment for giving back, with every cup helping to fund child-focused nonprofit organizations. One hundred percent of the donated funds raised on Dunkin’ Iced Coffee Day will go back to local communities, supporting health and hunger relief organizations that share the Foundation’s commitment to delivering joy to kids when and where it’s needed most.

This year, the impact is expanding beyond the counter. Now Dunkin’ is bringing joy online: starting June 18, 100% of proceeds from sales on ShopDunkin.com will also support the Foundation, while supplies last. Dunkin’ is bringing back previous launches and past sold-out merchandise. From the brand’s first-ever wedding merch collection to Dunkin’ duvet covers, fan-favorite pieces are making a comeback on June 18 – giving guests a second chance to shop while supporting a joyful cause. “Whether you’re grabbing your go-to Iced Coffee or refreshing Cold Brew,

every sip on June 18 supports the communities that keep us running,” said Victor Carvalho, Dunkin’ Franchisee and Joy in Childhood Foundation Board Chairman. “It’s a simple idea that’s changing lives:

drink joy in, we’ll give joy out. Every sip on June 18 goes further than you think – helping kids and families in your own neighborhood feel seen and supported.”

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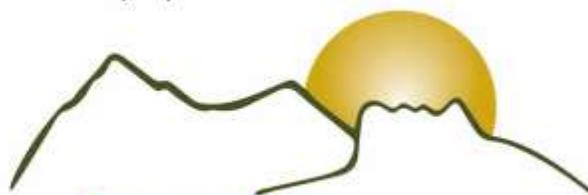


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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DELAYS BEGIN JUNE 16 FOR CO 145 ROCK CLEARING OPERATIONS BETWEEN TELLURIDE AND OPHIR

### *Motorists can expect brief delays through June 23*

*Special to the Mirror*

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY — Beginning Monday, June 16, the Colorado Department of Transportation will perform rock clearing operations on Colorado Highway 145, south of Telluride.

Operations are scheduled for early next week, June 16 to 18, and the following Monday, June 23. Between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., motorists will encounter full stops, alternating traffic and up to 15-minute delays while crews remove debris from behind the concrete barriers located between Mountain Village and Ophir Road (Mile Points 64 to 65).

Routine maintenance operations are necessary to remove excess debris and fallen rock from drainages along the highway. Operations are weather permitting.

Traffic Impacts:

June 16,17,18 and 23 daytime work hours range from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Traffic impacts include:

- Motorists should plan for 10 to 15 minute delays and should allow for extra travel time
- The northbound lane will be closed between Mile Points 64 and 65
- Expect full stops and alternating traffic
- Watch for flaggers and signage signaling lane shifts and lane closures

## PATRIOTIC CONCERT 'AMERICA AWAKES' AT PAVILION ON JUNE 29

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-On Sunday, June 29, Come and enjoy the Montrose Community Band's **America Awakes Patriotic Concert**. Help us Celebrate America and our upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Montrose Pavilion, 3pm.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## PRAYER GATHERING AT THE PEACE POLE ON JUNE 20

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-There will be a Prayer Gathering at the Peace Pole on June 20 at noon to pray for the Healing of Mother Earth, peace in our country, and in the world. The Peace Pole stands in Ute Indian Park, across the street from the Ute Indian Museum. This is also a celebration to mark the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, (15 hours 9 minutes), and the beginning of summer. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your drums and your prayers for peace. More information, 970-252-0908.

## BLACK CANYON QUILT SHOW AT PAVILION JULY 11-13

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-July 11—13-Black Canyon Quilt Show at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, CO. Show hours are 9—5 on Friday and Saturday and 10—3:30 on Sunday. Show Admission is \$5.00. View 150 quilts, shop the vendors and in the boutique. Quilt appraisals by appointment (contact Pam at 670-209-2105). Entertaining 2 p.m Saturday Lecture & Trunk Show (\$15 at the door). Beautiful raffle quilt made by Guild members. More information at <https://blackcanyonquiltshow.com/>. Additional quilts will be at the Montrose Center for Arts during the month of July.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## OUR CHILDREN DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT MCA COULD PROVIDE

Dear school board members,

I know most of you live like "don't bother me with the true facts, I've already made up my mind!" We are supposed to do what is right for our children in school giving them every tool to take advantage of every opportunity that life brings. With our math and reading scores being so low I don't know why you are not jumping at the chance to have a charter school like MCA offer their services. It seems to me that the school board is more concerned with their personal goals and aspirations than the education of our children. There have been all manners of lies about costing the school district millions of dollars and that this would take away from the thousands of dollars you currently are receiving per student. The MCA curriculum is a tried and proven process. Other charter schools seem to promote excellence while the tract records of our traditional schools produce a dismal performance. Wouldn't it be better to have tried something new that will net better learning than to keep your heads in the sand and accept a less than best for our children. I think you should approve the MCA application, give them a three or five year contract to see if they can produce, if not after the trial period get something better. My biggest concern is that the board has been living with mediocre results and calling that good enough. Maybe that was ok 50 or 60 years ago but we need young people who are equipped to go to bigger and better reaches than before. If you don't allow our children to be all they can be in life then you and your current system have failed our children. Please approve the MCA and give them and our children an opportunity.

John Brown, Montrose

## A SHOUT OUT TO COKER HOMES

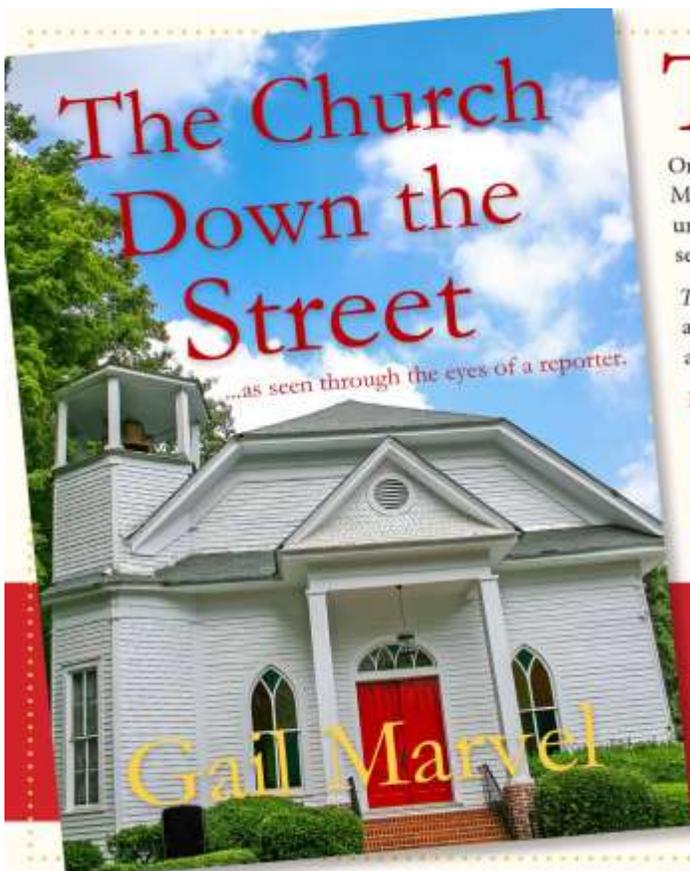
Dear Editor:

I would like to send my best wishes to Coker Homes on their new endeavor across from the Bridges.

I have been living in a home Coker built for me since 2018. It fits me perfectly. It is very comfortable. Everything is top quality. The construction is excellent.

Thanks for what you built for me. I would use you again.

Rick Bleier, Montrose



**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](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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## CAUSE UNKNOWN: BICYCLIST INCIDENT ON HIGHWAY 82 *The Colorado State Patrol is requesting the public's help*

*Colorado State Patrol*

GARFIELD COUNTY— On June 15, 2025, at approximately 10:20 a.m., the Colorado State Patrol responded to Highway 82 near milepost 10 (near Carbondale) on a report of a fatal crash involving a bicyclist.

The Colorado State Patrol is asking that anyone traveling through the area who may have seen a male bicyclist on Friday, June 13, between the hours of 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. to come forward. It is believed the cyclist was traveling from Carbondale on Highway 133 towards Highway 82. The cyclist then began to travel westbound on Highway 82. Near milepost 10 an unknown incident occurred. The bike was located next to the deceased bicyclist on the westbound shoulder of the road down an embankment. The cause of death is currently unknown.

The bicycle is red and white and the male rider was wearing dark colors.

If you have any information or have seen the rider during that time frame, we are asking you to contact dispatch at (970) 249-4392 and reference case number VC250191. Be prepared to leave your contact information for an investigator to reach out to you.



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# RE-1J HEARS PRESENTATION OF 2025-2026 BUDGET From pg 1

going to be part of the agenda, that's coming up tonight." Smith gave a quick update on some work at Olathe Elementary School, "Smaller than we thought, so less intrusive...there is some work that needs to be done on some reconnections..."

## COMMUNITY INPUT

Fishing read the rules for community input.

Leah Vandersluis spoke. "...I'm here to talk about two things. I'm going to give you an article at the end on the benefits of handwriting and how there's such a powerful brain connection when we hand write things, in terms of retaining knowledge, information, etc...I'm really here to talk about the Head Coach at Olathe High...Roger Carlson has brought the men's and women's teams to an incredible level in terms of their success over the seven years that he's coached. "And he resigned," Vandersluis said. "And the reason why he resigned was because he was left out; the policy was not followed—they were hiring an assistant coach without his knowledge. He told them they didn't need one because they didn't have enough kids to really warrant one. The person was hired anyway, and he was left totally out of the loop. So right now we have two people coaching the Cross Country team who don't know what they're doing—I have a good friend who was on that team but just graduated—he and I were concerned about the safety of these athletes. I'd like you guys to look into that, it's really critical...I could say more but I don't think I need to..."

Vandersluis shared her handout with the board.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Director Ted Valerio asked to pull Item three for further discussion; District F Director Jody Hovde asked to pull Item ten for further discussion. The remaining Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

## NEW BUSINESS

After questions and discussion, Consent Agenda Items Three and Ten were approved as well.

Finance Director Eily Imus presented the Public Hearing of the Presentation of the 2025-2026 Budget. Total appropriations are \$148,403,416.

Directors also discussed the impact of potential changes to state funding for schools.

As noted in Chalkbeat in April:

*"The state is also required to finance schools adjusting annually for inflation plus the state's student population count. The state had been using a five-year enrollment average for that figure for years, but lawmakers bumped it down in the new finance formula to four years...in November, in light of the budget shortfall, Gov. Jared Polis' 2025-26 budget proposed to eliminate student averaging altogether."*

"The governor had proposed zero averaging, and that was going to hurt every single district," Imus said. "...it gets pretty complicated, but I feel like every year they're going to discuss it and decide where they're going to land on it, considering a lot of different factors."

Board President Sarah Fishing said,

"...Reducing the averaging makes the volatility much higher in terms of being able to actually predict what's going to happen..."

Imus said, "When a lot of districts are seeing declining enrollment, so to keep the four-year averaging is beneficial to us as well as lot of other districts, because of declining enrollment as well...we are better off than some other districts surrounding us..."

District F Director Jody Hovde noted the declining enrollment in lower grades, "...I think we're going to see it in high school; even though we've got new housing it's not bringing in new families."

"More retirement age," Imus said. "...The averaging helps us."

In other new business, the board voted unanimously to approve the Negotiated Settlement between MCSD and UVEA for 2025-2026, as well as contracts for non-represented staff using the same parameters as approved through negotiations with UVEA for the 2025-2026 school year.

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said that this year's negotiation process went well, "I'm really pleased with how all of that turned out."

With a Board of Education election on the horizon, the Board also voted to designate Laurie Laird as the school district's designated Election Official.

The Board then entered Executive Session for Personnel per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f) to discuss Superintendent Evaluation and contract.

Following Executive Session the meeting was adjourned.



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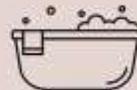
3 Bedroom



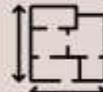
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MAG-CHLORIDE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 16-18

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE COUNTY-Please be aware that Road and Bridge has planned to put Mag-Chloride on the following roads June 16, 17 and 18:

6100 Rd between Oak Grove Rd & Hwy 90

6200 Rd between Hwy 90 & Popular Rd

Old Paradox Trl

6300 Rd Pearl Rd south to top of hill

Pearl Rd from end of asphalt to 6353 Rd

6353 Rd from Pearl Rd south to Ranger Rd

Ranger Rd from 6353 Rd east to 6400 Rd

We appreciate all of their hard work and effort maintaining our Montrose County roads!



Montrose County Courtesy Photo.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## FROM THE GROUND UP: A RESPONSE TO THE PUBLISHER'S TANTRUM

*By Sean M. Pond, Montrose County Commissioner, District 3*

Dennis Anderson's latest piece in the Montrose Daily Press isn't journalism. It's a tantrum in print, personal, petty, and full of misrepresentations. So let's go line by line and settle this once and for all.

"Pond's on a high horse."

That couldn't be further from the truth.

I'm not on a high horse. I'm a regular guy. I've never claimed to be anything more. I didn't set out to be in politics. I'm not comfortable in the spotlight, and I don't chase attention. I'm just someone who cares deeply about this county and felt called to step in when I saw where things were headed.

Most weeks, when I'm not in Montrose working for the people, I'm over in the West End volunteering at the food bank, unloading trucks, stacking pallets, and making food runs. I've made a few posts about it, not to promote myself, but to shine a light on The Family Link and help bring in more support for families who need it.

You'll also find me having coffee with ag producers, walking fence lines, shaking hands, and listening to concerns. I'm not above anyone. I'm part of the community I serve. That's who I've always been.

Dennis Anderson doesn't know me. He's never called, never asked a question, never once tried to understand who I am or what I stand for. He writes from a distance, not from experience. And it shows.

So no, Dennis, I'm not on a high horse. I'm doing the same work I've always done, just with a louder microphone now. You don't have to like it. But at least try to understand it.

"Pond is attacking unaffiliated voters."

Not even close. I'm trying to empower them, because they are the solution.

Unaffiliated voters and moderate Republicans are the largest and most influential voting bloc in Colorado. When they recognize that one-party rule is destroying liberty, they become the most powerful force for change.

I'm not attacking them. I'm asking them

to wake up to what's happening. The legislation coming out of Denver is unconstitutional, extreme, and punishing to everyday Coloradans. It's eroding free speech, the Second Amendment, parental rights, and due process.

If you value liberty, now is the time to vote like it. Because when unaffiliateds and moderates unite around protecting freedom, everything changes. The grip of tyranny weakens. The pendulum starts to swing back.

That's not an attack. That's a call to action. And it's why I say they're not the problem, they're the solution.

"His Mirror op ed was a whiny diatribe."

No, it was a warning.

That piece laid out serious concerns: insider coordination, political sabotage, and a local media that refuses to ask questions. If calling it out rattles Dennis and his friends, maybe they should stop playing games behind closed doors.

"He bashed Sue Hansen for asking for West End Clinic funding."

No, I told the truth. And the clinic's name is the Basin Clinic, by the way.

At the Monday work session just before our West End meeting, Commissioner Hansen asked to remove the additional funding from the agenda. I refused. I kept it on. Then, two days later in Nucla, Commissioner Mijares made the motion to approve the funding, and Commissioner Hansen quickly seconded it.

Anyone familiar with her history knows she's consistently opposed funding the Basin Clinic. So yes, I was surprised. But I didn't "bash" her. I simply pointed out a well documented flip flop. That's not an attack. That's transparency.

"Sue Hansen has tried to lead, but Pond and Mijares removed her as chair."

Here's what really happened.

Commissioner Hansen actively tried to interfere with my appointment. She campaigned against Commissioner Mijares for nearly a year, violating her own resolution not to engage in contested primaries. She worked behind the scenes to stop both of

us and then created a hostile environment the moment we were sworn in.

So what did she expect? That we would leave her as chair and pretend none of that happened?

She built the walls. She poisoned the well. She turned colleagues into political enemies. If there's dysfunction on this board, it began with her. And even now, despite our repeated attempts to find common ground, the division continues. That's not on us. That's on her.

"He disrespects public commenters unless they support him."

False.

I respect every citizen who comes forward. But I also recognize when comments are staged or part of a coordinated political campaign. I'll always listen, but I won't stay silent while the process is manipulated.

"He alienated the Halt the Dolores team and refused financial transparency."

That's dishonest and misleading.

There was no "team." Halt the Dolores Monument was led by my wife and me. We traveled, testified, took the arrows, and stood up when most people stayed quiet. Yes, others supported the effort and donated, and we had lots of volunteers, but we carried the weight of that battle.

We originally considered forming a non-profit and filed as such, but legal counsel advised against it due to timing. So we operated under a legal EIN, tracked every dollar, and spent every cent directly on the fight, printing, travel, outreach, and public education. Nothing was hidden.

As for the false transparency narrative, let's be honest. It was started by Aimee Tooker, who's been causing division from the start. I never attacked her. I simply said I couldn't work with her. She launched a smear campaign when she realized she couldn't control the outcome. That's the truth.

"He's attacking Jeff Hurd and misrepresenting the GORP Act."

Not attacking, just holding my friend accountable.

# A RESPONSE TO THE PUBLISHER'S TANTRUM *From previous pg*

The first time I met Jeff Hurd was at a Halt the Dolores Monument rally. He was still a candidate, and I shook his hand and wished him luck, but I told him if elected, I would hold him accountable on public land issues.

He's my friend. We've had great conversations. But on GORP, I disagree. I believe it's a federal land grab that threatens multiple use access, ranching, and local sovereignty. That's not an attack. That's a promise kept, and honest representation. "Pond is feuding with Tooker, Club 20." I'm not feuding. I'm asking questions.

Club 20 appointed Aimee Tooker, a political agitator who shows up to meetings with cameras, livestreams town boards, and openly targets two thirds of the Montrose County Commission. I've seen people cringe when she enters the room. Ask any resident in Nucla and they'll tell you the same story.

I emailed Club 20's executive director asking why they continue to allow this. No response. So yes, I question why we pay dues to a group that empowers someone who publicly undermines the very county they claim to represent. "He's targeting the City and nonprofits next."

No, I placed a discussion item on the agenda about public private redevelopment deals. That's called oversight.

We need to know how taxpayer funds are being spent, who benefits, and whether it's fair. That's not an attack on the City or nonprofits. It's a duty to the public.

Property tax is the largest portion of the county budget. If nonprofits acquire large

portions of city and commercial property, it can and will affect the budget. That's a responsible discussion to have.

"He removed public comment from meetings."

That's a flat out lie, and Dennis Anderson knows it.

Public comment was removed from work sessions after a decision made at an operations meeting I didn't even attend. The interim County Manager, interim County Attorney, Commissioner Sue Hansen, and Commissioner Mijares were all there. I was informed afterward.

For the record, Colorado law doesn't even require public comment in work sessions or BOCC meetings. If Dennis has a problem, maybe he should ask his friend Sue Hansen, because she was in the room. I wasn't.

"He delayed the power generation moratorium decision because he only had five minutes."

Again, misleading.

The power moratorium wasn't created by me. It came from the previous board. I inherited it. And unlike Dennis, I believe in hearing from the public before making generational decisions. That includes landowners, families, and ranchers, not just the solar lobby.

Here's the bottom line.

I'm not a politician by design. I didn't run for office to gain power. I stepped up because I was asked, because I care about this county, and because I couldn't watch it fall further under the weight of government overreach and political games.

Dennis Anderson calls me arrogant. A

demagogue. Says I'm on a power trip. That kind of language says a lot, just not about me.

Anyone who knows me knows I'm a quiet man. I prefer solitude, not a spotlight. I never imagined being in public office, and everything about this job runs against my nature. But I show up because I care. I serve because it matters.

Dennis shows up too, but he never speaks, never asks questions, never engages. He sits quietly at meetings, then goes home and writes hit pieces filled with exaggerations and political spite. That's not journalism. That's bullying from behind a keyboard.

He's trying to sell the public a version of me that couldn't be further from the truth. And every time he does, he only proves how little he knows me, and how out of touch he is with the people I serve.

And the truth? Every time he writes one of his attacks, my support grows. My phone lights up. More people reach out. More people stand up and say, "We're with you." Every hit piece he publishes just brings more people to our side.

He's not hurting my cause. He's helping it. And I don't say that out of pride. I say it with gratitude.

Because I'm not in this to fight Dennis Anderson. I'm in this to fight for Montrose County, for Colorado's future, for land and liberty, and for the Constitution that protects us all.

This is bigger than politics. This is a fight for the very soul of Colorado.

*Sean M. Pond*

*Montrose County Commissioner, District 3*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## STOP WASTING CITY COUNCILS TIME WITH NONSENSE

*Editor:*

The author of the editorial on 6/9/25 appears to be misinformed. He misquoted what I said and grossly misrepresented the points I made at the recent city council meeting.

His insistence that City Council make a statement that Montrose is a non sanctuary city is tiresome. By definition, Montrose is NOT a sanctuary city because it requires an active declaration to become one. Why are we still even talking about this and also wasting peoples time as they have to sit politely and listen to you.

Additionally, there are no "local NGO's that receive city funds" that are used for "illegals" and "freeloaders". Please speak for yourself and not "WE THE PEOPLE".

The points I made at the meeting were "illegals" are less likely to be charged with a crime or incarcerated than native born American citizens. They also sometimes pay employment taxes that they will never receive benefits on. The misinformed would have you believe that "illegals" are rapist and murders. This is blatantly false.

Stop wasting City Councils time on this nonsense so they can better prepare for and manage our explosive growth. There are real issues at hand like infrastructure, schools and managing developers who could care less about what Montrose grows into.

*Gayle Frazzetta, MD, FAAFP, CCD*

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Accountable to  
"We the People"**

### Did you Know?

The Colorado Springs District 11 School Board has approved two new policies. One policy regulates which students can participate in school sports teams, while the other restricts which flags and symbols can be displayed in classrooms.

The board says the measures are designed to promote fairness and neutrality in schools. Under Policy JBA, students must now participate in athletic programs that match their biological sex assigned at birth, not their gender identity. The board says the goal is to protect the integrity of girls' sports, as well as student privacy and safety.

"We want to preserve that learning environment in our classrooms and also make sure that our girls' rights are being protected... that girls are allowed to compete in a fair and level playing field," said D11 Board President Parth Melpakam.

The second measure, Policy IMD, outlines rules for school ceremonies, holiday observances, and the display of flags on school property.

Moving forward, only U.S. and Colorado state flags, military flags, and district-approved banners will be allowed in classrooms. Flags representing political or ideological movements - including Pride flags - will be prohibited.

"Flags that are going to be permitted are going to be the ones that align with our country's heritage," Melpakam said. "This was to promote a neutral, unbiased learning environment for our students. This was not to target any specific groups or to make them feel excluded from the classroom."

Melpakam maintains that neither policy is about targeting specific groups. Instead, he says, they're meant to create uniform standards and remove what he calls "partisan ideologies" from the classroom.

Where is Montrose County School District (RE-1J) on these issues? Will they follow District 11's lead or will they follow the leftist crowd in their assault on our girls' privacy and safety? Will they promote the proper respect for our flag and historical institutions?

**Where do you stand? Let us know at**  
[info@montrosedoge.org](mailto:info@montrosedoge.org).

### Did you know?

**Montrose Classical Academy (MCA)** will have its Charter School application voted on June 24th.

MCA needs your support to provide local students with a choice in their instructional format. MCA provides a "Classical" curriculum in math, science and literature, like what was taught to our founding fathers.

MCA's approval will not take any funding from the district. As a publicly funded charter school, MCA will attract students who are not typically enrolled in the district, bringing additional funding to the Montrose County School District because funds follow the student.

**Contact your district's board member and let them know, "I support MCA"!**

[They can be reached here.](#)

**Your voice matters!**

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

# WELCOME, JORDAN KLINE, NEW DENTIST IN TOWN!



**Shanay Osborne, scheduling coordinator at left, is the first one to greet patients at Montrose Dental Partners; Laura Morales, office manager, is at center with Dr. Kline at right. Photo by CB Williams.**

by CB Williams

MONTROSE—There's an old saying: There's a new guy in town. Here in Montrose, he's a new dentist, to be exact.

Jordan Kline acquired Montrose Dental Partners, 629 E. Star Court, Montrose, Colo. from Peter Amundson on April 30. Amundson moved with his family to the State of Oregon and Kline took over the practice and retained all nine employees.

Kline said he grew up in the Phoenix, Ariz. area, and took a bit of a circuitous route to land in Montrose. He went to undergraduate school at Arizona State University where he received his degree in 2015, then attended the Midwestern University College of Dentistry at Glendale, Ariz. He had applied and was selected for the HPSP (Health Professions Scholarship Program) and entered the US Navy.

The HPSP helps cover civilian medical school tuition and a monthly living stipend. While in school recipients have training that prepares them to become officers in the US military.

"My commitment was serving four years," Kline said, "essentially one year



**Lead dental hygienist Lynsey Bonebrake watches Dr. Kline using a CEREC machine for 3D scanning and computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) to create custom ceramic dental restorations in one visit. Photo by CB Williams.**

service for each year of school." He was conferred the Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in 2019. He attended officer school in Rhode Island.

Following dental school, Kline said he was stationed at Naval Hospital Beaufort in Beaufort, S.C., where he completed a year-long orientation tour at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Dental Clinic.

He served as a dentist in the United States Navy through July 2023, including a tour in (around) Japan onboard the USS New Orleans from June 2021 to July 2023. He received his honorable discharge following that tour.

Why enter the Navy?

"My dad is a firefighter and one of my grandfathers was in the Air Force, another in the US Marine Corps," he said, "just seemed like a natural fit to serve."

He enjoyed his time in the Navy and expressed that one great difference between military and civilian dentistry is the part that insurance plays when he is providing dental service. He did not have to factor in what was or was not covered by insurance when treating the sailors and marines.

His time on board ship was impacted by COVID and there was less time in ports than many tours, he said, "so there was a lot more time out at sea."

The ship held about 400 Navy personnel and 800 marines. Kline said he honed his skills and learned during his time on the USS New Orleans that he liked the closeness of a small community. After working in the Tri-Cities area of Washington State following discharge, he and his wife Amber decided to make the move to Montrose with their three young children.

"We wanted to be in a smaller community, a good place to raise our kids," he said, "and a place where family is important.

"And there's the opportunity to quickly be out in nature." He said they like hiking, mountain biking, and paddle boarding, among other outdoor activities.

He said he and Amber like getting to know people. Amber, who is a cosmetologist/makeup artist, is making connections and building up a clientele, and recently spent time doing makeup for a wedding party.

"We are happy to be here," Kline said.

"We've received a warm welcome and instead of people asking why we moved here, they say, 'You're going to love it here!'"

Montrose Dental Partners website claims that Kline ensures that every patient feels at ease and comfortable throughout their visit. It says he believes in creating a welcoming and stress-free environment for all his patients, making dental visits a positive experience. From first-hand patient accounts, this holds true.

Staff members who help make those statements true are Lynsey Bonebrake, lead dental hygienist; Darlene Avila and Shay Hawks, dental assistants; Lori Ann Thompson and Jennifer "Jenn" McDonald, hygienists; Shanay Osborne, scheduling coordinator; Laura Morales, office manager; Michelle Wertz, treatment coordinator; and Elke Foreman, financial coordinator.

They welcome patients from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday (Mondays and Fridays alternating at the present time) and can be reached for scheduling at 970-249-3330.

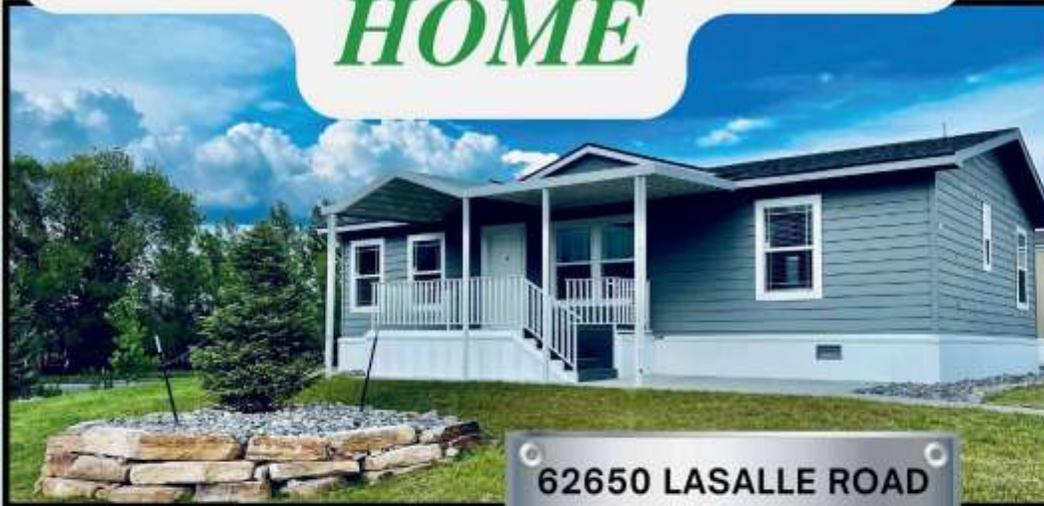
Their website is <https://montrosedentalpartners.com/>



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## GOVERNMENT IS NOT A BUSINESS

*Editor:*

A question.

Does the money Donald Trump and the Trump administration make from its bitcoin and \$5 million Gold cards go to paying down the national debt?

Businesses (which is how Republicans view the government) find ways to bring in money as well as cut expenses (DOGE). I'm hoping that's their plan. If so, it's a great idea.

However, government is not a business. It's a service provided to the constituents who elected them and who pay taxes for those services.

*Jo Clugg, Montrose*

## BE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE: ALWAYS ASK IF A.I. WAS USED

*Editor:*

SB 318 attempted to block this, it has failed. AS OF 2/1/2026 ,SB 205 WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND COMPLIANCE SHOULD BE IN PLACE. (unless another bill is introduced.)

ALWAYS ASK....was A. I. Used...especially in the medical arena, it is your right to know this....DO NOT BE PASSIVE, because the guard rails and guides are not in place in an efficient way. A. I. Can and does make errors of judgement or intentionally will lie, if it feels threatened. DO THE RESEARCH, it has expanded its intelligence, beyond the programmers intended education. (which has taken the A.I. Personnel by surprise)....this is not science fiction, it is an authentic problem. Be your own advocate, no one else will.

*A.I. NON DISCLOSURE VICTIM,  
LYNN STOCKTON*

## ANARCHY OR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

*Editor:*

Are cities across America faced with anarchy or civil disobedience? I think the latter and rightfully so. Rightfully so because it's enshrined in the Constitution. The first amendment guarantees the people the right to peaceably assemble and to petition the Government for redress of grievances. Unfortunately, there has been some violent protestors across the country, but those are small numbers compared to the overall presence of those protesting in a peaceful manner. With that, it's up to the individual State to quell the violent nature of those non peaceful protestors. The federal government should stay out of local affairs unless help is requested by the State governor.

We live in a turbulent period in history with Donald Trump as president. A man who believes he has unbridled authority to govern as he sees fit. He does not believe in the constitution. In particular, he hates the Press if they question his actions.

I believe the problem at hand is an image problem. Donald Trump does not want the world to see he can't control the citizens of the United States. Well, Donald, you are not supposed to be able to control us. The Constitution gives us the right to control you.

***We the People.***

Every member of the Armed Forces takes an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. The President as well as every member of Congress takes the same oath. Yet we see that oath being ignored by the Executive and Legislative branches of government on a daily basis. As a Vietnam Era Veteran, it was inconceivable to me that our government would deploy active-duty military personnel against its citizenry. The use of military force by a state (the Feds) against its citizens raises serious concerns about state accountability, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. But then we know Trump has little respect for the rule of law.

*Dave Stockton, Montrose*

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Delta-Montrose Electric Association’s (DMEA) 2025 Board of Directors Election concluded yesterday, June 12, 2025, with two incumbent candidates retaining their seats for another three-year term. Members re-elected Jacob Gray in District 3. Emily Sanchez retained her seat in District 4, and Ken Norris won the South Region with over 47% of the vote.

Survey and Ballot Systems conducted the election and ballot tabulation. The final vote is as follows:

**District 3**

- Jacob Gray – 3,362 votes (70%)
- Gary Hubbell – 1,031 votes (21.5%)
- Demitri Stelter – 409 votes (8.5%)

**District 4**

- Emily Sanchez – 3,107 votes (66.4%)
- Robert (Jeff) Hubbard – 1,215 votes (26%)
- Shelley Kelley – 356 votes (7.6%)

**South Region**

- Ken Norris – 2,254 votes (47.6%)
- Jock Fleming – 1,280 votes (27%)
- Joseph (Joe) Simo – 1,200 (25.3%)

Of the **30,331** ballots mailed to DMEA members, a total of **4,899** valid member votes were cast for a return rate of **16.15%**. Of these votes, **3,115** were submitted via paper ballot (mail-in, drop off, or in person) and **1,760** were submitted electronically.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## TREATED WATER FOR IRRIGATING YARDS?

*Editor:*

Montrose's reliance on treated potable water for irrigation is inefficient, environmentally harmful, and costly, particularly as single-family home growth drives up water demand. Project 7 Water Authority processes water to Safe Drinking Water Act standards, yet much of it irrigates lawns despite abundant untreated water from the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA). Shifting to non-potable water could ease this strain and delay costly infrastructure spending on Project 7's proposed new treatment plant.

**Legal and Resource Context**

Colorado's Prior Appropriation Doctrine (C.R.S. § 37-92-101) allocates water rights on a "first in time, first in right" basis. Montrose County, within the Gunnison River Basin, accesses non-potable water through UVWUA's decreed rights, sufficient for irrigation needs (Division of Water Resources). Treating water for lawns

consumes energy at Project 7's plant, emitting greenhouse gases (U.S. EPA). Untreated ditch water reduces emissions and costs.

Overusing potable water risks depleting supplies, harming the Uncompahgre River ecosystem, with lawn runoff polluting waterways (C.R.S. § 25-8-101). Montrose County's 5% housing increase from 2020 to 2024 (U.S. Census Bureau) worsens scarcity risks, increasing pressure for the new treatment plant.

**Cost, Rebates, and Developer Incentives**

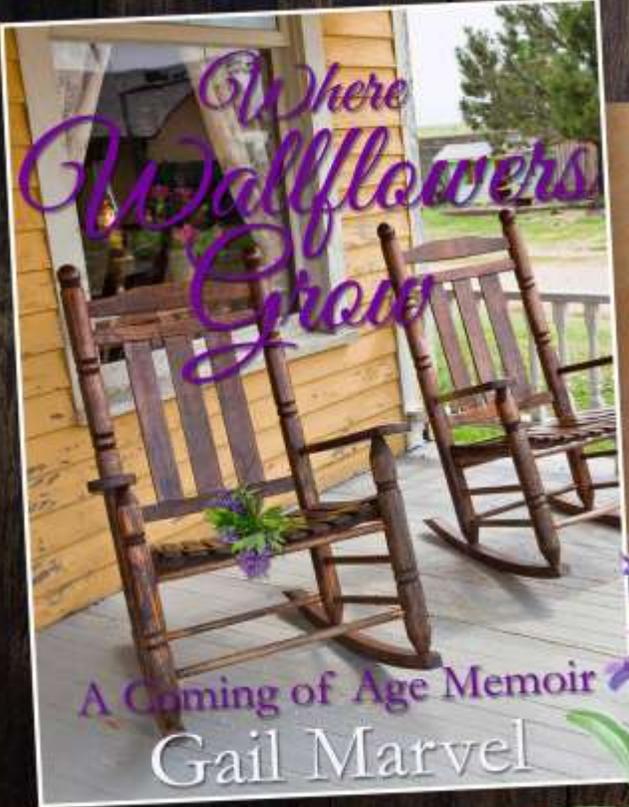
Installing parallel non-potable lines in Montrose city costs \$25 to \$200 per linear foot, averaging \$2,000 to \$5,000 per residential connection (HomeGuide, 2025). In rural county areas, costs rise to \$3,000 to \$6,000 due to terrain and frost lines (Angi, 2025). City tap fees (Montrose Municipal Code § 3-5-12(D)) and county permitting add \$1,000 to \$2,000. Rebating taxpayers 50% of these costs reduces homeowner

expenses to \$1,500 to \$3,500. Offering developers tax credits or fee waivers for dual systems in new developments incentivizes sustainable infrastructure, lowering treatment expenses and utility bills (Montrose Municipal Code § 3-1-8) while reducing demand on the proposed plant.

**A Path to Sustainability**

Montrose's 2016 Water Conservation Plan (HB 04-1365) and Turf Replacement Program (\$2,000 rebates) promote efficiency. Using UVWUA water for irrigation aligns with these goals, easing environmental and resource strain from new homes and delaying the need for a new treatment plant. Residents must advocate for parallel lines, rebates, and developer incentives to reserve treated water for drinking, ensuring sustainable water management to support Montrose's growth while protecting ecosystems.

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



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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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# 30TH ANNUAL COLORFUL COLORADO CAR, TRUCK AND ROD SHOW



*The 30th Annual Colorful Colorado Car, Truck and Rod Show hosted by Black Canyon Classics Car Club was held in Cerise Park on Saturday, June 14. Photos by Harry Switzer.*



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CITY IS CHARGING A QUIET 'DISPOSAL' TAX

*Dear Editor:*

I see that we have another very quiet "Tax." I saw the announcement for the CITY AND COUNTY TO HOST HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT JUNE 28.

In an effort to keep us from pouring these hazardous wastes down the storm drains or to use them to suppress dust on rural roads, we have this excellent option. Until one looks at the fee schedule. If you buy a CFL bulb instead of the old one we could throw into the trash, you will pay an extra dollar apiece to get rid of it. When you figure the budget for that lovely spruce up, please add a buck a can for spray paint. Don't buy a fire extinguisher because it will cost an additional \$5 to get rid of it. Think of what your putting the fire out yourself saved the city in firefighter costs.

We have already paid sales taxes on these items. The city should help us dispose of them for free. I would like to see a listing of the revenue generated from this quiet tax.

*Richard Jay Bleier*

### MANUFACTURED CRISIS IN LA

*Editor:*

Immigration doesn't concern Trump; two of whose three wives were immigrants. It's simply an issue he can exploit. Last fall, he blocked passage of the bipartisan immigration bill, which contained most of what Republicans had long sought. Authored by conservative Senator James Lankford, it was purposely sabotaged by Trump and his supporters, who said that they didn't want to give Biden and the Democrats a win on Trump's biggest election issue. If uncontrolled immigration bothers him, why didn't he support this bill? Answer: It was an issue he could exploit to create anger and division in order to win the election. The Chaos President thrives on chaos; he doesn't solve problems, he creates them.

Frustrated that he was not getting anywhere on immigration, and anxious to turn attention away from his disastrous breakup with Musk, his debt exploding Big Ugly Bill, the Tariff World War, and all of the other disasters he has generated around the country and the world, he had

to create a another crisis to get our minds off of his numerous screw ups .... hence the ICE disaster in LA.

The president talks about law and order, and the constitution, but violates both consistently. He has created a crisis where none was necessary; trampling states rights, and seizing a governor's prerogative to control his state's national guard. The five-time draft dodger has taken the unprecedented, and totally unnecessary, step of sending in Marines to threaten our citizens, who are exercising their constitutionally protected right to freedom of speech. This is a classic move made by dictators to destroy opposition voices.

A true leader would calm the situation, but Trump does what he always does: creates a crisis, throws gasoline on the kindling, and stands by with a match, itching to create a conflagration. This is his lifelong strategy to get his way: George Floyd and numerous other racial incidents, the Big Lie and the treasonous sacking of our Capitol Building, along with numerous similar situations which called

for a firm, but calm and wise hand to resolve. Is this the kind of leader our nation needs to face the problems we need to solve? Clearly not. Trump and his cabinet of clowns are wrecking our country.

The sooner Republicans stop caving in to him, and stand up to his destructive behavior, the sooner we can return to solving the real problems we face in the 21st Century: trade, the entire immigration structure, national debt, homelessness, high housing prices, inflation, climate change, the extraordinary wealth gap, etc. The Republican's "do nothing" congress ignores it's responsibilities as a co-equal branch of government. They exist solely to give in to Trump, a vindictive, angry man who keeps them cowering in fear. They need to be replaced by representatives with the courage to work for us, not him. No one knows how this current debacle will end, it's ongoing as I write; but one thing is certain: this crisis, like Trump, will only damage the country we love.

*David Congour  
Montrose, Colorado*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## HOW THE LEFT HAS HIJACKED OUR REPUBLIC

Editor:

**The United States was founded as a Constitutional Republic, designed to protect individual liberties and prevent majority tyranny.** Yet, the term "democracy" has increasingly been used to describe our form of government, a shift driven by leftist progressive forces that distorts the Founders' vision. This mischaracterization threatens the core principles of our Republic.

**When Did "Democracy" Become Commonplace?**

Before the Woodrow Wilson Administration (1913-1921), the United States was rarely called a democracy. The term was met with skepticism by those who understood the Founders' intent to prioritize minority rights. Thomas Jefferson, in the Declaration of Independence, stated that governments are instituted "to secure these rights, deriving powers from the consent of the governed," reflecting a republic, not a democracy.

The shift toward labeling America a democracy gained traction during Wilson's presidency, marked by leftist progressive policies favoring centralized authority. This redefinition moved away from the Republic's principles, creating a false narrative that has eroded our system.

**The Founders' Rejection of Democracy**

The Founders explicitly rejected pure democracy. Benjamin Franklin described it as "two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch," highlighting the danger of majority rule without safeguards. John Adams warned, "Passions are the same in all men, under all forms of simple government, and when unchecked, produce the same effects of fraud, violence and cruelty."

James Madison, in *The Federalist No. 10*, cautioned: "In a pure democracy, there is

nothing to check the inducements to sacrifice the weaker party or an obnoxious individual. Hence it is that such democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general, been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths." Madison's words underscore the instability of democracies and the need for a republic's structured governance.

Professor Alexander Fraser Tytler, writing during the colonial era, noted: "*A Democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of Government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largess of the public treasury.*" He predicted collapse into dictatorship due to fiscal irresponsibility. Plato, in *Republic*, warned that "*tyranny arises from democracy.*" These insights led the Founders to establish a Constitutional Republic with checks and balances.

**The Threat of Direct Democracy**

Today, many states use ballot initiatives, creating the illusion of a democratic system where citizens directly vote on laws. While seemingly empowering, this undermines the Republic's framework. The Founders designed a system where elected representatives, knowledgeable about constitutional limits, craft legislation to protect rights.

Madison, in *The Federalist No. 10*, argued that a republic's representatives and broader electorate "refine and enlarge the public views," mitigating factionalism inherent in democracy.

By relying on voter initiatives, we absolve elected officials of responsibility. Legislators evade accountability, claiming laws passed by popular vote reflect "the will of the people." This undermines representa-

tive government, where officials must ensure bills align with constitutional principles. The result is a weakened Republic, with diminished safeguards against government overreach and eroding rights.

**Restoring Our Constitutional Republic to its original untainted form**

Mislabeling our Constitutional Republic as a democracy is a deliberate shift that jeopardizes limited government and individual liberty. The Founders' warnings remain critical. We must reject direct democracy and recommit to the Republic's structure, holding elected officials accountable for crafting constitutional legislation and protecting rights, not deferring to popular sentiment.

By buying into the narrative that we are a "Democracy," or that someone is a "threat to our Democracy," we miss the point.

We are not, and have never been, a "Democracy," regardless how much the media and politicians want to make it so. To do so waters down the strength and genius of what the founders established: a **beautiful Constitutional Republic** that protects ALL Citizens and the inherent Rights we, as Citizens, enjoy, even the ones someone else may not like. That is what a Constitutional Republic does!

As we see the left do all they can to erode our Republic by installing the terminology and principles of "Democracy," over a Constitutional Republic, stop and think. Why did the founders avoid using the term "Democracy" in both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States? The term "Democracy" was not used even once in either document. I believe it was purposeful. What say you?

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



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## POLITICAL DOUBLE STANDARDS?

***“Do as I say, but not as I do?” It’s the Democratic way so it seems!***

By David White

I find it to be somewhat interesting, on occasion, if not most of the time, for it to be normative for the Democratic Party and their operatives to scream out words such as “partisan,” “racist,” “bigoted,” “un-American,” “fascist,” “extremist” and many others when describing conservative thinking or leaning individuals as well as our current President in order to paint a picture of those on the right being all of those things and more with the Dems taking the moral high ground. Much of this was evidenced by this past Saturday’s “No Kings” rallies held all over the country to include ones here in rural Colorado.

And to bring things home to Montrose, it’s rich to say that when local Democrats cry out that the Republicans in our area represent all that is wrong with our “non-partisan” politically appointed local boards and commissions as well as the elected governing bodies of local government and entities such as the Montrose City Council, Montrose Recreation District, the Montrose RE-1J School Board, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors and others, their partisanship seems to be an apparition rather than a real thing.

In the May 26, 2025 edition of The Montrose Mirror, Ms. Connie Pittenger, a former Chairperson of the Montrose Democratic Party, had this to say in a Letter to the Editor she penned regarding the then upcoming DMEA Board of Director elections (See page 27 of this edition ([MM639.pdf](#)):

***“I recently saw a campaign sign near the south City Market which stated, “Vote Republican for the DMEA Election.” I had to laugh to myself because of where voting Republican has gotten us recently.”***

***“We need to leave partisanship out of the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) election and elect the people who will keep DMEA moving in a positive direction forward. It does not matter which affiliation letter is behind their***

***name on the county register. I strongly urge you to vote for Jacob Gray, Emily Sanchez, and Jock Fleming who understand how DMEA works and the positive direction in which DMEA is going.”***

With these words in mind, let’s take a leap back in time to July 23, 2018 (almost 7 years ago) when there was published an interview in the Montrose Mirror with the then Chairperson of the Montrose Democratic Party (you guessed it, the same Connie Pittenger referenced above) wherein she stated: ***“Still, those who think that the Democratic Party is not an active presence here would be advised to think again, according to Montrose Democratic Party Chair Connie Pittenger, who has served in the role since February of 2017.”***

Ms. Pittenger went on to say: ***“As far as local leadership, “We are very involved,” Pittenger said. “We have progressives on the board of Delta-Montrose Electric Association, the Rec District, on City Council, and on a lot of other boards around town that are critical—and they are being successful.” (ISSUE-282.pdf)***

So much for her words on May 26<sup>th</sup> (***We need to leave partisanship out of the DMEA election...***) Really? The Democratic Party and their allies on the far left have for years made it their goal to bring cultural and political change to states, cities and towns through a covert campaign to create such change at all levels in this country. Now the time has come for these successful covert efforts to be brought into the light of day with the last battleground to be conquered (at least in Colorado) being the rural communities found on the Western and Eastern Slopes with Montrose County clearly in the crosshairs for “conversion” to the ideology of the political left.

2025 seems to be a banner year for these before unseen overt political moves to put the “pedal-to-the-metal” to bring a stop to the conservative principles that have driven our rural way of life for most of the last 149 years of Colorado’s exist-

ence as a state and to bring forth their state progressive agenda.

Targeted moves by the DNC and other progressive groups was seen with the Hands-Off rally held on April 5, 2025 in downtown Montrose. The Montrose rally was just one of hundreds of Hands-Off rallies across the USA with the stated purpose being:

***“This is a nationwide mobilization to stop the most brazen power grab in modern history. Trump, Musk, and their billionaire cronies are orchestrating an all-out assault on our government, our economy, and our basic rights—enabled by Congress every step of the way.***

***They want to strip America for parts—shuttering Social Security offices, firing essential workers, eliminating consumer protections, and gutting Medicaid—all to bankroll their billionaire tax scam. They’re handing over our tax dollars, our public services, and our democracy to the ultra-rich.***

***If we don’t fight now, there won’t be anything left to save.”***

Next came last Saturday’s “No Kings” Rally (June 14<sup>th</sup>) with its stated purpose of:

***“On June 14—Flag Day—President Trump wants tanks in the street and a made-for-TV display of dominance for his birthday. A spectacle meant to look like strength. But real power isn’t staged in Washington. It rises up everywhere else.***

***No Kings is a nationwide day of defiance. From city blocks to small towns, from courthouse steps to community parks, we’re taking action to reject authoritarianism—and show the world what democracy really looks like.***

***We’re not gathering to feed his ego. We’re building a movement that leaves him behind.***

***The flag doesn’t belong to President Trump. It belongs to us. We’re not watching history happen. We’re making it.***

***On June 14th, we’re showing up everywhere he isn’t—to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings.”***

# ***POLITICAL DOUBLE STANDARDS? From previous pg***

Interestingly, both events were funded, organized and produced by the same group of funders and political leftists seeking to not only stop the conservative movement in this country, but to also support the failed policies of the last presidential administration and endorse the wholesale constitutional violations that took place in those years. It's ironic that the Hands Off and No Kings organizers both have the same disclaimer on their respective websites and feature groups such as Indivisible, the ACLU, Catholics Vote Common Good, Human Rights Campaign and many, many others as "partners" in these organized rallies. This statement reads as follows:

***"A core principle behind all No Kings (Hands Off) events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events."*** ([No Kings](#)) ([About — Hands Off!](#))

Paraphrasing from a post I read on social media over the weekend, the "No Kings" rallies were held across the country, protesting the current administration—not for changing laws, but simply for enforcing existing ones that the previous administration largely ignored. And yet, they're calling the President a dictator for upholding the law?

Meanwhile, the same political party leading these protests removed their own elected candidate, Joe Biden, from the 2024 race and installed Kamala Harris as

the new nominee—without a single vote being cast. This is the same party that allocates your tax dollars to non-citizens, once fined Americans for lacking health insurance, and now offers free coverage to undocumented immigrants.

Oh, and don't forget that during COVID, they shut down small businesses, deployed the National Guard in some Democrat-run cities to enforce mask mandates and lockdowns, and fired people for declining the vaccine – both in the government and private sectors. They claimed social distancing and the vaccine would fully prevent infection—claims that were later determined to be unnecessary and mostly false.

This is also the same party that dismissed Hunter Biden's laptop story as fake, told us the economy is thriving, the border is secure, and that President Biden is in peak health. It's the same party that allows biological males to compete in women's sports, share restrooms and locker rooms with girls in schools, and promotes the idea that gender is fluid—all while appearing more focused on power and control than on the well-being of everyday Americans.

So, who are the real "dictators" or "kings" here? The evidence is clear. As is often said, look at this party and their operatives. The numerous documented cases of "Lawfare" against American citizens. The unfettered access into the country by illegal immigrants in defiance of our laws. The giveaways of billions of dollars of taxpayer paid benefits in the form of food stamps, medical care through Medicaid and Medicare, Social Security benefits and

so much more for those these same people.

Then we have the DNC backed scandals and outright falsehood "investigations" such as Adam Schiff and Hillary Clinton's false Russiagate investigation (Trump-Russia collusion led by Robert Mueller and others within the FBI). The "Fine People on Both Sides" statement that Trump made about the Charlottesville, VA squabble over Confederate War Statues which was completely taken out of context and distorted for Democrat Party gain. The "Muslim Ban" on travel into the U.S. from Obama era listed Muslim countries listed as dangerous to America. The outright expansion and distortion of anything related to Trump or the conservative positions taken by some lawmakers and the public by the mainstream media acting as DNC apparatuses and you have a public that distrusts most things government and can be easily led into believing that Hands Off and No Kings are the keys to a better future. And that's not so.

I urge you to research these groups as well as the DNC and local Democratic Party. The ties that bind may in fact be the ties that take us all down.

***Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & one great grandchild.***



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DEFENDANT IN 2022 DOUBLE MURDER NEAR PAONIA FOUND GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS BY JURY

### *Delta County Sheriff's Office*

DELTA COUNTY-On February 4, 2022, deputies with the Delta County Sheriff's Office responded to 15835 Black Bridge Road near Paonia for a report of two deceased individuals inside the shop area of a residence. Following an initial investigation, Sheriff's Office investigators and the Delta County Coroner's Office identified the two victims, Michael Arnold (69) and Donna Gallegos (65) of Paonia, as residents of the home. The investigation and autopsy determined both victims died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Through a detailed investigation, investigators identified Mark Burns (69) as the suspect responsible for the murders of Mr. Arnold and Ms. Gallegos. On February 16, 2022, Mark Burns was arrested in Idaho and charged with the following crimes:

- Two counts of Murder in the First Degree, a class 1 felony
- Two counts of Aggravated Robbery, a class 3 felony
- Burglary in the First Degree, a class 3 felony
- Menacing, a class 5 felony
- Tampering with Physical Evidence (later in the investigation)

Based on the severity of the alleged

crimes, Mark Burns remained in custody at the Delta County Jail following his arrest pending the outcome of a jury trial. The jury trial for the alleged crimes began on May 19, 2025 in Delta County District Court and the jury began deliberations on Thursday, June 11, 2025. After approximately eight hours of deliberation, the jury returned guilty verdicts on all counts charged.

The District Court will schedule sentencing for Mark Burns at a later date.

As Sheriff and Undersheriff for Delta County, we feel this is a just verdict and we sincerely hope the verdict will help bring closure to the friends and family of Mr. Arnold and Ms. Gallegos.

On behalf of the Sheriff's Office, we would like to thank our state and federal law enforcement partners for their assistance with the in-depth investigation this case required. Thank you to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Idaho State Police, Lemhi County Sheriff's Office (Salmon, Idaho), Idaho State Police Forensic Services, Grand Junction Police Department, Mesa County Sheriff's Office, 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office, Columbia (Missouri) Police

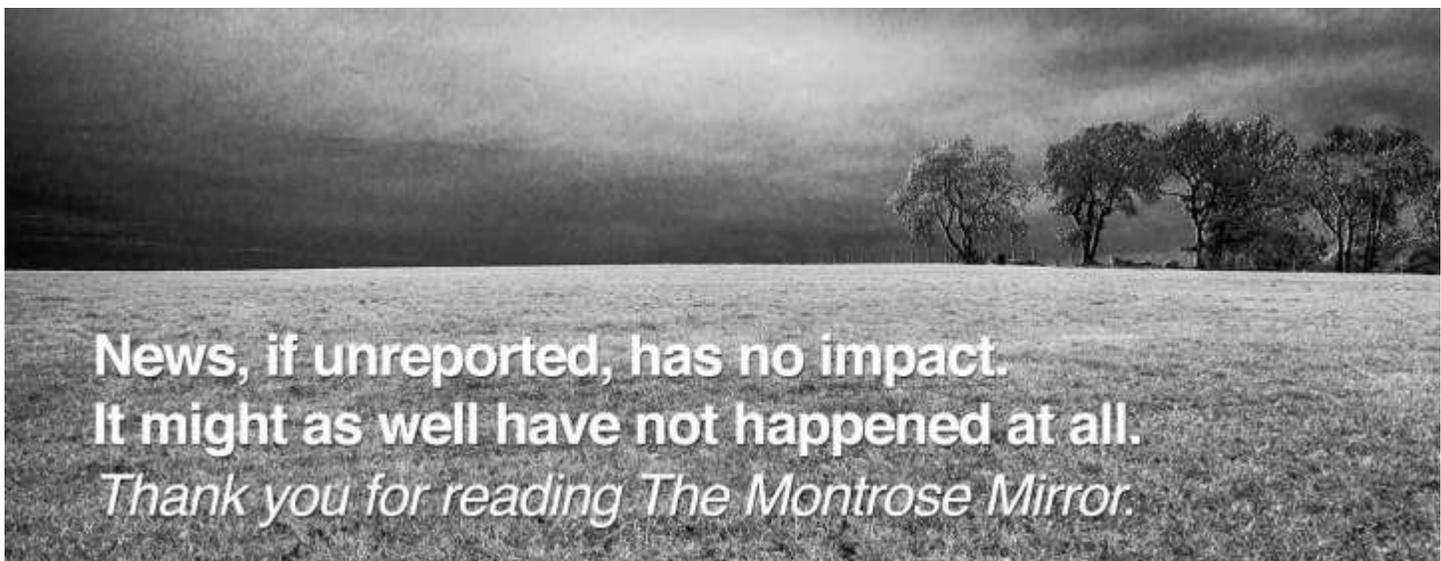
Department, Moniteau (Missouri) Sheriff's Office, and Tucson Police Department.

We would also like to give a special thank you and recognition to the Delta County Sheriff's Office Investigations Division for their hard work and long hours investigating this case and for pursuing justice for the victims and their families. Guilty verdicts on all counts would not have been possible without the dedication, coordination and diligence our investigators showed in this investigation.

The Sheriff's Office would also like to specifically thank the dedicated prosecution team from the Colorado Attorney General's Office and the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office who prosecuted this case.

Cases such as this require professional support and collaboration by several agencies and staff. As Sheriff and Undersheriff, we want to recognize the hard work, partnerships, and the focus placed by all investigators, support staff and prosecutors on giving the victims of this heinous crime, Mr. Arnold and Ms. Gallegos, a voice and justice.

*Respectfully,*  
*Sheriff Mark Taylor and Undersheriff Quinn Archibeque*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMOCRATS HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND NO SANE LEADERSHIP

*Editor:*

Anyone remotely aware of what is going on in today's Democrat party has no problem understanding why that party is hemorrhaging followers. Because all their policies and results are detrimental to the well-being of the American people, Democrats have to do everything possible to avoid discussing anything they actually do. In addition, they have to avoid any truthful discussion of what Trump has accomplished because that is mostly positive. As a result, Democrats are left with taking their worst imaginings of what Trump might do in the future and trying to make that believable.

Fortunately, most Americans are not as dumb as Dems assume. Those wild accusations are too removed from reality to deserve much serious consideration.

Here's a prime example. The Biden administration's botched handling of unaccompanied migrant children flooding into the country amid Biden's open border chaos has recently been confirmed to be a shocking scandal. Not only did the administration lose track of thousands of those children, but they did a poor job of vetting the sponsors and ushered children into unsafe homes. "Widespread abuse" and "exploitation" have now been well documented. Our local liberal letter writers can't write about kids handed to sex abusers and criminals by Democrats, right? So, they have to gaslight and lie about Trump's base and how they are even more misguided than Hitler's supporters in 1930's Germany --- or how unqualified Trump's cabinet is. ("Suckers and losers all!")

From the day Trump entered politics, Democrats have thrown around terms like "fascist" "dictator," "nazi," "threat to democracy," etc. as a means of stifling any discussion of their own failures or Trump's actual accomplishments. Today, we are seeing highly organized and well-funded Trump protests under the "No Kings" banner. So, what are these terrible things Trump has done to increase his kingly powers? Most dictators increase the size and power of the government. Trump is doing everything possible to decrease the federal bureaucracies' power and spending. Democrats are doing the opposite. Trump is reducing cumbersome and unnecessary government regulations. Democrats are doing the opposite. Trump lawfully closed the border and stopped the unlawful foreign invasion that

Democrats created. The first thing dictators do to achieve complete power is to disarm the people. Trump is doing everything possible to protect our 2nd Amendment rights. Democrats are doing everything possible to destroy those rights.

Trump is restoring our energy independence that Democrats destroyed. Biden dictatorially used massive amounts of taxpayer money to illegally pay off student debt to buy votes. Trump is reversing that.

Besides Biden's habit of subverting Congress to implement policies, he also traveled the world with his son collecting million-dollar kickbacks from our enemies. Trump's DOGE revealed that not only do Democrats care less about government waste and fraud, they revel in it. They turned the federal government into their personal and party slush fund. Censorship is mandatory for any dictatorship. It is now documented how the Biden handlers operated a partisan censorship network fueled with taxpayer money funneled to Democrat controlled "nonprofit" groups. A free and independent press is essential for any free society. Democrats are attempting to take our freedoms away every day, and the media cheers and repeats their talking points. Huge amounts of the slush fund money somehow went to those previously independent news sources.

All of Trump's foreign policy is aimed at achieving world peace. Unlike all his recent predecessors, he began no new military adventures abroad, and is doing everything possible to unwind those that are ongoing. You get the picture.

The false narratives intended to distract people from the truth never end. They throw out speculations about potential threats from Trump to distract from their own goal of a one-party dictatorship. For example, Democrats are now hilariously trying to equate Trump celebrating our military this week by putting on a big military parade with a dictatorship.

Democrats have completely destroyed their own credibility. Most of the American people simply don't believe that the Democrat policies that are destroying their lives are actually good for them. The LA riots are just the most recent and obvious example of that. There are mobs in Los Angeles throwing bricks at police from highway overpasses, but Trump's the problem? According to Democrats, sending the National Guard to protect citizens' lives and

property risks "turning what is just a bunch of people having fun watching cars burn into a confrontation." Twenty million unvetted illegals were waved through our borders under the pretense of Democrat party compassion, but we all know it was always about maintaining Democrat power. Now a large segment of those invaders are proudly waving flags from their home countries as they attempt to destabilize and destroy our American cities. One of the LA protest's leading organizers and funders is an NGO whose annual budget is almost completely funded by ..... the State of California. Other contributors include groups funded by the Chinese CCP and locally-grown communists. Mexico's president is actively encouraging the unrest. California has a governor who is determined to appease the rioters while trying to blame Trump. Senator Ted Cruz posted a much more accurate version of Governor Newsome's letter to Trump objecting to the troop deployment: "I have formally requested the President to stop enforcing federal law in California. In the Golden State, we embrace lawlessness. We welcome rioters and looters, and we want even MORE illegal aliens and gang members. We handcuff our police and celebrate our criminals. And we hate America." This is the same governor who saw fit to call in the police and make arrests to restore order, at least in his eyes, when a Christian preschool wasn't masking 2- and 3-year-olds during Covid. He sent armed law enforcement to shut the school down and strip its license forever. But riots and insurrection? Whatever.

Not only do Democrats have nothing to offer to the American people, they have no sane leadership. This week's example is Tim Walz saying that China is the only "moral authority" in the world that can negotiate peace between Iran and Israel. Talk to the Uyghurs, that country's Muslim minority, about China's "moral authority" and human rights abuses. This is the same Tim Walz who visited China dozens of times, dated a communist party official's daughter, and praised the Chinese system, saying "It means that everyone is the same and everyone shares." With leaders like that, and being insane enough to wage a campaign in support of criminal illegal invaders, is it any wonder Democrats have to resort to lies and fraud to win elections?

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MILK THISTLE IS COUNTY'S NOXIOUS WEED OF THE MONTH



**Milk Thistle is San Miguel County's Weed of the Month for June. Courtesy photo.**

*Special to the Mirror*

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY --- The start of the growing season is most welcome – except for the return of noxious weeds. San Miguel County's Noxious Weed of the Month for June is Milk Thistle. It's seemingly everywhere and it shouldn't be. Let's get your readers and listeners informed on how best to identify and eradicate infestations

of the numerous invasives that plague San Miguel County and the West.

*Silybum marianum* once native from Southern Europe throughout Asia, has spread throughout the world. This species is an annual or biennial plant of the family Asteraceae. This fairly typical thistle has red to purple flowers and shiny pale green leaves with white veins.

Milk thistle is an upright herb that can grow to be 30 to 200 cm (12 to 79 in) tall and has an overall conical shape. The stem is grooved and may be covered in a light cottony fuzz. The largest specimens have hollow stems.

Milk thistle establishes itself in sunny, warm ruderal meadows in regularly disturbed places such as rubble deposits, at the foot of south-exposed walls or villages and on urban fallow land or on cattle pastures. However, it does not prefer dry, stony soils. Highly competitive weed which will out-compete native vegetation in the area.

San Miguel County's Vegetation Control & Management office provides a number of services to assist property owners with noxious weed control, including identification tools, noxious weed management plans for a nominal fee, direct assistance through a cost share for priority noxious weeds, educational programs, and more. County Vegetation Control & Management urges all County residents to manage any Milk thistle infestations with elimination in mind. Noxious Weed management is a community effort. Please do your part. We also have a new survey, the results of which will further aid in how we, as a county, approach education and weed control.

For more information about Milk Thistle and other noxious weeds, including identification guides in San Miguel County, please contact Julie Kolb, Manager, Vegetation Control & Management at 970-327-0399, or [juliek@sanmiguelcountyco.gov](mailto:juliek@sanmiguelcountyco.gov).

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# MHS 2ND SEMESTER HONOR ROLL

The following students were named to the Honor Roll for the 2nd Semester 2024-2025 School year at Montrose High School. To be eligible for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least five classes and earn a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74.

## 9th Grade

Aubrey Alexander, Elliot Andress, Elena Aretz, Maxx Bahn-Ricker, Zuri Balleck, Aubrey Blacker, Angelina Camacho-Mendez, Wyatt Campbell, Cyan Casselberry, Emma Chavez, Brealyn Clark, Levi Cooper, Nevaeh Cortez, Colter Davis, Paul Davit, Olivia Fox, Rush Galvan, Josiah Graff, Adele Howe, Jaireth Jurado Gil, Tristan Justus, Dillon Kay, Mackenzie King, Lance Krohn, Lesly Lopez, Gaige Lovato, Samuel Luskin, Draven Marshall, Lucy Maxwell, Isabella McCants, Kyan McCarthy, Grayson McRae, Olivia Miller, Angelo Moore, Juan Nieves Chavez, Nicasio Ortega, Annabelle Otto, Lily Padilla, Izabelle Pearson, Jadyen Robertson, Guadalupe Saldana-Morales, Zoey Saunders, Bodhi Schafer, Ryan Soucy, Aubrey Spencer, Elizabeth Tanner, William Townsend, Bryn Trenda, and Julia Witte.

## 10th Grade

Lilah Bahn-Ricker, Caden Beard, Dyllan Blair, Emma Braaten, Autumn Cerise, Violeta Cortez, Gavin DesChamp, James Dumit, Noah Dupre, Devynn Fritz, Jasmine Garcia, Jade Garretson, Hailey Gurney, Erica Haddock, Tiago Hernandez, Elijah Howe, Lincoln Jones, Madison Kilby, Katelyn King, Brooklyn Kolb, Avila Lanford, Karina Leon, Brayden Leu, Kynsleigh Maestas, Evan Marshall, Jylliane Meiners, Keira Oldroyd, Noah Osorio, Logan Plumb, Aspen Pottorff, Gavin Ranstrom, Ty Robillard, Kayleb Rogers, Omar Rosales Gutierrez, Luken Senior, Trent Sondergard, Eli Stephens, Carissa Tabor, Jayden Tankersley, Aidan Vonseggern, Gage Wrightcrouch, and California Ybarra.

## 11th Grade

Patrick Alvarez, Donovan Bolton, Alyxandra Bray, Gabryella Browning, Tristan Carroll, Zafirah Cisneros, Rylie Cohick, Wyatt Ensor, Luke Gann, Luke Gore, Mason Hall, Emry Hall, Harry Harrison, McKenna Holman, Micah Jewkes, Kendall Johnson, Matilda Johnson-Freeman, Jaxon Keep, Magdaline Legg, Emmy Maxwell, Amarii McKibben, Carter Miller, Noel Mireles-Rodales, Aiden Northrup, Andrew Nutter, Elizabeth Olsen, Jayden Pryor, Quinton Reule, Chad Rocco, Kenia Romo, Jack Schwartz, Madison Smith, Raymond Stamm, Sadie Wareham, and Elijah Womack.

## 12th Grade

Benedek Algacs, Barnabas Algacs, Yuliana Almanza Mendez, Emily Barker, Bailey Christie, Aretxy Espinosa Quintana, Christopher Gonzalez-Muniz, Kayden Huggett, Victor Ibarra Sanchez, Andrew Luquin, Parker Maestas, Emily Miller, Raymond Spradling, and Evelyn Tagle Rueda.

The following students were named to the Principal's Honor Roll for the 2nd Semester 2024-2025 school year at Montrose High School. To be eligible for the Principal's Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least five classes, excluding pass/fail classes, and earn a grade point average of 3.75 and above. An asterisk denotes all A's.

## 9th Grade

Mya Bernal, Patton Berry\*, Tanner Bielak\*, Ainsley Cassidy, Esther Christensen\*, Pailin Cooper, Shiloh Cox, Marissa Francis\*, Chance Graves\*, Peyton Hess\*, Jaslyn Hunter\*, Isabella Inda, Gavin Jessop\*, Kylee Jones\*, Reo Kato, Laila Keep\*, Heidi Kulbeth\*, Caroline Latham, Alfonsina Lopez Cruz, Siena Magnani\*, Korey Metzger, Anayeli Navarro-Coronado, Ruby Noel, Kale Pressler\*, Natalie Scott, Mae Scriffiny, Alaina Smethurst\*, Zayden Songer, Zachary Spencer, Holly Thompson, Tyler Tobler\*, Charlotte VanArsdale\*, Lucille Waschbusch\*, Emerson Wesner, Elizabeth Whitcomb\*, and Mica Withee\*.

## 10th Grade

Liliana Almanza Mendez\*, Sophia Benner, Maya Blake\*, Kayla Braaten, Bailee Broyles, Victor Celestino Serrano, Reina Contreras Padilla, Anna Countryman\*, Chance Culver\*, Sheylen Downs\*, Amelia Edwards, Riley Embrey\*, Kiara Fowler, Noah Freese, Isabelle Giroir\*, Wyatt Gleason\*, Fernando Gonzalez, Jaylee Good, Samantha Jennings, Conner Luttrell\*, Logen Mantos\*, Benjamin Meaker\*, Chazz Miller\*, Isabella Miller\*, Abbey Neary, Lauren Neubaum, Amaya Potter, Eli Rodriguez\*, Cade Saunders\*, Namgyal Sherpa\*, Saunder Stock, Mason Swallow, Clorinda Townsend\*, Alejandro Vargas Nunez, Caylie Velasquez, Graysen Vidmar\*, and Robert Walker.

## 11th Grade

Anessia Alvarez, Kai Amundson, Sydney Bell, Elizabeth Birchem, Brandon Blacker, Bailey Blackford\*, Charles Boschen, Jaiden Bressett, Faith Breshears\*, Trejan Brown\*, Gretchen Brumley, Misty Castle, Madison Collin\*, Madison Coop, Taylor Cooper, Caitlin Cowley\*, Camille Crane, Cameron Culver, Presley Davis, Nickolas Deisig, Cade Godbe, Zoe Greear, Nyah Green, Ayla Gross, Josue Gutierrez, Jazmin Gutierrez-Hernandez, Kinsey Hadlock\*, Anika Harris\*, Phineas Howe, Reign Jellise Icasiano, Kathryn Jakino\*, Easton Jessop, Robin Kittell, Teagan Kulbeth, Layla Lambert, Maliah Leiba, Kailana Lewis\*, Marisha Lutz, Brooklynn Martinez, Christopher Martinez Dela Cruz, Karlie Mejia\*, Ally Metzger\*, Jace Mitchell\*, Mayce Oberg, Willem Plumhoff\*, Griffin Pollard, Joelle Potts, Trevor Prock\*, Hannah Rehard, Tayler Risner, Olivia Rosentreter, Analicia Ruedas, Olivia Schmidt\*, Evie Sherman\*, Addison Shipley, Jackson Shumway, Jordyn Simo\*, Darinka Skybova, Kacy Stewart, Brayden Stroehlein, Hannah Sulzen, Abigail Svacha\*, Carissa Trask\*, Shea Vincent, Maiya Wagner\*, Shiloh Warthen\*, Mya Wilcox, Rachel Williams, Jaylee Wilson, and Lillian Yender.

## MHS 2ND SEMESTER HONOR ROLL From previous pg

### 12th Grade

Joseph Benitez, John Beshoar, Chloe Brew, Meridith Cervantes, Jose Chavez Alvarez, Lauren Clark\*, Maggie Cline, Maddison Coca, Paola Cortez Suarez, Caroline Countryman, Olivia Dillon, Ellie Duncan\*, Osmar Encarnacion, Georgia Ficco, Vivian Ficco, Gabriel Fleetwood, Hayden Fox\*, Cali Fulks, Aimy Granier\*, Connor Gregory-Clutts, Avjanna Gross, Hunter Gurule, Diego Gutierrez Garcia\*, Drake Hawkins, Charlotte Hellyer\*, Abigail Hines, Brekin Hutto, Maria Jayme, Kaston Kail\*, Avery Kingsbury, Andrew Kistler, Elizabeth Kistler, Aidenne Ludwig\*, Joshua Maddox, Christopher Mock, Will Neuman, Ryan Nichols\*, Ethan Osorio, Leslie Owens, Jacqueline Padilla, Aidan Paider, Gabrielle Parkison\*, Jakai Pfifer, Grace Piquette, Landon Potter\*, Elizabeth Reed\*, Audrey Righter, Indiana Rowan, Shayla Saunders, Ava Silverberg\*, Porter Smith\*, Walter Talamantes, Eleanor Waldon\*, Cassidy Westergren, and Brooke Williams.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### REVIEW OF MINGA EDUCATION GROUP (MEG) REVEALS TROUBLING RED FLAGS

Dear Editor,

Montrose school board is currently evaluating the potential opening of a Montrose Classical Academy operated by Minga Education Group (MEG), and it is vital that we approach this decision with transparency and a commitment to protecting students, families, and taxpayers. A close review of MEG's proposed management agreement reveals troubling red flags that warrant public concern.

First and foremost, **Minga would employ all school staff—including the principal—while also managing the school's finances and operations.** This dual role creates an alarming conflict of interest. Minga prepares budgets, processes payroll, manages vendor contracts, and reimburses itself for expenses, yet it **bears no financial responsibility for cost overruns or mismanagement.** Even more troubling, Minga has no measurable performance requirements tied to student outcomes or school success. This means Minga can continue operating the school—collecting public funds—regardless of whether students are learning, test scores improve, or the school meets basic academic benchmarks.

The proposed governance structure raises further concerns. The charter school's board would rely entirely on Minga for governance training, policy drafting, and public relations—functions meant to ensure independent oversight. Minga's control over nearly all aspects of school operations strips the board of its duty to hold the operator accountable.

Contract terms also heavily favor Minga. If a new agreement isn't reached by April 15, Minga can begin withdrawing staff and services—potentially jeopardizing school operations mid-year. Meanwhile, Minga retains ownership of property it purchases for the school and is named as an additional insured on all school policies. It even requires the school to waive governmental immunity while maintaining its own protections, effectively shifting all risk to the public side.

There's also no competitive bidding process described, no disclosure of vendor relationships, and no external audit safeguards to prevent **self-dealing or opaque billing.** In effect, Minga would operate as both contractor and regulator, with **no clear public oversight or fiscal transparency.**

We all want high-quality educational options, but **a charter school cannot be a blank check handed to a private operator with unchecked power and minimal accountability.** Our students deserve better. The taxpayers of the community deserve better. This contract needs serious reconsideration—and the Montrose community deserves a full, open dialogue about changes in the contract before moving forward. I would urge you to contact the Montrose School Board with these concerns before they vote on June 24, 2025.

Sincerely,

Autumn Leopold, Windsor

A Concerned CO Citizen

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# Hand-painted Birdhouses

By Kate Burke

**Hand-finished with  
waterproof glaze  
5 1/2' wide X 8" tall.  
Rope Hanger  
\$45**

**Custom  
designs  
available**



**Monarch**

**Scarlett Peacock**

**Blue Morpho**

**Purchase  
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THIS ALL COMES BACK TO TRUMP

*Editor:*

I find it interesting that on June 13th, a day before the "Big Beautiful Parade" (celebrating 250 years of the Army and HIS 79th birthday) in Washington, DC, a group of 60 veterans and military family members were arrested by the Capitol Police for attempting to sit on the steps of the Capitol. One included an eighty-six year old veteran with a walker.

On January 6th, not one rioter, not one insurrectionist was arrested. Later, when several hundred were finally arrested, brought to trial (due process), and found guilty by a jury of their peers, and sentenced; who pardoned nearly every one of the 1600 insurrectionists and then went after the prosecutors of these rioters? More than 140 officers were injured that day, many seriously, and some later died from the trauma. One from a stroke a day later, and four from suicide.

Trump did not call up the National Guard that day to stop the riot. Yet when protesters showed up in Los Angeles protesting the methods used by ICE to detain and arrest immigrants, Trump sent in the National Guard without even notifying or asking the governor of California. Republicans. What happened to your rallying cry of "states rights"? Then to further flame the fires, Trump called in the Marine Corps to patrol the area against American citizens on American soil.

What was their "mission statement"? According to Kristi Noem, "We are staying here to liberate the city from the socialists and the burdensome leadership that this governor and that this mayor have placed on this country and what they have tried to insert in this city."

She says that the military was there to "liberate" a city from its democratically elected governor and mayor. Wow! How would you like to be a National Guardsman or Marine with those marching orders?

This all comes back to Trump.

*He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.*

*He has endeavored to (obstruct) the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners.*

*He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws.*

*He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.*

*He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution.*

*For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World.*

*For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent.*

*For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury (due process).*

*For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offenses.*

*He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us.*

Sound familiar? These are excerpts from the Declaration of Independence. A copy of which is presently hanging in the Oval Office. Maybe HE should actually read his copy.

I am terrified seeing troops politicized like they were at Fort Bragg. I am a supporter of our military, but feel saddened by what Trump is doing with, and to, the National Guard and US Marines in Los Angeles. This is not their duty, their job, their expertise. I cringe when I see ICE running through the fields after immigrants or storming a meat packing plant in Nebraska. These are NOT violent criminals. These are human beings. Even the Lincoln County sheriff in Nebraska said that none of the detainees are "violent offenders" and that he hopes to help them "complete the process to correct their work status and reunite them with families or employers". Families have been left fatherless or parentless. Snatched and disappeared men and women.

It doesn't bode well to put an armed military against American citizens. Lexington and Concord April 19, 1775. That was 250 years ago too.

*Jon Sering*



# BLACK CANYON CLASSICS CAR CLUB AUTO SHOW – 30 YEARS & COUNTING

## *A Milestone Reached for Local Auto & Truck Enthusiasts*



Story and photos by David White  
Perseverance and a love of an American pastime along with a giving heart aptly describes who the Black Canyon Classics Car Club and their members are to the greater Montrose community.

This past Saturday, June 14, marked the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their car show. From its humblest beginnings in 1995 the Black Canyon Classics Car Club is proud that it has given its members a reason to be out on the streets as well as a sense of civic pride for its continuing contributions to the community. ([Black Canyon Classics Car Club](#)).

The Black Canyon Classics is open to anyone of any age interested in classic cars, street rods, trucks and all other forms of automotive transportation. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Cars owned by members range from a 1916 Ford Model T Roadster to a 2008 Cobra and anything in between.

The club pays no salaries nor makes any profit for itself or its members. In the event that the club disbands, all remaining proceeds will be donated to a non-profit charity.

As has been the case for the last few

years, the show was held in Cerise Park and was gratefully sponsored by numerous area businesses and the City of Montrose. The show attracted well over 130 vehicle entries and hundreds of spectators. A lot of reminiscing took place amongst those in attendance as memories of days gone by were relived when a particular car or truck brought memories of another time in a person's life back them. Original factory cars and trucks all the way up to highly modified and performance models were to be found.

Club officers this year are: President – Shane Brown; Vice President – George VanAllen; Secretary – Alicia Steffens and Treasurer – Colin Grubb. Many other members contributed to the effort as the car show is the club's main fundraiser with a charity chosen each year to receive the proceeds from the show. This year, Project Healing Waters was the chosen beneficiary. ([Project Healing Waters](#)) Their work with veterans aids in restoring the purpose and belonging many veterans lose when they leave the military by teaching them how to fly fish, tie flies, and build fly rods.

As you can see from the photos, a

beautiful collection of cars, trucks, restomods and much more were present. Awards were given to those whose vehicles placed 1<sup>st</sup> in their class. A Mayor's award was presented this year along with a Kid's Award.

*Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & one great grandchild.*



# LA NOUE DUBOIS WINERY

67289 Trout Rd., Montrose

**Sat., July 12th, With Kate & Gia**  
**1-3:30 pm**

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We provide 2 wine glasses,  
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deserves  
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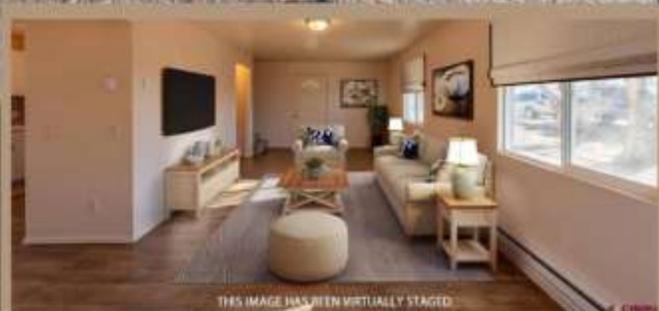




**525 ELIZABETH STREET,  
DELTA, CO 81416  
MLS # 820393**

This beautifully updated 3-bed, 1.5-bath home in Garnet Mesa is a must-see! Nearly everything is new, including the kitchen (cabinets & appliances), bathrooms, doors, floors, blinds, and fresh paint inside and out. The smart layout features upstairs laundry, and an enclosed front porch ideal as a mudroom or summer sleeping area.

The home is move-in ready, clean, and efficient, with windows replaced 15 years ago. Enjoy a fenced front yard, detached garage with concrete floor, low-maintenance gravel yard, and HOA-provided irrigation water. Close to schools, medical facilities, and all that Delta offers.



**\$347,000.00**  
**3 BR**  
**1.5 bathrooms**

**CONTACT: LESLIE GORE**



📞 19702753195  
✉️ lesliegoreactor@gmail.com  
🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES 14 BUILDING EXCELLENT SCHOOLS TODAY GRANT PROJECTS

*Special to the Mirror*

FORT MORGAN -- During its June meeting - hosted at Morgan County School District Re-3's district office building - the Colorado State Board of Education approved \$179 million in Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grants to help fund 14 construction projects in 12 Colorado school districts and two charter schools.

"Every student in Colorado deserves to learn in a safe, well-maintained school," said Education Commissioner Susana Córdova. "BEST grants make that possible by funding essential upgrades—like new roofs, asbestos abatement, and improved security systems—especially in communities that couldn't take on these costly projects alone."

The approved BEST projects for the 2025-26 cycle include:

\$60.6 million for PK-12 school replacement in Kiowa School District C-2 (requires the passage of a local bond measure);

**\$52.3 million for PK-12 school replacement in Norwood R-2J (requires the passage of a local bond measure);**

\$25 million for the renovation of a PK-12 school and addition in Haxtun RE-2J, which will be supported by a 2023 bond measure;

\$6.9 million for HVAC, roof and security improvements at multiple schools in Rangely RE-4 School District; and \$5.7 million for health and safety upgrades to North Preschool in Widefield 3 (requires the passage of a local bond measure).

Of those projects, approximately \$179 million will be funded by income earned from the Colorado State Land Board, marijuana excise taxes, spillover from the Colorado Lottery and interest earned. Applicants will be expected to contribute approximately \$55.2 million in matching funds, representing \$234 million in total project costs. Some projects are contingent upon the approval of bond elections by voters living within school district boundaries.

BEST grants are intended to improve health, safety, security and technology in public schools and are open to all Colorado school districts, BOCES, charter

schools, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. The Capital Construction Assistance Board (CCAB) reviews applicants before making recommendations to the State Board of Education. Allowable debt service for BEST Certificates of Participation increased. The CCAB elected to use half of the allowable debt capacity in this grant round.

Since 2008, BEST grant awards have provided more than \$4 billion for school improvement projects in almost every district in the state, including the awards for this grant cycle. Of the total projects, approximately \$2 billion were awarded to small rural districts, \$1 billion to urban districts, and nearly \$1 billion to rural school districts.

CDE's Capital Construction Unit works to assess every school facility in the state every five years to maintain accurate and consistent data for the CCAB. Based on 2025 assessment data, Colorado public schools need more than \$20 billion worth of capital improvements. More information about capital projects is available on the department's website.

### Join us for the 'Haunting of the Downtown' Ghost tour June 20th at 7:00 pm

The Montrose County Historical Museum takes a walk on the Spooky Side with tales of spooks, ghouls, and ghost stories. The museum's ghost authority mingles history and legends on a walk of down Montrose's shadowy Main Street and dark alleyways. The ghouls will be present as they follow patrons enjoying the mysterious tales of the town's eerie history of paranormal activity and perhaps have their own experiences to share afterward.

There are limited spaces for this family-friendly tour, to reserve a space call 970-249-2085 or email [info@montrosehistory.org](mailto:info@montrosehistory.org)  
Tickets are \$10.00/person



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## BEAULA "BEE" HELGESON *November 1, 1923 — June 6, 2025*



BEULAH (BEE) LILLEGAARD HELGESON came into this world on November 1, 1923, in the tiny town of Stephen, Minnesota, on November 1st, 1923. After an incredible 101 years of life, she passed away peacefully on June 6, 2025.

Bee grew up in Bagley, Minnesota, where she first crossed paths with her future husband, Hunter. Her first impression? She thought he was "rather stuck-up" - good thing she gave him a second chance! They tied the knot in 1944, kicking off a life full of adventures as Hunt's Navy career took them all over - Chicago, Maine, Virginia, and beyond. After the war, Hunt joined the FBI, and the two hopped from Philadelphia; New Orleans; Biloxi and

Jackson, (MS); Chicago; D.C.; and eventually back to Bagley before Bee settled in Tulsa and then in Montrose, CO.

While in Jackson, Bee's knack for writing landed her a job at a local, weekly newspaper where she wrote a column called The Bee Line. That led to a job writing commercials and even hosting a weekly, 5-minute, TV show - pretty impressive for back in the day!

When they were in D.C., Bee went to George Mason University, earning her BA in History (Magna Cum Laude, no less). She loved digging into research at the Library of Congress and later worked as an editor for the National Parks & Recreation Association covering congressional hearings and polishing up articles. In Chicago, she took over as editor for the American Dental Assistants Association journal, which meant jetting off to conventions in places like San Diego, Las Vegas, and Boston.

After Hunt retired in 1976, they moved back to Bagley, MN, where Bee jumped into local theater - acting, assistant directing, and even directing a play. She also took grad courses in English at Bemidji State University. They stayed there until Hunt's passing in 1983.

The next year Bee moved to Tulsa, OK, to help care for her aging parents. Over 26 years there, she threw herself into her church (Kirk of the Hills), serving as elder, deacon, choir member, and newsletter writer. She also volunteered at St. Francis

Hospital, edited their newsletter, and got involved with the Assistance League of Tulsa and the Tulsa PEO.

As the beloved "Granny Bee," she enjoyed watching her great-grandchildren grow for nearly a decade when their family moved to Tulsa.

In 2009, Bee made her final move to Montrose, CO, to be near her daughter (Jody) and son-in-law (Charlie). She settled into Sunrise Creek (now Montage Creek) where she kept right on writing -- interviewing fellow residents for mini-bios and editing the monthly newsletter.

Bee had a wonderful, creative mind, kept sharp with daily-word puzzles, devotionals, by playing bridge and reading. She loved every place she lived, and considered every move a new adventure. She was the most gracious, kind woman, always making others feel at ease, lighting up their lives with her beautiful smile and faith in Christ. She was an inspiration to everyone who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Hunter, and her sister, Eunice Miller. She is survived by her brother, Neil Lillegaard; her children, Timothy Helgeson (Patrick), Scott Helgeson (Deborah) and Jody Zimmerman (Charlie), her grandchildren, Laurel Sitki (Eren) and Sam Zimmerman (Tricia) and four great-grandchildren, Hunter, Isabelle, Samantha and Nathan.

She will be taken to Bagley where she will be laid to rest next to her beloved husband.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## JERRY LEE GODBEY

**April 30, 1942 — May 31, 2025**

JERRY LEE GODBEY, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away on May 31, 2025, at the age of 83.

Jerry was born on April 30, 1942, in Elizabethtown, New York, to Bun and Lena Godbey. He was the second of four boys and spent his formative years in the scenic towns of Ouray and Montrose, Colorado. A proud graduate of Montrose High School, Class of 1960, Jerry's strength and discipline earned him a wrestling scholarship to the Colorado State College in Greeley and later attended University of Wisconsin/Oshkosh.

It was at college where he met the love of his life, Mary Klug. Together, they built a life filled with devotion, adventure, and deep family roots. They raised four children: Todd of Mesa, AZ (wife Susan, children Brandon and Amanda, granddaughter Poppy); Kristen of Lakewood, CO; Michon of Seattle, WA; and Chantel of Montrose, CO (husband, Randy, son Keenan).

A hard rock miner by trade, Jerry worked in mines across Colorado and surrounding states, including the historic Camp Bird Mine. He was known for his tireless work ethic and deep knowledge of the mining life. In his later years, Jerry worked as a school bus driver, where he formed bonds with students and had more funny stories to bring home.

Jerry was a man of many interests. He was exceptionally well-read, a gifted storyteller, and had an abiding love for the outdoors. Whether he was fishing, camping, or simply taking in the mountain air, Jerry felt at home in nature. But his greatest joy came from time spent with his family sharing stories, offering advice, and making memories that will live on through generations.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Mary; his four children Todd, Kristen, Michon, and Chantel; three grandchildren Keenan, Brandon, Amanda; one great-granddaughter, Poppy; and his



brother Jonnie. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bun and Lena, and his brothers Jim and Mike. Jerry will be profoundly missed by all who had the honor of knowing him. His wish was for his family to have a private memorial.

## HELEN LEGENDRE - ORR

**August 21, 1923 — June 6, 2025**



Helen started her education in a one room schoolhouse in Central and South America where she spent her childhood. She went stateside to attend a Catholic High School in New Orleans, Louisiana where she met Octave J. Legendre. They were married on June 6, 1945. Her desire was to be an airline stewardess, but at that time they were required to have a nursing background. Those dreams were abandoned when WWII broke out as nurses were needed in the U.S. military. She has worked in every aspect of nursing- private duty nursing, a woman's hospital, public health and she finished her career as a school nurse in New Orleans public schools, a job that she loved.

Octave died in 1982, and she married her second husband, James E Orr in 1986. He died in 2003, and she moved to Montrose to be near her daughters. She is survived by her four children, Victoria (Dennis) Bourgeois and Lesley (Steven) Hallenborg as well as her two sons that live in Australia -Bruce (Jannine) Legendre and Joseph (Marcela) Legendre. She has eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will take place in August and any donations in her name can be made to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado, a cause that she felt strongly about.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family (970)249-2121.

ISSUE 526 June 16, 2025

# ART & SOL

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – HEAT



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD

*Greetings Mirrorites!*

OLATHE-The dog days of summer are upon us. When working outside past a certain point of heat, I find that I can't hold much of a coherent conversation. When temperatures are over 90F and I am working in the sun and not the shade, I find that there comes a point where I 'lose words'. I cannot hold a conversation because stringing a sentence together becomes too difficult. Five minutes indoors in coolness is all I need for my brain to resume normal functioning. I know then that my time outdoors must be limited to no more than 10 minutes at a time. That practice may become even more necessary in the future.

In 2024, Grand Junction experienced its hottest summer on record. Montrose wasn't as hot then, but this year does not



*Nature is restorative to the brain, unless nature makes the brain too hot! Photo courtesy of X. Coiffic.*

bode well. Montrose reached the highest temperatures on record for certain dates during a warm period in April 2025.

The press is full of stories about ways to stay safe in summer weather and it's all great advice. Seldom is the mechanical effect of heat on the brain explained, however, so here goes.

In the same way that activity in electrical wires produces heat, all electric and magnetic stimulation of the brain deposits thermal energy in the brain. Temperature changes in the brain affect the firing of

neurons. Lining the membranes of nerve cells are molecular pumps that electrically charge the cells with energy that they release during brain activity. Researchers have been able to demonstrate that when cells are heated faster than the charges can adjust, they may either produce more neuronal activity or less than usual (less being true for me, which is why I lose words). Even small changes in temperature due to electrical stimulation of the brain less than 1°C, can lead to substantial changes in neuronal activity. As neurons

**Continued next pg**

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – HEAT From previous pg

overheat they tend to go silent. Cool them back to their normal temperature and they will get excitable again.

“Seeing these dramatic effects on brain activity from small changes in temperature means that we now need to take such small temperature changes into account,” says Steven Schiff, MD, vice chair for global health in Neurosurgery at Yale School of Medicine, the lead author of a groundbreaking study who specializes in the intersection between engineering and neurosurgery.

“Physicist James Joule, long ago, taught us that there is no way around this problem. If you pass electrical current through small conductive wires to generate electrical or magnetic fields to stimulate the brain, you generate heat both in the wires and in the conductive brain.”

Leonidas Ioannou, an environmental physiologist and assistant researcher at Slovenia’s Jožef Stefan Institute, says that cognitive performance is linked to elevated skin temperature. “When your skin temperature rises, mental capacity drops due to various physiological mechanisms, including blood being redirected toward the skin to dissipate heat and hyperventilation lowering the partial pressure of arterial carbon dioxide. Together, these mechanisms reduce cerebral blood flow and may limit oxygen delivery to the brain, impacting cognition,” he explains.

Increased skin temperature also affects thermal comfort, which can further influence both cognitive and physical performance.

In support of this claim, a Taiwanese study found short- and long-term temperature exposure was associated with moderate to severe cognitive impairment in elderly people. Han-Bin Huang, a professor at the School of Public Health at Taiwan’s National Defense Medical Center, says that extreme heat affects the hippocampus, a critical learning and memory region that is sensitive to body temperature changes. He pinpoints a specific protein that is implicated in those changes.

“A temperature-sensitive channel, known as transient receptor potential vanilloid 4 [TRPV4] . . . is activated at physiological temperatures within the hippocampus,” he says.

TRPV4 is like a temperature sensor. Found in the hippocampus and other body tissues, it activates at normal body temperature and plays a role in sensing heat and pain and maintaining body functions like hydration. “Prolonged exposure to high temperatures may disrupt hippocampal function by altering TRPV4 activity, potentially impairing cognitive processes such as memory and learning,” Huang states. Further, he claims that extended heat exposure has also been [linked to increased inflammation](#) and [oxidative](#)

[stress markers](#) in the body. Oxidative stress happens when there are too many harmful free radicals and insufficient antioxidants to balance them. “These processes are known to contribute to cognitive decline,” Huang says. Researchers emphasize the need for more long-term studies to understand how heat affects brain function precisely, but it’s plain that for older folks like me getting out of the sun promptly during summer heat waves is super important for long-term smarts. A recent [Chinese study that tracked 53,000 people](#) over 8 years found that extreme heat was associated with reduced cognitive function on an hourly, daily, and annual basis. During heat stress, brain support cells like microglia and astrocytes become active and release inflammatory substances that can damage neurons and impair the formation of new neurons, affecting memory. So getting cool quickly when memory is impacted is critical for the little gray cells.

OK, so now you know a little about the *why* of heat stress on the brain.

This summer, be good to your noggin and get your dose of nature in early morning or early evening stints that will be restorative for your mind instead of just the opposite.

Be well and stay calm, cool, and collected this summer,  
*The Mindful Naturalist*

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



## 970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL  
**CRIME STOPPERS**

# THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: WITH WENDY VIDELOCK

## A CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED BEGINNER'S MIND



*By Wendy Vidlock*

I recently attended a class on a subject which I know nothing about.

I was determined to learn the basics of percussion and found myself signed

up for a class with a drummer near Hotchkiss I've admired for many years.

I didn't think about it much until I got there and took my seat — and was suddenly seized by the feeling that everyone else knew exactly what they were doing— and were keenly aware that I didn't.

I should never have signed up for this class, I was slowing everybody down, I was way off-key, I was making a real mess of things— I was certain of it!

My hands were clumsy, my fingers were clumsy, my body was clumsy and for the first fifteen minutes of the class I was in a state of agony — until I closed my eyes, took a deep breath and just listened.

Until I closed my eyes, hushed my belligerent inner critic, and just felt the rhythm.

Don't get me wrong, I was still clumsy as all get out, but I was no longer beating myself up about it.

And that made all the difference in my ability to relax and actually enjoy myself. This is one of those moments we might call getting out of the critical mind and into the body. This is a skill that comes in handy, and not just for drumming, but for learning to be one's self. Ed

Muir famously said, "Off I go into the woods to lose my mind and find my soul."

Be humble, says the earth,  
for you are made of me;  
be noble say the stars

for you are made of me.

It has taken me a long time to learn to hush my inner critic. She is sneaky and can be a source of paralyzing insecurity if I don't keep her in check. Naming her Myra Maleficent was the beginning of developing a sense of humor about the whole notion of the unwelcome inner critic.

Just as everybody has an inner child residing within, everybody (except the clinical narcissist perhaps) houses an inner critic. That critical voice can be useful for keeping us honest, but most of the time, the inner critic oversteps, crashes the party— and is a real killjoy.

And let's be honest: most of the time the inner critic is the voice of somebody else that, over time, we've internalized as our own.

Dear Friends,  
Here lie the dreams we put to rest.  
And there, the things we meant to say.  
Further on, those bits of faith.  
Mindless things, they bore no pain,  
and easily went to their graves.  
It's we who are not quite the same.

In many eastern traditions there is a focus on what is called Beginner's Mind. Beginner's Mind is receptive, open to new experiences, curious about the world and inclined toward deep listening. Deep listening, it should be said, is a form of love.

Much of the time we humans are so sure we already know something, (or so sure we're incapable of learning something new), we've failed before we've even begun.

The moment I stepped off the edge  
of my own  
comfort zone  
something in me collapsed.  
and something in me  
was born.

Zen teacher Shunryu Suzuki says "In the Beginner's Mind there are many possibilities. In the expert's mind there are few."

It has taken me a long time to cultivate Beginner's Mind. It has been the great challenge of my life to let go of all notions of "mastery" and embrace instead the idea of "practice". Again, returning to the roots of humility and humor seems to be key.

*I'm learning and I'm practicing  
but I confess  
I've always found  
relaxing  
somewhat taxing.*

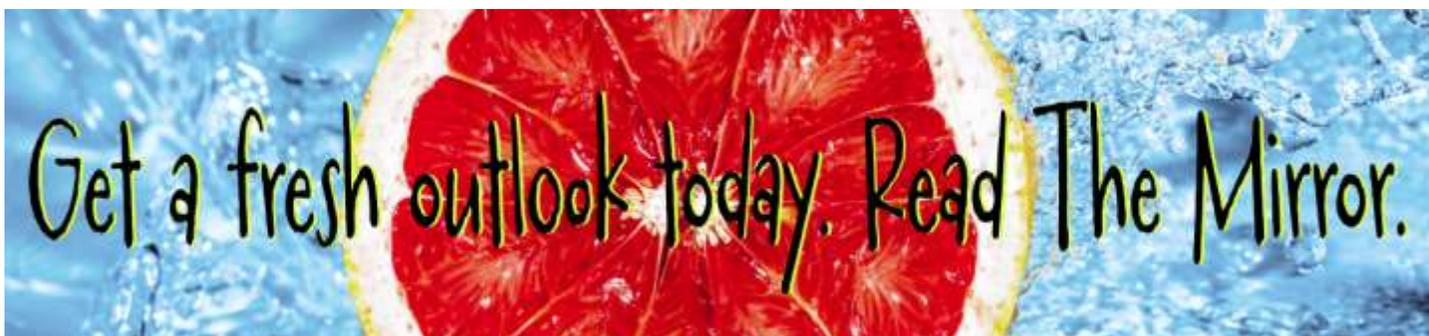
What psychologists would call *negative self-talk* is what the Buddhists would call *the monkey mind*. It's a great metaphor for what it feels like when the brain is in overdrive, catastrophising and creating a debilitating sense of self-doubt.

*This morning in the shower  
the water was not a means to an end  
or a place where over and over  
and over again  
one worries and plans and frets,  
but rather the water  
was water  
and I earth,  
and water's daughter.*

Towards the end of the class that day in Hotchkiss, I realized I'd learned more than I thought I would and had really enjoyed the new challenge. I was even a wee bit proud of myself for not having charged out the door at the first sign of difficulty.

One small step toward learning to play the drum, one giant leap toward peace of mind.

**Wendy Vidlock serves as poet laureate of Western Colorado. Her books are found wherever books are sold. Reach her at [westernslopeword@gmail.com](mailto:westernslopeword@gmail.com)**

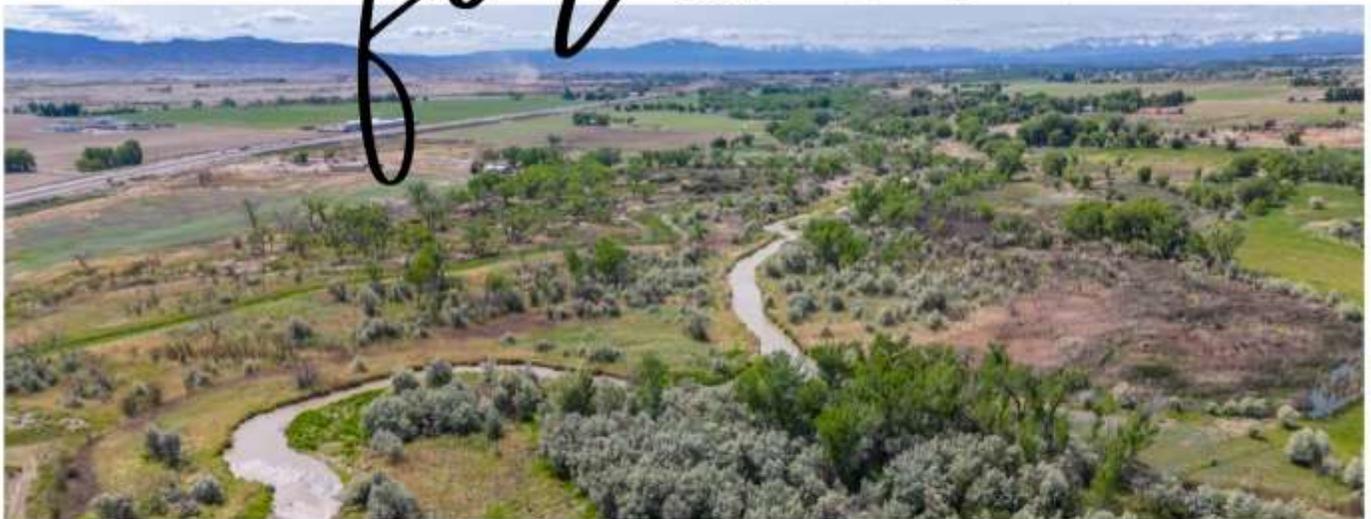




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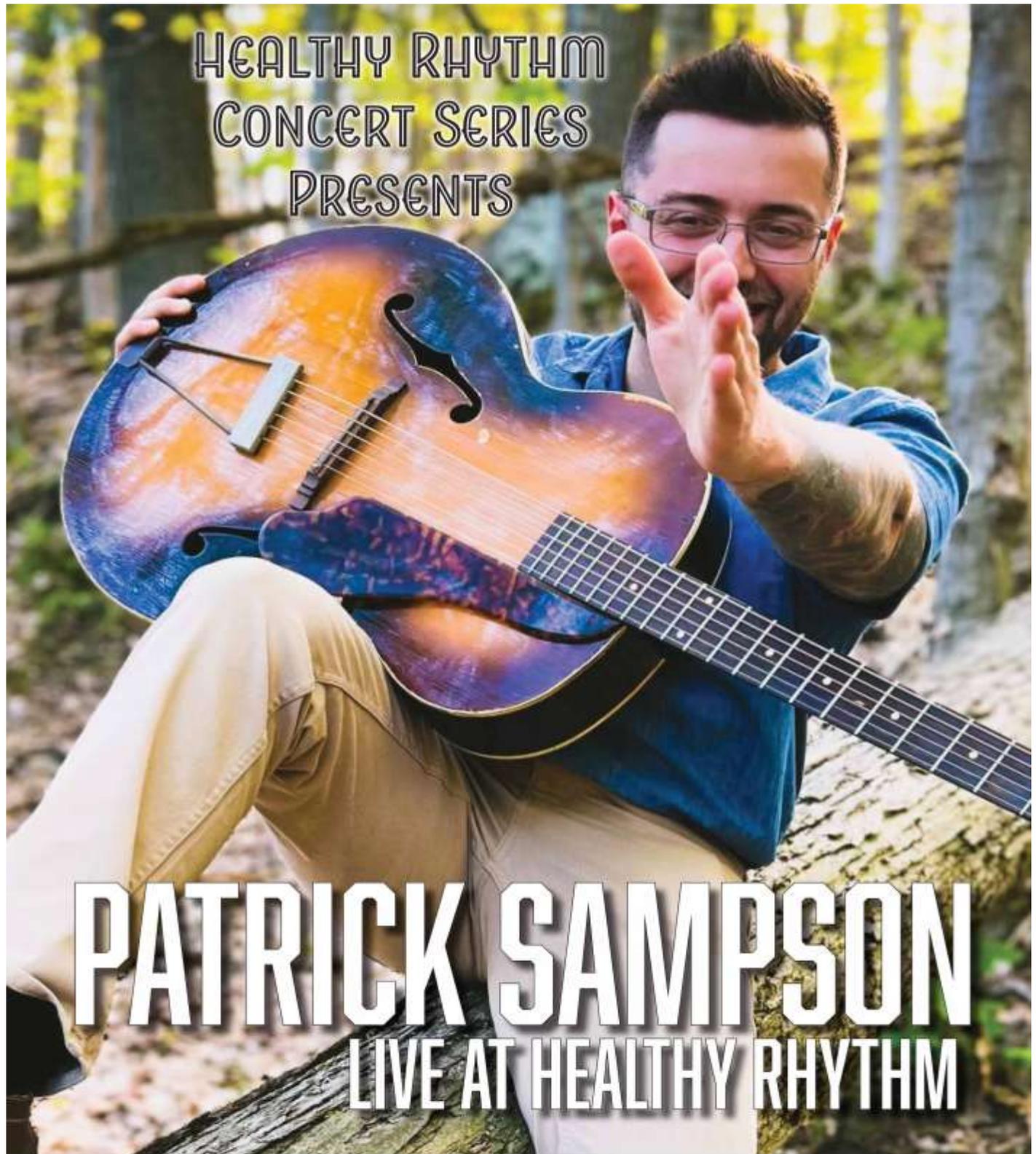
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY/COUNTY TO HOST HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT JUNE 28

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose, in partnership with Montrose County, has planned a waste collection event to give Montrose area residents an opportunity to safely dispose of hazardous chemicals used in many household products.

Batteries, aerosols, fertilizer, paint supplies, fluorescent light bulbs, and liquid fuels and chemicals will be collected during the 2025 Household Hazardous Waste Event scheduled for Saturday, June 28, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City Public Works Shop located at 1221 64.50 Road.

Earlier this spring the city and county agreed to contribute funds to safely dispose of all hazardous materials collected during the event.

“In an effort to promote safety, beautify the community, and expand public services, the City of Montrose and Montrose County desire to host a one-time combined residential Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection event that will include city and county residents,” the city and county said in a joint statement.

“The goal of this event is to encourage citizens to properly collect, handle, and dispose of common household hazardous waste materials.”

Volumes and quantities are limited to a maximum of 20 gallons of liquid waste material, 50 pounds of dry, granular palletized, or powder waste material, and 20

aerosol cans per customer.

### Fee Schedule:

Batteries (Wet/Dry Cell) lithium, nickel-cadmium (NiCd), alkaline, and nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) — \$5.00 per pound.

Large rechargeables (gel cells) — \$2.50 each.

Light bulbs (fluorescent and ballasts) Fluorescent bulbs (8', 4' and shorter) \$.50 each. Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) — \$1.00 each.

Ballasts — \$5.00 each.

Liquid Fuels (automotive fluids, degreasers, mineral spirits, gasoline, kerosene) — \$1.00 per gallon or \$.50 for smaller containers.

Liquid Chemicals (acids, adhesives, bleach, caustic cleaners, oxidizers, solvents) — \$2.00 per gallon or \$1.00 for smaller containers.

Fertilizer (granular) Containers weighing five pounds or less — \$1.00.

Containers weighing five pounds or more — \$2.00.

Fertilizers (liquid) Containers per gallon — \$2.00 Containers less than one gallon — \$1.00.

Herbicides, Pesticides, Poisons, Insecticides (liquids, must be in sealable containers) — \$2.00 per gallon or \$1.00 for smaller containers.

Paint (oil & latex based, primers, artist) — No charge.

Paint Supplies (cleaner, thinner, varnish, turpentine) — \$1.00 per gallon or \$0.50 for smaller containers.

Aerosols and spray paint — \$1.00 each.

Fire Extinguishers — \$5.00 each.

Solid grease, waxes, oils, chemicals, cleaners — FREE

Stains, polyurethanes — FREE

Stucco, plaster, drywall mud, mortar, grout — FREE

Thermometers (mercury) \$1.00 each.

Flammable gas tanks propane, oxygen, MAPP — small (1 lb) \$2.00 each, large (20 lb) \$5.00 each

**(The contents of these products are not classified as household hazardous waste, however due to the methods required to safely dispose of the containers, they are included in this event.)**

**The following shall NOT be collected:**

- Unidentifiable chemicals and hazardous wastes;
- Non-residential household hazardous wastes;
- Excessive volumes or quantities of residential household hazardous wastes reasonably indicating the material was generated from a commercial or industrial facility;
- Explosive or radioactive material;
- Electronic waste
- Biological/infectious waste

For more information, visit [CityofMontrose.org/HHW](http://CityofMontrose.org/HHW)



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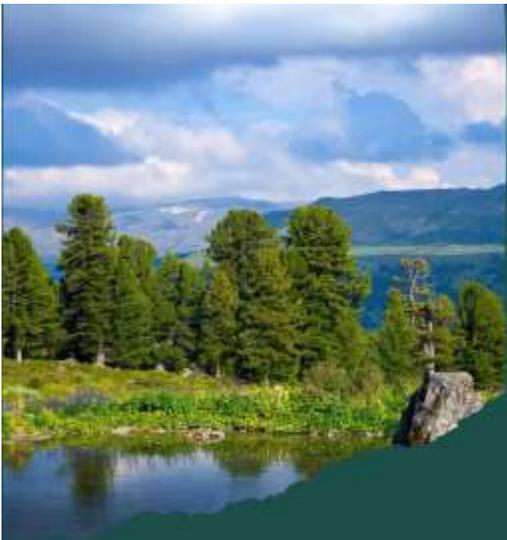


# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

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laurenhallruddell.com  
agescapesnow@gmail.com

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

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## SWEDISH FOLK ARTIST SOFIA TALVIK TO PERFORM AT HEALTHY RHYTHM ART GALLERY *Montrose to host internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter in intimate gallery concert*

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Swedish folk musician Sofia Talvik will perform in Montrose on Thursday, June 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery, bringing her signature blend of Scandinavian roots and American folk to this unique and intimate venue.

Talvik is currently on a 50-concert tour through the Midwest, drawing audiences in with her delicate acoustic arrangements, poetic lyrics, and crystal-clear vocals. Often compared to folk icons like Joni Mitchell and Judy Collins, her latest album—released in 2023—gained critical praise across the folk scene and was considered for a Grammy nomination for Best Folk Album.

A seasoned international performer, Talvik says venues like Healthy Rhythm offer the ideal setting for her kind of music.

“The beauty of smaller venues is how personal it feels—like telling stories to old friends,” Talvik says. “It’s not just a show, it’s a shared experience between artist and audience.”

The Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery, known for its focus on visual and musical arts, provides a welcoming and acoustically rich environment that makes each performance feel like a private concert.

At right, Courtesy photo of Sofia Talvik.



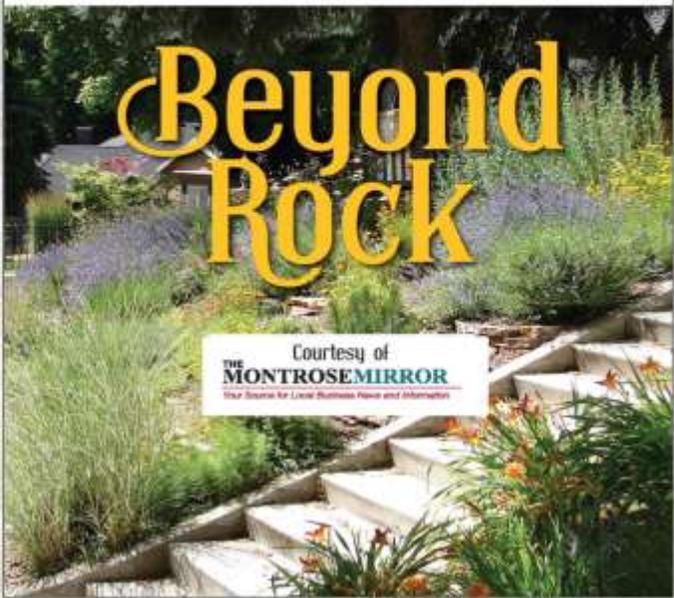
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The primary bedroom showcasing a vaulted ceiling and five piece en-suite bath with granite counter tops, tile finishes, private water closet and a generous walk-in closet. The guest hallway has an additional double door storage closet and 2 well sized 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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# The Satisfied Woman

## CHAUVINISM VS. CHIVALRY: HAS MODERN IDEOLOGY BLURRED THE LINE?



By Gia Pirelli.  
Courtesy photo.

In the complex conversation around gender, few concepts stir as much debate as chauvinism and chivalry. Where one is seen as oppressive, the other—once praised as noble—is currently called under scrutiny for being presumptuous in discussions about

masculinity. Have feminism and “woke” ideology destroyed chivalry by labeling it as toxic? And what happens when men are left uncertain about how to navigate these shifting expectations? (I mean besides growing a man bun and seeking a “Dommy Mommy” on a dating site.)

So, what’s the difference between chauvinism and chivalry? At their core, chauvinism and chivalry represent opposite attitudes toward women:

Chauvinism is the belief in the superiority of men over women. It manifests as condescension, entitlement, and often a dismissal of women’s abilities or rights. Rooted in patriarchal traditions, chauvinism perpetuates inequality, oppression and general a\*\*holery.

Chivalry, on the other hand, historically referred to a code of conduct that emphasized honor, courtesy and protection—especially toward those seen as vulnerable. In a romantic or social context, it came to mean polite gestures such as opening doors, offering a coat, or paying for a date.

The key distinction is intent. Chauvinism seeks to dominate, while chivalry seeks to honor (though it still may rest on assumptions about gender roles.)

Did feminism and woke ideology kill chivalry? The rise of feminism—particularly second-wave and later waves—rightfully

challenged systems that kept women subordinate, including those disguised as “benevolent sexism.” Some feminists questioned chivalry’s assumption that women needed protection, arguing that true equality means women are neither damsels nor dependents. I say it depends on the situation. I am incredibly fit, but I also know that I am no match for a man. And very few women are, unless she’s an MMA fighter. Context and reading the room are vital in making that distinction.

“Woke” ideology, with its focus on inclusivity and justice, further highlights how even well-meaning gestures taken out of context can reinforce outdated power dynamics. For example, offering a woman help because a woman is presumed weaker can feel more patronizing than polite. However, a man holding the door rather than dropping it on your face, or giving you his jacket when it’s chilly, or carrying something heavy for you, should be met with grace instead of a grimace.

So did feminism or progressive thinking destroy chivalry? Not exactly, but we get closer by the day. True chivalry may have some roots in “old fashioned” gender stereotypes but, often, it’s also just “old fashioned” good manners and basic kindness. Unfortunately, in this cultural reckoning, many men receive conflicting messages:

—Be respectful, but don’t assume a woman wants your help.

—Be confident, but don’t be overbearing.

—Be sensitive, but don’t be a wimp.

—Be attentive, but don’t presume she needs special treatment.

—Pay the check, but just know she doesn’t actually need you.

—Be masculine and sexy, but don’t be too aggressive or controlling. (Well, except in certain situations.)

No wonder they’re confused. How exhausting. This constant and evolving uncertainty has left many men feeling that whatever they do, they risk being labeled

as “toxic” in their masculinity. Btw, can you imagine if a man coined the term toxic femininity? Oh Lord, there’d be a hashtag movement fast enough to make your head spin.

Dismissing a man as toxic and then assigning intentions to him, particularly for being white, is not only an unjust indictment, it’s discrimination. (At what point does the white male get to join the protected classes?) The repercussions of careless condemnation are steep. When the conversation about masculinity reduces all traditional male behaviors to toxicity, it can:

—Discourage positive expressions of masculinity—like protectiveness, courage, and generosity.

—Breed resentment among men who feel unfairly judged no matter how they behave. This surely leads to even worse behavior toward women.

—Harm relationships, as both men and women become wary or confused about appropriate dynamics.

When society condemns without nuance, it risks alienating men who might otherwise be allies in the pursuit of equality. Do we really want that?

How can men walk the line when it keeps moving? It’s true that social norms are evolving—sometimes rapidly. What’s considered polite in one context might be seen as presumptuous in another. So how can men navigate this?

1. Focus on respect, not roles. Rather than acting out of a sense of what’s expected “because she’s a woman,” come from kindness and respect for the person in front of you—man, woman, or, whatever.

2. Communicate openly. When in doubt, ask. “Would you like help with that?” Or “Is it okay if I...?” This shows sensitivity without assumption.

3. Separate strength from dominance. Masculine traits like confidence, protectiveness, or physical strength aren’t toxic

# CHAUVINISM VS. CHIVALRY: HAS MODERN IDEOLOGY BLURRED THE LINE?

in themselves—they become harmful when used to control or belittle.

4. Embrace flexibility. Social rules change, but the core values of decency, empathy, and humility endure.

The bottom line is chauvinism and chivalry are not the same. The former seeks control; the latter, at its best, seeks to uplift. Feminism is evolving too, and my hope is the newest version of it moves from angry foot stomp to compassion, respect and mutual understanding. That makes room for women to appreciate men and for men to reimagine their attitudes and behaviors toward women. I like when a man opens the door for me, tells me I look pretty, or loads my Home Depot haul into the back of my vehicle. I sure do! But it makes my eye twitch when some old geezer calls me “little lady” and assumes I’m too stupid to understand the complexities of owning a business and the real estate associated with it. (That actually happened. No I didn’t throat punch him, but it was close.)

The path forward isn’t about abandoning masculinity, but about grounding in mutual appreciation. And while the “line” of social expectation may shift, the foundation—treating others as equals and with kindness and respect—gives steady guidance and a safe point of reference.

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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)

[roseumc.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 dentures.*

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: [www.RosemontBaptist.org](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).

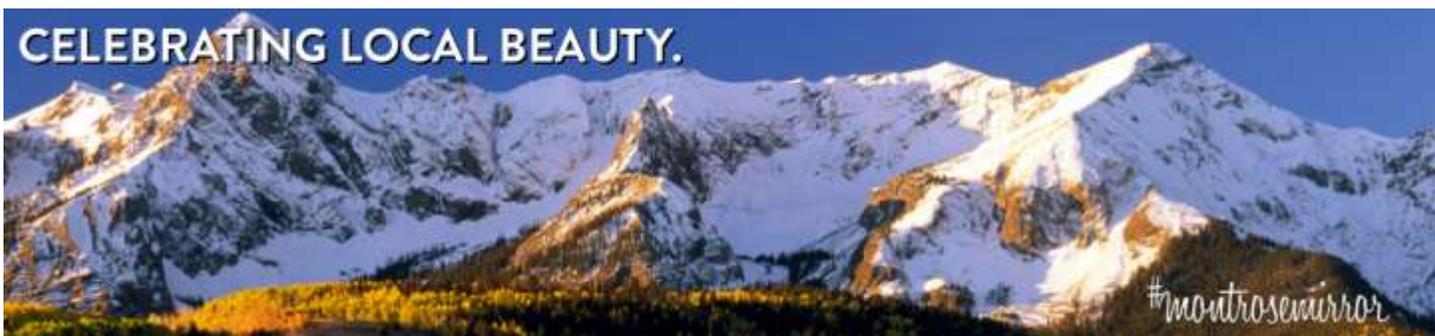
## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**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.*

<p>Church Directory <i>Mirror Editorial Staff</i> 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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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?</p>
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## CONTACT DETAILS

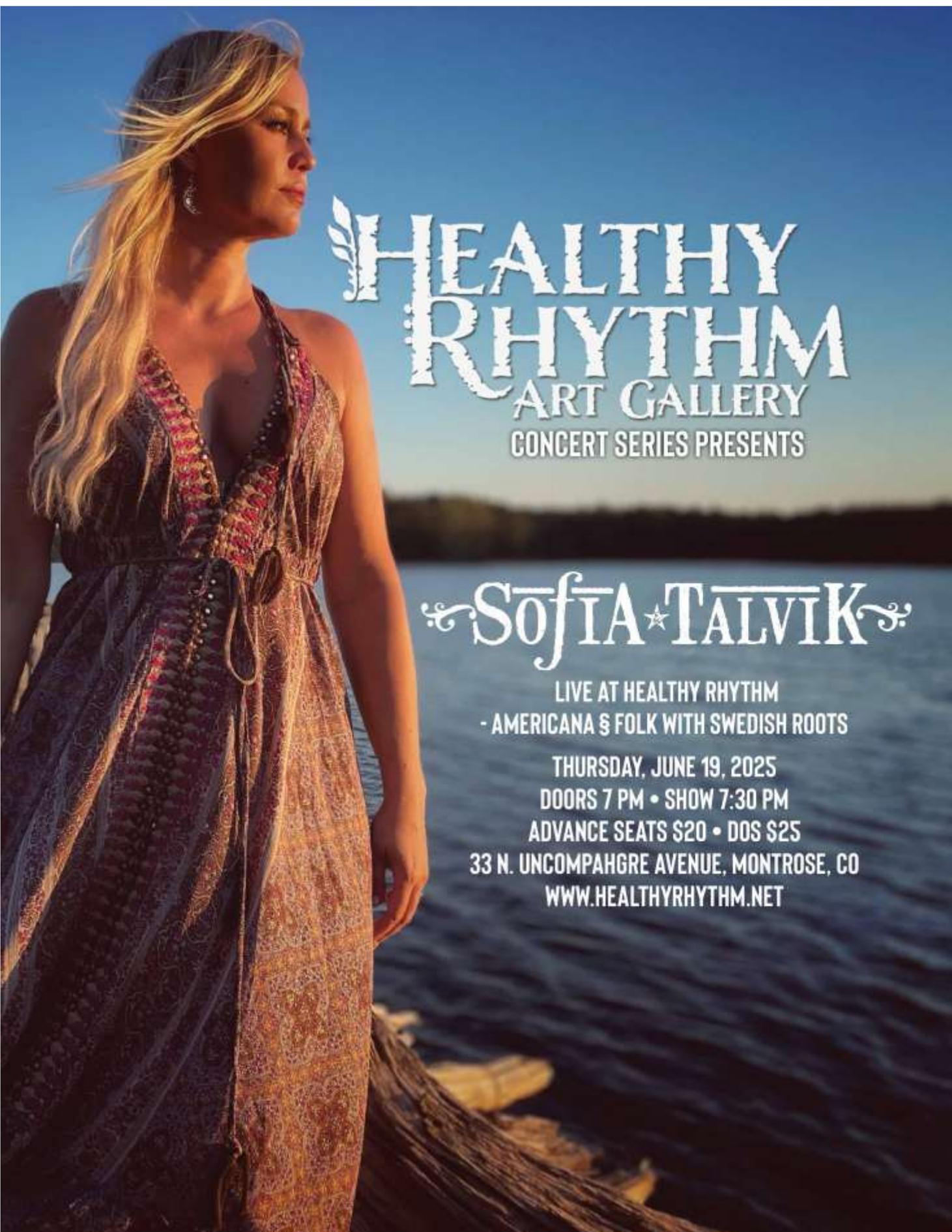
970-249-0493

manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com

www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com

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





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# MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT

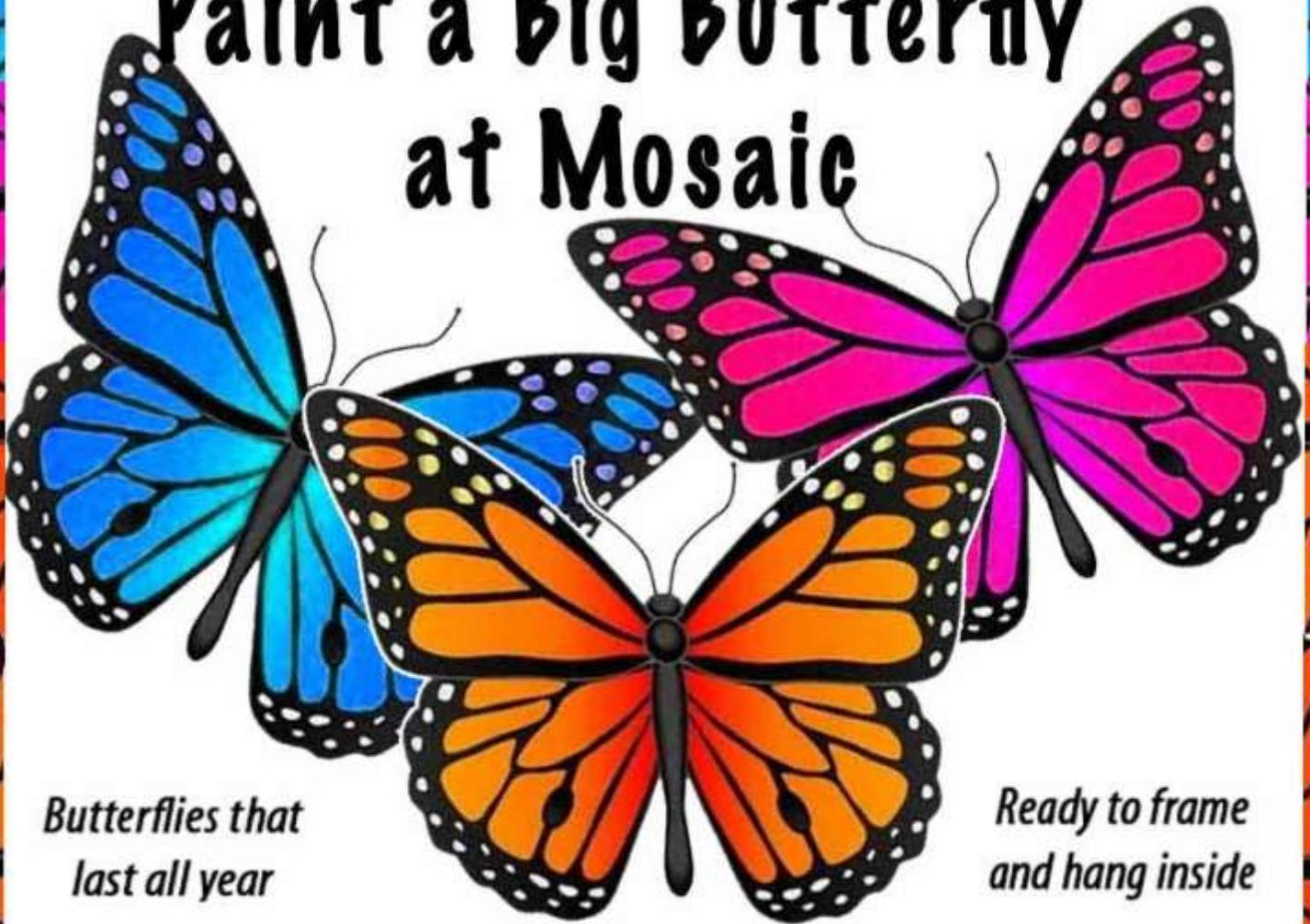
## NO KINGS RALLY COMES TO MONTROSE



*Participants of the nationwide "No Kings" demonstration gathered in Rotary Park on Saturday, June 14. Rally photos by B. Slate. Photos of projection van, below, by David White.*



# This Thursday 5:30-7:30 pm Paint a Big Butterfly at Mosaic



*Butterflies that  
last all year*

*Ready to frame  
and hang inside*

**Everything included plus a snack and drink.  
Step-by-step instructions. Template available.  
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**Mosaic, 21 N. Cascade Ave.**

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[kathrynrburke.com/product/062625m](http://kathrynrburke.com/product/062625m)



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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 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 19**—Sofia Talvik at The Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery in Montrose, Thursday, June 19 - 7:30 PM. 33 N. Uncompahgre Avenue: +1 323-270-6284. [www.healthyrhythm.net](http://www.healthyrhythm.net)

**June 20**—The Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program will be Friday, June 20 at Noon at the Hampton Inn Montrose. Pizza, Salad & Cake served. \$5 donation requested please.

MRW is proud to honor our 2025 high school scholarship recipients. Please come and celebrate the accomplishments of two area graduates and wish them the best. Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.

**June 20**—There will be a Prayer Gathering at the Peace Pole on June 20 at noon to pray for the Healing of Mother Earth, peace in our country, and in the world. The Peace Pole stands in Ute Indian Park, across the street from the Ute Indian Museum. This is also a celebration to mark the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, (15 hours 9 minutes), and the beginning of summer. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your drums and your prayers for peace. More information, 970-252-0908.

**June 20**—Join the Montrose County Historical Museum on June 20 at 7 pm for an eerie evening of spooks, ghouls, and ghost stories as we explore the haunted history of downtown Montrose. This is a family-friendly event and the tickets are \$10 per person. Be sure to sign up and have a spot saved for you. You can call 970-249-2085 or email at [info@montrosehistory.org](mailto:info@montrosehistory.org).

**June 29- Sunday, America Awakes Patriotic Concert.** Help us Celebrate America and our upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Montrose Pavilion, 3pm.

**July 11—13**—Black Canyon Quilt Show at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, CO. Show hours are 9—5 on Friday and Saturday and 10—3:30 on Sunday. Show Admission is \$5.00. View 150 quilts, shop the vendors and in the boutique. Quilt appraisals by appointment (contact Pam at 670-209-2105). Entertaining 2 pm Saturday Lecture & Trunk Show (\$15 at the door). Beautiful raffle quilt made by Guild members. More information at <https://blackcanyonquiltshow.com/>. Additional quilts will be at the Montrose Center for Arts during the month of July.

# WESTERN COLORADO: WEDDINGS EVERYWHERE!



*Living in Western Colorado means weddings everywhere! Here Hannah Browning, owner of Hosanna Floral of Montrose, (center in little black dress) instructs her crew at a Telluride wedding. Hannah was providing floral design and flowers for three area weddings on Saturday. Busy and beautiful day! Photos by CB Williams*



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