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ASSOCIATION

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© Issue No. 643 June 23, 2025

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## CONSTITUENTS CHALLENGE CITY'S STANCE ON CHURCH CAMP, FIRING OF JUDGE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose issued a proclamation in support of Immigrant Heritage Month during the [regular meeting](#) of Tuesday, June 17, causing one constituent, who later addressed the city concerning a problem with groundwater in the crawlspace of his home, to note that he himself had escaped Communist Poland; "Can I get some help? I'm an immigrant!"

The meeting began with the call to order by Mayor David Frank. All councilors were present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Frank asked Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files if there were changes to the meeting agenda; there were no changes.

### IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Karen Sherman Perez of the Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP) and Reverend Michelle Prentice-Leslie joined Mayor Frank as he read the [proclamation](#) into the record. Following the proclamation, Leslie gave some remarks, noting that she, like many in attendance,



Constituents hold up signs in recognition of Immigrant Heritage Month at the City Council meeting of Tuesday, June 17. Meeting screenshot.

[Continued pg 35](#)

## MICHAEL GARCIA'S BROTHER SPEAKS OUT ON OVERDOSE DEATH AT METHODIST CHURCH CAMP FOR UNHOUSED PEOPLE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- On March 27, Michael T. Garcia, 45, was found unresponsive at 19 S. Park Avenue behind the Montrose United Methodist Church (MUMC). At the time, a news release from the Montrose County Coroner's office stated, "The cause and manner of death are still under investigation by the Montrose Coroner's Office of Medical Investigations."

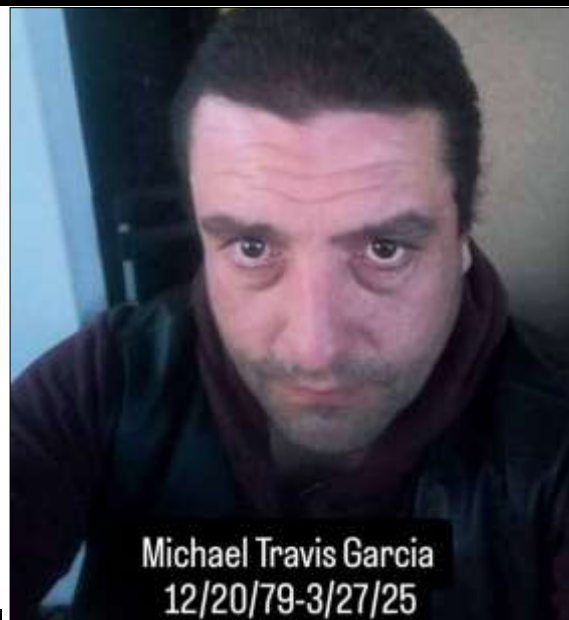
Garcia was at the church because the congregation had chosen to allow camping for unhoused people on church grounds. Still, Garcia's brother Taylor said that Michael was not homeless, but had family as well as a place to stay on Kinikin Road.

Taylor Garcia said, "The church let them stay. My brother was there when he could have been on Kinikin. Michael had been fighting addiction for 30 years. He had choices. He had three kids.

"It was an overdose."

"I would drop off food there for

[Continued pg 4](#)



Michael Travis Garcia  
12/20/79-3/27/25

Garcia Family Courtesy photo.

[BOCC Votes to Pause Conversation on GORP. Continues Zoning Reg Changes to Aug. 6!](#)

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

[David White Op-Ed: Firing of Municipal Court Judge!](#)

[Telluride Bluegrass Festival Photos!](#)



# 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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Publisher: Harry Switzer

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or its editorial team.

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## Natasha Wing Author Talk

**Natasha Wing Author  
Talk – “Food for  
Thought”**

**Thursday, June 26  
6-7 PM**

**Montrose Library  
Meeting Room**



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LIBRARY DISTRICT

## CORRECTIONS

### CUTLINE CORRECTION

In Issue MM642, we inadvertently reversed the photo cutlines on CB Williams article on Dr. Kline: New Dentist in Town. We apologize for the error!!

### NEWS BRIEF CORRECTION

Correction from San Miguel County to their recent Noxious Weed of the Month news release; the weed is supposed to be Musk Thistle, not Milk Thistle.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY MEETS JULY 1

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-On Tuesday July 1 at 5PM, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs Project 504 N.1st. All Welcome to promote healthy environment. Non-partisan, info 970-765-9095

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## MICHAEL GARCIA'S BROTHER SPEAKS OUT From pg 1

my brother," Taylor said, "He was not a criminal, he didn't even drink--but half the crime in Montrose goes right back to the church."

The same easily available street drugs that killed his brother have taken out an entire generation, said Taylor, a veteran with a background in law enforcement. "You don't know what you're getting."

Also, the church allowed the use of hard drugs to go on there, he said. "Three people OD'd there on one night."

And it was not just drug use. Taylor said, "There were stolen checks there, stuff like that." At one point, his brother tried to give him a two-party check made out to someone else. When Taylor insisted on returning the check to the rightful owner, a local business, the business owner thanked him and complained of all the mail theft that takes place in the surrounding area.

Parishioners of the church originally invit-

ed members of the unhoused population to camp on a portion of their property after the City of Montrose amended penalties to include the possibility of jail time for those found camping in public spaces (which was already prohibited).

Still, by allowing the unsupervised camping area, the church allowed crime and drug use to flourish in a residential neighborhood, Taylor Garcia said, adding that there was also a financial incentive in the form of grant funds and donations for the church and for the non-profits that helped to provide services in the neighborhood. "Why did Shepherd Hand volunteers go to the camp to help, and (Shepherd's Hand Board Member) Jeff Downs just turned a double wide up on Kinikin into a female sober living house--and spoke at my brother's memorial, really boosting the church.

"They pretty much knowingly enabled the things that were going on there, and there

were crimes that go right back to them." Still, "People like to turn a blind eye," Taylor said.

At last week's Montrose City Council meeting, MUMC parishioners showed up in force to defend the homeless camp (see article in this issue of the *Mirror*), discussing their reasons for opening the shelter, their mission as a church, the hardships faced by unhoused people, and the community that was created at the camp. One speaker even noted that it was obvious that professional management and counseling services would be needed should the camp be re-opened. Still, not one of them mentioned Michael Garcia.

According to Taylor Garcia, the only person who seemed to care about his brother's death was an unhoused man from the homeless camp, Justin Oatman.

"He was the only one who showed compassion," Taylor said.

### Save the Date!

## Montrose Regional Health Foundation and HopeWest

*present a night of Italian fare to benefit*

# Allison Nadel

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

### Fundraising Goal: \$10,000

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## A SEAT AT THE TABLE

*Editor:*

Am I the only one tired of the cliché, “you must have a seat at the table”?

Whose table is it, anyway?

Too often, it’s environmental groups—well-funded, out-of-town activists—who arrive uninvited and claim ownership of the table. They don’t share our values. They don’t live by the same rules they’re so eager to impose. Instead, they seek out a handful of misguided sympathizers in our community to endorse their failed policies, all under the banner of “protection.”

They accept no responsibility for their documented failures. They move on before the consequences are fully felt—leaving behind division, unrest, and damage that’s hard to undo. That’s the foundation they build their table on.

It defies logic. It makes no sense. Shouldn’t we be the table? Shouldn’t they be asking us for a seat?

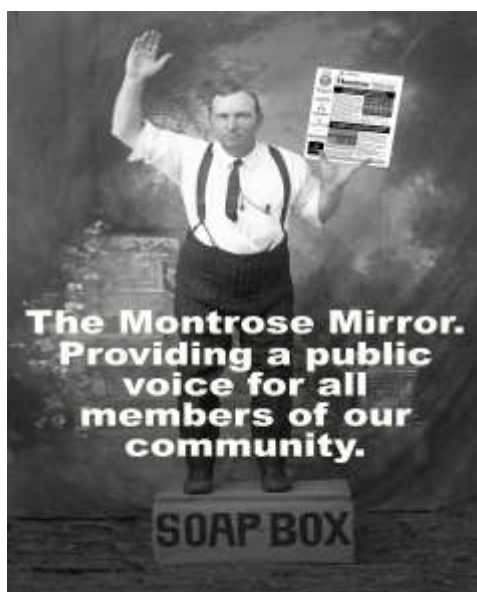
The truth is, there is no table—just a fight. One stirred up by self-proclaimed do-

gooders who believe they know better than the rest of us.

In this case, the more fitting cliché isn’t about a seat at the table. It’s about having a dog in the fight.

Stay vigilant Montrose. Federal land designations have wide-ranging generational impacts.

*Scott Mijares,  
Montrose County Commissioner*



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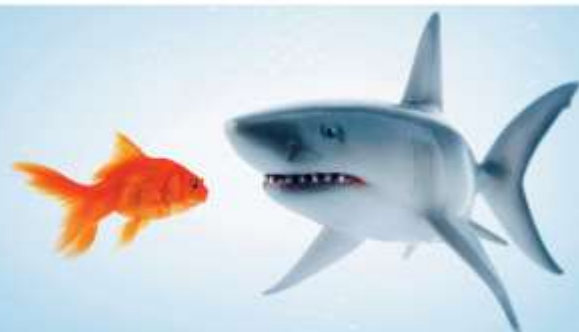


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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MOTORISTS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR TRAVEL DELAYS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKENDS *Summer traffic along the I-70 Mountain Corridor is well underway*

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO— Memorial Day weekend officially kicked off summer travel along the Interstate 70 Mountain Corridor, but motorists should expect delays to start ramping up as Denver hits triple digits and summer activities and events in mountain communities create a big draw.

Traffic data for this time last year, Friday, June 21, through Sunday, June 23, 2024, shows that there were extensive delays as Front Rangers headed up the corridor to beat the heat. With 100-degree weather in the Denver metro area expected and with music and food festivals ramping up throughout Colorado mountain towns, the Colorado Department of Transportation expects to see similar impacts this year.

Weekend traffic impacts will not begin dying down anytime soon. The Fourth of July weekend is consistently one of the heaviest travel weekends for the I-70 Mountain Corridor. With the holiday falling on a Friday this year, CDOT anticipates seeing significant delays starting Thursday, July 3.

Motorists should plan ahead and be prepared for travel time from C-470 to Silverthorne to take over two hours. In 2024, CDOT saw a few instances of vehicles overheating. Motorists are encouraged to ensure their vehicle has been properly maintained before making the trek up the mountains and pack their vehicles with the following items in the event of a closure or extended delays:

- Water
- Snacks
- Games for passengers
- A full gas tank
- A fully charged cellphone equipped with the [COTrip Planner app](#) and the “Tell Me” feature enabled - the app will be able to announce closures or delays along an individual’s travel route without the driver needing to look at their phone.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MADAMS, MURDER, & MAYHEM HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose-Madams, Murder, and Mayhem historic walking tour will examine the seedier side of our local history. This historic walking tour will visit the sites of the notorious saloons, jails, and historical buildings. The tales will intertwist the history and legends of the famous and scandalous local characters of the area. This tour is on June 27th starting at 7 pm with limited spaces available. Please RSVP at 970-249-2085. Admission is \$10/person and will be starting at the Montrose County Historical Museum



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The City of Montrose ("City") is aware of the President's April 28, 2025 Executive Order regarding the possible suspension or termination of federal funding for sanctuary jurisdictions in the United States, and that the community is concerned that the City will lose such funding. City Council appreciates the citizens who have come forth and given their opinion on this issue.

However, **the City is not, and will not become, a Sanctuary City.** The City has not adopted any ordinance, policy, or practice that limits or interferes with the ability of local law enforcement to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. The Department of Homeland Security compiled a list of sanctuary jurisdictions in accordance with the April 28, 2025 Executive Order. The City of Montrose was not included on that list.

The City Council takes seriously our duty to uphold the rule of law, promote public safety, and represent the will of the community.

Montrose City Council



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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**August 5:** Olathe High School | 6:30–9:30 AM

**August 6-8:** Montrose Pavilion | 6:30–9:30 AM  
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**Saturday, August 9:** Montrose Pavilion | 6:30–11:00 AM

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#### Special to the Mirror

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY** --- The San Miguel County Board of Commissioners authorized an increase in the Employee Housing Impact Fee beginning August 1, 2025. The current Fee is \$527 per square foot and is assessed at the time of Building Permit issuance. The Fee has not been updated since 2022. The Impact Fee applies to new residential construction and additions in the unincorporated County within the Telluride R-1 school district, and is intended to mitigate housing needs for employees involved in the construction and maintenance of new houses and additions.

The updated Fee will be \$928/square foot but will be phased in at \$727.50/square foot from August 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Effective January 1, 2026 the Employee Housing Impact Fee will be \$928/square foot. The \$928/square foot fee rate is based on the average sales prices of free-market multi-family dwellings in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Complete development applications submitted prior to August 1, 2025 will be assessed the current fee of \$527/square foot. Fees are assessed and due at the time of issuance of a building permit.

San Miguel County utilizes the Market-Affordability Gap approach for calculating the impact fee for employee housing mitigation. It is based on the difference between the market price of multi-family housing and the price that is generally affordable to households meeting the affordable housing requirements. Revenue from the Fee is used for the development of employee housing. For more information, go to the Planning Department's website at <https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/198/Planning>.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## INDIVISIBLE ACTIVISTS TO MOBILIZE FOR DAY OF ACTION JUNE 25

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE - Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible activists are mobilizing to shine a light on a disturbing reality that under President Trump's immigration agenda and actions, our neighbors and friends are being abducted from their homes and families. Disappeared in America is a national day of action led by a coalition of immigrant rights, faith, rule of law and pro-democracy organizations. Together, Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible are mobilizing to shine a light on this disturbing reality for people like Kilmer Abrego Garcia, Andry Hernandez Romero, Heidi Sanchez and Mahmoud Khalil, who have been forcibly detained, deported and even disappeared. Montrose and Ouray County residents are united in transparency, accountability's and due process for all. Every person who values our freedoms must demand an immediate end to these abductions and that all of our community members be returned home. With the Trump administration doubling down on their abuse of power and government overreach, we are sending a clear message: In America, we don't let the government secretly detain or deport people without trial — that is not the country we claim to be. On Wednesday, June 25th Montrose and Ouray Counties will show up at Baldrige Hall at the Montrose United Methodist Church on the corner of S. Park Ave and S. 1st St in Montrose, CO to underscore this unconstitutional and immoral behavior which is un-American. We must draw a clear line against it.

*Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible is committed to peaceful and nonviolent protest.*

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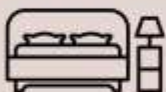
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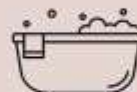
3 Bedroom



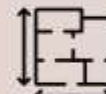
2 Bathroom



Electric Tile  
Fireplace



Garden Tub



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

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

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





# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## A THREE-LEGGED STOOL

*Editor:*

We recently celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Army. Next year we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of our nation. On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was adopted. Within that document was a declaration that all men are created equal and that they have certain unalienable Rights, that among those are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. And in order to obtain those Rights, those to be governed, you and me, must consent to be governed. The Declaration of Independence also dictates that when a long train of abuses are inflicted on the governed the people should demand change, to reject despotism.

After a long-fought war, our Republic was

created. That Republic is to be governed by the U. S. Constitution. The Constitution was created to reject totalitarianism. The Constitution created a three-legged stool in which the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches have equal power. If either one of those branches gain more power than the others then the stool becomes unbalanced and topples. I fear our country is about to fall.

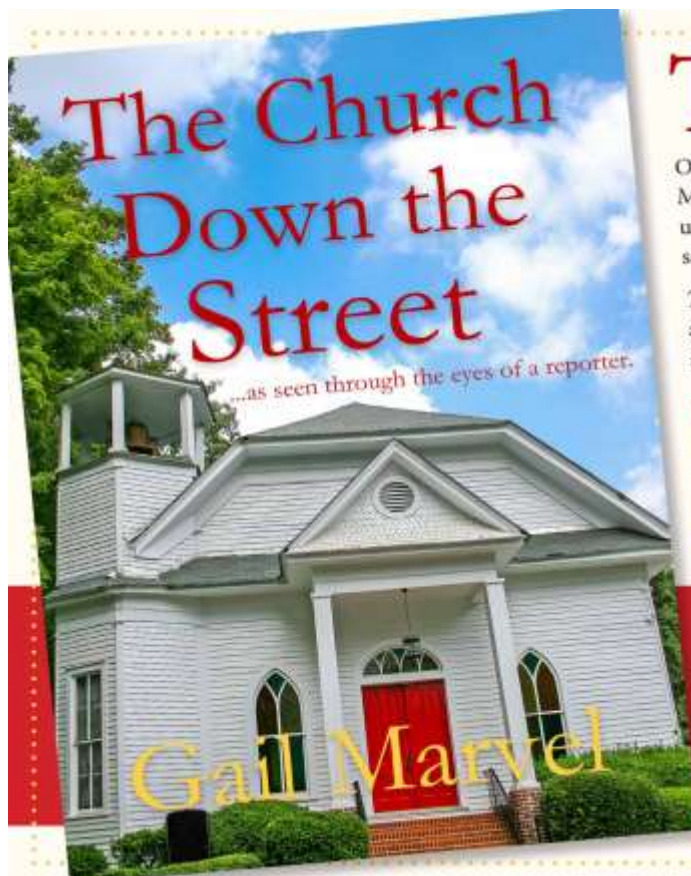
I believe one of the problems that created the wobbly stool is our two-party system. How on earth we got to where we are baffles me. But, with that, there is hope. We just have to have the courage to pursue change.

I became an unaffiliated voter in 2008. Neither the Democratic Party nor the Republican Party gave me a warm fuzzy feel-

ing. I never felt the need to vote party line and never have. I did not vote for Trump in 2024 because of his totalitarianism views; I also rejected Kamala Harris's socialistic leanings. I did vote however. I exercised the write-in option on the ballot. Yes, I realize my choice was a small voice against the megaphones of the two-party system. Yet, I had to vote for someone who I thought would better serve the country vs. party.

As I inferred earlier, it baffles me how the Republicans and Democrats get elected over and over again. The unaffiliated voter is the largest block of voters across the county and state. Your voice can bring stability back to our three-legged stool.

Reject the status quo by voting differently.  
*Dave Stockton, 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





# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## HYUNDAI AND KIA THEFTS REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ALL AUTO THEFTS IN COLORADO

### *Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO—The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) wants to provide information and resources to help owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles ward off would-be car thieves. Vehicles using a physical key for operation continue to be largely targeted by car thieves across the Denver Metro area. These stolen cars are then used to commit other crimes across the Front Range. From dangerous driving to business burglaries and beyond, preventing auto theft saves more than just a car; it makes our entire State safer.

All vehicles in Colorado can benefit from following these theft prevention steps, but these are a must for Hyundai and Kia owners. Hyundai and Kia represent nearly one out of every five stolen cars in Colorado year to date. While auto theft continues declining in the Denver Metro and across the State, owning a vehicle in the "Top Ten Most Stolen Cars" puts your car at greater risk for being targeted by thieves. Always:

1. Lock Your Car
2. Take Your Keys out of the Car (Never leave a car running unattended)
3. Park Smart (Park in a garage or a secure parking lot, or when out and about, park in an area under constant supervision. Well-lit is great, but parking under a light isn't everything. Make sure your car is visible.)
4. Keep a Clean Car. Thieves hate clean cars; anything left unsecured in a vehicle incentivizes a thief to target your car instead of a clean one.
5. If you own a Hyundai or Kia, check with your local manufacturer service center to determine if your vehicle qualifies for a security software update.
6. Do. More. Take extra steps to stop auto theft. If you own a key Hyundai, Kia, or any vehicle in Colorado's "Top Ten List," you must do more to prevent theft.
  - a. Use a steering wheel lock (Available from many local Police Departments and your Colorado State Patrol Headquarters location in Lakewood).
  - b. To benefit the most from this technology, use a GPS tag and enroll in programs like [Denver Track](#) or [Metro Track](#).
  - c. Use physical vehicle theft prevention devices, such as parking boots, gear shift/pedal locks, and others, to stop thieves.
  - d. Install aftermarket alarm and immobilizing devices from a trusted installer.
  - e. Find other tips and tricks to prevent theft at [lockdownyourcar.org](http://lockdownyourcar.org)
  - i. Including victim assistance if your car has been stolen.



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## BARRY MORPHEW CHARGED WITH FIRST DEGREE MURDER OF SUZANNE MORPHEW

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-On June 18, 2025, the Twelfth Judicial District Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Barry Morpew with the First Degree Murder of his wife, Suzanne Morpew. Mr. Morpew was taken into custody in Arizona on June 20, 2025. The Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office will seek to extradite Mr. Morpew back to the San Luis Valley.

There will be a media briefing at 6pm on June 20, 2025 at the San Luis Valley Department of Fire Prevention and Control located at 1301 West Avenue in Alamosa, Colorado.

The investigation into the disappearance and murder of Suzanne Morpew had been ongoing both before and after her remains were discovered near the town of Moffat in Saguache County, Colorado. The investigation team consists of law enforcement officers from the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office, the Saguache County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Arizona Department of Public Safety assisted the investigation team by apprehending Mr. Morpew in Arizona.

"Federal, State and local law enforcement have never stopped working toward justice for Suzanne." said Twelfth Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly. "The Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office stands in solidarity with Suzanne's family and the citizens of Chaffee and Saguache Counties in pursuing the Grand Jury's indictment."

The Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office will be assisted by the Boulder County District Attorney's Office in this prosecution. The Denver County District Attorney's Office will provide appellate support. The Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office recognizes Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty. He has consistently provided essential support and leadership to rural prosecutors with limited resources to pursue major cases and obtain justice for victims throughout the State.

To follow this case from this point forward, we would encourage you to follow the State Judicial Case of Interest page where hearings and public documents, including the indictment, can be found soon: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/cases-interest>

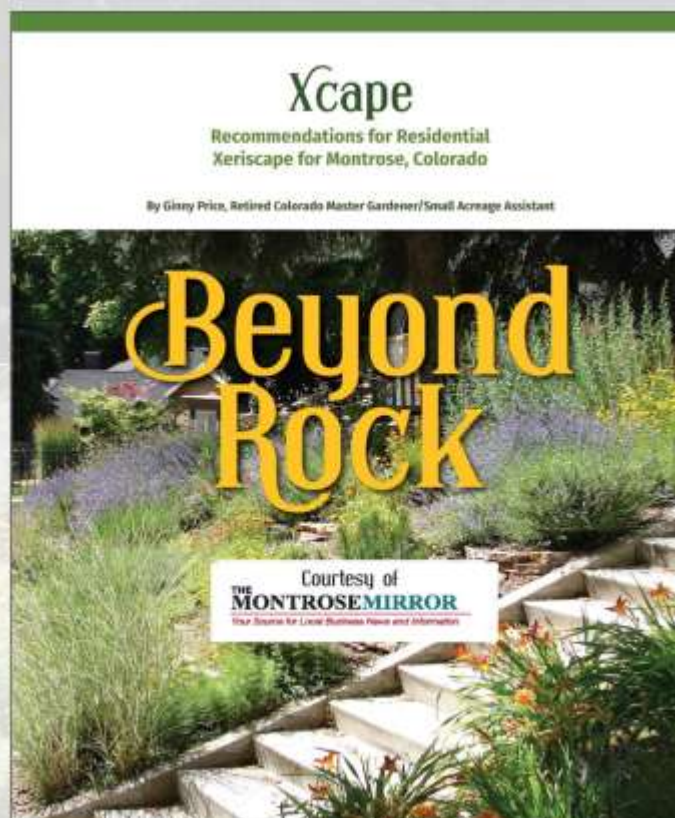
We anticipate that State Judicial will be live streaming the court hearings. The hearing links can be found on State Judicial Case of Interest page.

Any indictment or filing of charges is merely an allegation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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Small Acreage Assistant.

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# UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

## WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND YOURS

### Special to the Mirror

UNITED STATES-NRCS is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. We began their celebration by posting a [blog](#) and an [interactive timeline](#) about NRCS history and a [video](#) about how they've helped farmers over the years.

Now, we'd like for you to join in the celebration. We'd like to hear your stories and see photos of your operation – Then and Now.

Does your agricultural operation have a fascinating history you'd like to share? Are there interesting stories about how your operation came to be or how it's evolved? Do you have photos of your operation from its beginnings to the present day? If so, we want to hear from you!

For details about how to participate, see our blog, [Then and Now: The Power of Agriculture](#).

## LEGAL NOTICE: NAME CHANGE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Court <input type="checkbox"/> District Court <input type="checkbox"/> Denver Juvenile Court Montrose _____ County, Colorado Court Address: 1200 N. Grand Ave. Ste A, Montrose, CO 81401	<b>COURT USE ONLY</b> Case Number: 25C44 Division: E Courtroom: 10
In the Matter of the Petition of: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Cassandra Dana-Jean Sale or <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Petitioner for Minor Child: For a Change of Name to: Cassandra Dana-Jean McCauley	
<b>ORDER FOR PUBLICATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME</b>	

The Court having read and considered the Petition for Change of Name of ☐ Minor Child or ☒ Adult finds:

- ☒ That the statements made in the Petition satisfy the statutory requirements;
- ☒ That the desired change of name is proper and not detrimental to the interests of any other person;
- ☒ That the Petitioner has submitted the documentation required in §13-15-101(1)(b), C.R.S. from the fingerprint-based criminal history record check or has provided appropriate certified copies of any dispositions that would constitute a felony conviction in this state or any other state or under federal law;
- ☐ That the change of name is in the best interest of the minor child;
- ☐ Individuals over the age of fourteen (14) have submitted the documentation required in §13-15-101(1)(b), C.R.S. from the fingerprint-based criminal history record check or has provided appropriate certified copies of any dispositions that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult in this state or any other state or under federal law.

The Court orders the following publication for a change of name:

1. Name of Cassandra Dana-Jean Sale  
 is requested to be changed to Cassandra Dana-Jean McCauley
2. Pursuant to statute, public notice of this change of name shall be published three times in a legal newspaper published in this county. This publication is to be made within 21 days of the date of this Order.
3. Proper proof of publication shall be filed with the Court upon final publication to receive a Final Decree for a Change of Name.

Date: 6/18/25

KMR  
 Judge Magistrate

JDF 402 - 10/2018 - ORDER FOR PUBLICATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME  
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Court <input type="checkbox"/> District Court <input type="checkbox"/> Denver Juvenile Court Montrose _____ County, Colorado Court Address: 1200 N. Grand Ave. Ste A, Montrose, CO 81401	<b>COURT USE ONLY</b> Case Number: 25C44 Division: E Courtroom: 10
In the Matter of the Petition of: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Cassandra Dana-Jean Sale or <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Petitioner for Minor Child: For a Change of Name to: Cassandra Dana-Jean McCauley	
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME</b>	

Public Notice is given on 6-18-25 (date) that a Petition for a Change of Name of a ☐ Minor Child or ☒ Adult has been filed with the Montrose County Court.

The Petition requests that the name of

Cassandra First Name Dana-Jean Middle Name Sale Last Name

be changed to

Cassandra First Name Dana-Jean Middle Name McCauley Last Name

[Signature]  
 Clerk of Court/County Clerk

**SEAL**

NEWSPAPER: PLEASE PUBLISH THIS NOTICE THREE TIMES WITHIN TWENTY-ONE DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ORDER.

JDF 437 - 1/11/17 - PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES OFFICER GONZALEZ TO ITS RANKS

*Montrose Police Department*

MONTROSE— The Montrose Police Department welcomed a new officer to its ranks this week, filling a vacant position within the agency. Officer Dominique Gonzalez was officially sworn in during a ceremony held prior to the City Council's regular meeting

Tuesday evening, June 17.

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

Hall said the swearing-in process for new police officers is one of his favorite responsibilities as chief of police. Gonzalez is a recent graduate of the Colorado Mesa University Police Academy.

Before officially swearing in each new officer, Hall points out that each officer begins their tenure with the department with a high level of support from city administrators, staff, City Councilors, and Montrose residents.

To maintain that support, Hall said, requires local police officers to hold themselves to the highest personal standards, both on and off duty. Hall said Gonzalez was embarking on a career in a profession that has grown more challenging in recent years.

"There are a lot of different issues that are dividing us, whether as a community or as a nation. Thank God we live in a community here that supports our police officers," Hall said.

Hall said police officers can make mistakes, but each officer should never compromise their morals or integrity because what they do on the job is a reflection of the Montrose Police Department as a whole.

"Do not tarnish our profession, do not tarnish our community," Hall told Gonzalez.

Hall also thanked the community for its support of the Police Department and its officers, stating Montrose's high level of community support does not exist everywhere.

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

## MEDICARE IN A NUTSHELL

*A free community presentation  
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### Dates:

- Monday, June 30 | 4:30–6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 13 | 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Monday, September 29 | 4:30–6:30 p.m.

### Location:

Montrose Regional Health – Conference Center  
800 S. 3rd Street | Lower Level | Montrose, CO

Light refreshments served. Everyone is welcome!



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT TO INFORM ADA SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is asking the public for input on the accessibility of its facilities to inform its forthcoming ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The public comment period for this survey opens today and will inform a comprehensive statewide assessment of accessibility compliance for its parks and facilities, as well as policies and practices.

#### Background

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that state and local governments complete a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. This process reviews all facilities, programs and policies for accessibility in order to make sure individuals with disabilities are not being discriminated against. CPW is committed to gathering public feedback throughout the development of the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Public input is crucial in helping CPW identify accessibility barriers and prioritize improvements.

#### Public Input Process

Members of the public can learn more at [EngageCPW](#) and [take the survey](#) through July 20, 2025.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## GOD BLESS THE USA

*Editor:*

On November 5 last year a broad coalition of patriotic Americans stood up and loudly rejected the Democrat agenda that was destroying our country. Every day since then the Democrat party and its lackey legacy media has clearly resisted every decision that President Trump has made, more importantly that resistance is aimed squarely at those patriotic voters who demanded a change in the direction of our country. Sadly all of those participating in that ill conceived resistance is making it plain for all to see that they hate our country. We should all be thankful for the 1st Amendment that enables everyone to differentiate between true Patriots and stupid people. We would all be better off if those individuals self deported along with all the illegal criminals who have invaded our country.

The "No King" protests of June 14th were over shadowed by the celebration the 250th birthday celebration of the US Army. That specular celebration, viewed by over 200,000 in Washington and millions across the country on TV focused on pride in country and patriotism.

God bless the US Army, all branches of the military, and especially those who participated in Midnight Hammer!!!

God bless President Trump for putting the welfare of our country first and making America great again!!! God bless the USA!!!

*Dee Laird, Montrose*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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## BLM AFFIRMS DECISIONS ON PLANS FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN GUNNISON COUNTY

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Today the Bureau of Land Management issued a decision approving a final supplemental environmental assessment that provides enhanced air quality analysis and affirms previous decisions approving the Bull Mountain Unit Master Development Plan and the Dual Operator 5-Pad Proposal. The projects are for development of 55 private and 171 federal oil and gas wells on 38 new and existing well pads within the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office in western Gunnison County.

“Bull Mountain is expected to generate 11,500 total jobs and nearly \$2.2 billion in economic output over the life of the project,” said **BLM Colorado Southwest District Deputy Manager Robert Potts**. “The BLM, through its multiple use mission and management of the public’s oil and natural gas resources, helps meet the energy needs of the nation in an environmentally responsible way.”

Consistent with Executive Order 14154 and Secretary’s Order 3418, both titled “Unleashing American Energy,” oil and gas development on public lands helps meet the energy needs of U.S. citizens and solidify the nation as a global energy leader long into the future.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for overseeing the extraction of critical minerals on federally managed public lands needed for technologies like data centers and defense applications, and for authorizing the development of traditional energy sources, such as oil, gas, and coal. By managing public lands for responsible mineral extraction, the BLM ensures a stable supply of these essential resources. Through permitting, land management, and environmental oversight, the BLM helps reduce reliance on foreign minerals, bolstering the nation’s energy security and supporting the continued operation of key industrial sectors.

For more information, please contact [BLM\\_CO\\_News@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CO_News@blm.gov).





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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT COMMISSION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

### *Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO—As part of ECMC's ongoing commitment to enhance communication and foster increased public participation in regulatory processes, the Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) today published its new website: [ecmc.colorado.gov](https://ecmc.colorado.gov). Based on extensive stakeholder input and user testing, the new website aims to translate ECMC's complex, technical work into 'plain language,' i.e. everyday language.

The new website is a critical component to ECMC's implementation of the 2024 Cumulative Impacts and Enhanced Systems and Practices rulemaking. Cumulative Impacts refer to the combined effects on public health and the environment from the incremental impacts of a proposed oil and gas operation, alongside those from past, present, and foreseeable future developments. Addressing long-standing environmental and health impacts, particularly in Disproportionately Impacted (DI) communities, requires an accurate and realistic understanding of the effects from combined exposures to chemical and other stressors such as noise, odor, and socioeconomic disadvantages. Importantly, it requires stakeholders, particularly in DI communities, to have access to information and decision-making opportunities.

"Our team at ECMC was committed to launching this new site because we heard from many folks — loudly and clearly — that our former website's outdated design caused unnecessary barriers to engage in our work," said Julie Murphy, Director. "Frankly, I struggled to navigate our site when I joined the agency a decade ago! Humor aside, this new website is based on feedback from external users. I am proud of the new site and I also recognize that it's only one step of many that we need to continue to take to proactively increase the ways in which community members can participate in the regulation of energy and carbon management."

Other recent examples of the agency's increased community engagement include the onboarding of the agency's first Environmental Justice Community Liaisons and the enforcement of new rules that require operators to proactively provide additional opportunities for communities to engage in permitting processes. As the agency's first Environmental Justice Community Liaisons, Steven Arauza and Yesica Chavez are dedicated resources for DI communities in the West Slope (Arauza) and the Front Range (Chavez). They attend and host community meetings, connect community members with additional resources and information about Commission events and complaint processes, and monitor the quality of operators' outreach efforts.

The Cumulative Impacts rules adopted in October 2024 reflect a paradigm shift in energy regulation. In 2019, Senate Bill 19-181 put in place a new mission for ECMC to regulate energy development in a manner that protects public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources, whereas the prior mission fostered energy development. In the past five years, ECMC has implemented new rules that reflect the new mission. Notably, SB23-285 authorized ECMC to be the regulatory authority over geothermal and underground gas storage in Colorado; SB23-016 authorized ECMC to seek Class VI primacy for carbon storage injection wells; SB24-229 mandated more stringent regulations regarding operator's uses of electric submersible pump and the reduction of NOx emissions; and HB24-1346 and Senate Bill 24-229 authorized ECMC to adopt cumulative impacts rules.

[ECMC welcomes feedback on the new website.](https://ecmc.colorado.gov)



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# For Dads Who Take Their Showers Neat.

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After minutes of research, we discovered that an overwhelming majority of dads like bourbon and roughly 97% of these same men enjoy getting Father's Day gifts. Seeing an obvious parallel, Duke Cannon wants you to know that our lineup of Buffalo Trace grooming goods are an easy way to get pops a 100-proof gift on his big day.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SUPPORT INCREASED PUBLIC FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH

To the editor,

Any politician who cares one iota about animal welfare should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, the revolutionary protein is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. I believe development of this technology is the most promising means of reducing nonhuman suffering and premature death.

While the private sector has made notable progress in advancing the field of cellular agriculture, significant hurdles remain. Perhaps the most important of these is reaching price parity with slaughtered options. Our elected leaders can help advance this compassionate technology by backing further government investment in cultivated-meat research.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT



**Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E.**  
<https://montroseDOGE.org>

**See Something? Say Something!**  
Text or VM: (970) 892-8638  
[info@montroseDOGE.org](mailto:info@montroseDOGE.org)  
Check us out on   

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

### 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.

Montrose County School District has been failing our students in an epic manner with reading and math proficiencies at 30% and 28% respectively!

MCA will bring up those scores through their "Classical" education model.

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

[They can be reached here.](#)

**Your voice matters!**

### Did you Know?

Montrose City Council terminated Municipal Judge Erin Maxwell on March 31, 2025. WHY?

Well, it turns out, according to news reports, that Judge Maxwell ruled against the City of Montrose concerning a homeless encampment located at the Methodist Church on Park and S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The City tried to shut down the shelter that church member started in the church's courtyard.

City Manager Bill Bell claimed in an interview that the termination was two years in the making.

No prior disciplinary actions or performance evaluations for Maxwell are documented in the provided sources, and she declined to comment on her termination. The absence of public explanation from the city, combined with the timing of her dismissal, has led to criticism from community members and advocates who question the impartiality of the city's judicial appointments.

The ongoing litigation between the city and the church, with a trial set for July 23, 2025, and the city's offer of a plea deal to the church, further complicates the narrative surrounding Maxwell's termination.

### Did you know?

**Ladies and Gentlemen, lend us your ears!**

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

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

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

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

**It is YOUR MONEY, NOT THEIRS!**

**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".

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



# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## PALISADE PEACH FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2025 STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

*Special to the Mirror*

PALISADE- Mesa County students invited to apply for leadership, scholarship, and unforgettable summer experiences. The Palisade Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the 2025 Student Ambassador Program, a unique opportunity for Mesa County high schoolers to represent the Palisade Peach Festival, gain real-world experience, and have a front-row seat to one of Colorado's most cherished traditions.

Four students entering grades 9–12 in Fall 2025 will be selected to serve as official Student Ambassadors for the Peach Festival.

This dynamic role offers exciting opportunities for leadership, community engagement, and media exposure, including a chance to be featured on local radio and television.

"This program gives students the opportunity to connect with local agriculture, practice leadership, and help bring the spirit of Peach Fest to life," said Jessica Burford, President & CEO of the Palisade Chamber. "It's about building future leaders while celebrating everything that makes this community and event so special."

Ambassadors will:

- Appear in local media promotions
- Ride in the Peach Days Parade on August 9
- Assist with signature events like Peach Cuisine, the Peach Eating Contest, and live stage programming
- Help coordinate activities during the Palisade Peach Festival on August 15–16
- Attend orchard tours and Feast in the Field dinners

Scholarship Opportunities:

Senior Student Ambassadors (Class of 2026) will be eligible for a \$1,000 or \$1500 scholarship, awarded based on participation and leadership during the program.

Why Apply?

- Build leadership and event planning skills
- Gain community service hours and media experience
- Add an impressive entry to your college applications or resume
- Make new friends and unforgettable memories

How to Apply:

Students must complete the online application form by June 30. The form includes short-answer questions, a photo upload, and availability confirmation. Applicants must reside in Mesa County and be available during key event dates in August.

Apply here: <https://palisadecoc.com/student-ambassadors/>

For more information, visit [www.palisadepeachfest.com](http://www.palisadepeachfest.com) or contact the Palisade Chamber of Commerce.



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2025



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2025

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asking price \$699,900



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Broker  
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## Features

- ✔ 3 Bedrooms
- ✔ Covered back patio
- ✔ 2,030 sq ft
- ✔ 3 Bathrooms
- ✔ Three-stall garage
- ✔ Stainless steel accents

## Property Information:

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



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Montrose, CO 81403

MLS# 822819



scan for  
virtual tour



### About The Property :

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

**Offered At:**  
**\$434,900**

### Property Features :

- 3 Bedrooms
- 3 Bathrooms
- Covered Patio
- 1,415 sq ft
- Walk-in closet



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## CONSTITUENTS CHALLENGE CITY'S STANCE ON CHURCH CAMP *From pg 1*

was of immigrant ancestry. "My great grandparents were kicked out of Ukraine in the 1880's by Russia. My paternal grandparents came from Italy through Ellis Island...As a Christian pastor and a volunteer working with immigrants for over 40 years, I have welcomed immigrants from 19 countries and taught citizenship to many of them...we really appreciate the City Council for issuing this proclamation for Immigrant Heritage Month while acknowledging the crucial role that immigrants play in shaping American history, culture, and the economy..."

Attendees were asked to hold up their signs for a photo. Following the photo, those who had attended for the proclamation were told that they were welcome to stay but were free to leave. The crowd moved slowly toward the exit, as Mayor Frank seemingly lost patience. "...If you're going to get out, get out expeditiously so we can get on with the party...if you're leaving, please get out!"

As the last of those exiting left the room, Mayor Frank said, "Alright, thank you everybody, that was a lot of fun. A little noisier than we expected, but that's great."

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Frank read the rules for public comment and told those who wished to speak to line up at the back door and await their turn.

First to speak was Walter Marsh. "I think this is a good day for me, because I am also an immigrant," Marsh said. "I escape communist Poland, moving to Germany... and I ended up living in France, Paris, for quite a long until I immigrate here.

"But that's not the important part. Important is I got a situation now. And when I see you guys last time, I was under the impression I was talking to the walls. Because I never got anybody contacting me about what I said. I got issues with my crawl space, with the water being there, and I discussed this with the city manager, Mr. Bill...we did have a couple meetings, but after the second meeting I was supposed to get the answer in a few days, I never got anything.

"...And being here, I asked you guys for help, described to you my situation with this crazy water and sump pump working, and not allowed to be having a quiet

night, and try to figure out if I can get some help. Because the way I look at it, the houses...they are still built very lousy. They don't obey the rules, if they're getting them, from geotechs or any other structure engineering...they just do it because it's whatever it is, Wild West. Nobody keep paying attention to it...so my question is if I get any help...because I got a house here and didn't know I was buying a lousy place...I don't understand why they still passing buying those houses, the inspectors...this is no good. The way I look at it's a damn crime. If they allow to do this and let the later on people who buy to deal with this problem.

"If you can help me with this, I would really appreciate it. Because I am immigrant. So many immigrants you can help. If I be a citizen, probably you won't even listen to me.

"I'm frustrated."

Connie Pittenger spoke next. "In August I will have lived in Montrose for 41 years. I used to think that Montrose was a progressive city. Now I think that the City of Montrose is only progressive for those who have wealth or a big business. I sat through your city council meeting when you gave the Les Schwab Tire Company over \$150,000 in credits and other incentives. I also know that you gave the Shelter Distillery and other businesses in the Colorado Outdoors business district a lot of credits and incentives. Also, in my 41 years in Montrose I have seen our city officials turn their backs on those people who are less fortunate. Our city officials past and present, which includes all of you, have made it very difficult for people who have lost their homes for whatever reason and who don't have the financial resources to bounce back, to live in Montrose. When Shepherd's Hand moved to their current location on South Second Street, the city council at that time intentionally made some zoning changes which would negatively impact the very services that Shepherd's Hand was going to supply to the community. Some of those zoning changes included the area where the Montrose United Methodist Church is located. The City Council during my tenure has made several changes in zoning and other rules which have resulted in hardships for those who do not have wealth and business.

"I am a member of the Montrose United Methodist Church and have been for 40 years. We as a church believe it to be our calling to help the least of these, or those who are less fortunate. Offering assistance of one type or another is not new for us, that is who we are.

"We have stayed as a downtown church because we feel that is where we are needed. In December, 2024 we began offering a new assistance because we saw a definite need for some unhoused members of this Montrose community...the need for shelter was imminent...we allowed our guests a space to stow their belongings. I think you perceived their belongings to be junk and trash, hence the many citations that you have issued us as a church.

"You as the city government officials have approached this situation from your rules and regulations perspective. We as the church have approached this situation from the perspective of God's calling to us. Hopefully after we finish our legal aspect occurring on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, maybe we can have a partnership between your rules and regulations and God's calling, because the unhoused members of this Montrose community are not going away, and winter will come again."

Mayor David Frank asked those present not to applaud. "It gets disruptive."

Next to speak was Becky Dickey, who said that her concerns are also with the unhoused.

"I would like to encourage the city council to diligently look for solutions for the unhoused. As the progressive city we want to be, we have to address this problem and find a solution for all the citizens of the city, and that includes our unhoused citizens. They too are citizens. In addition to some more permanent, affordable spaces to live indoors, they need access to programs to overcome whatever problems they may have. Perhaps it would be easier if you looked at and talked to these people instead of just trying to get rid of them; they each have a unique story...we don't necessarily need to reinvent the wheel on this...maybe just discussing some ideas with other cities would enable a solution that would work for Montrose. We can't depend on churches and non-profits to solve this problem...many of us...are one job loss, one accident, one



# CONSTITUENTS CHALLENGE CITY'S STANCE ON CHURCH CAMP

## From previous pg

medical emergency away from losing our housing....perhaps you feel you have fulfilled your elected duty if you don't have to see them....even bad choices should not condemn you to no help for the rest of your life..."

Jana Powell spoke, saying that the homeless problem has increased drastically in recent years, and that many people lost their homes during COVID. "...Most of the unhoused people in Montrose are locals...once you're homeless it's very hard to get out of the cycle without outside help...the problem is complicated but there is a solution...it is time that we take action before we are faced with another winter emergency...the bottom line is that no matter what the reasons or the causes the person became homeless they are still human beings...they should have the right and ability to shelter overnight...they should be allocated an area by the city, not far away from the city, so they can have a secure and safe place to live...I believe that it is up to the city to deal with the have and have nots...don't make it any harder for them..."

Neal Platzer spoke. "I am also a member of the Methodist Church. I was involved in our temporary winter camp there, and I can be the first one to say that we made many mistakes, but we did save lives...I know I handed our probably 500 pairs of hand warmers over the winter, and was thanked like I was bringing Jesus to 'em...since we have cleaned out the camp I see people struggle who don't have that community support any more, single woman who don't feel protected any more...various other people struggling..." Platzer also offered some "takeaways" from the experience of running the temporary camp.

"The camp does need professional management, which is not cheap. It does need service of addiction and mental health therapy, which again is not cheap, so it's going to take funding...it doesn't work if you just throw people out on a bare piece of ground...we also have need of a year-round shelter with more inclusion and more capacity. And we also need some

zoning changes, because there are people with RV's or campers who need a place...if there's a place they could camp it would help them as another step up to get on their feet...these are not terrible people...many of them I would feel comfortable being with every day..."

The city of Bend, Oregon has had some success with small shelters in parking lots, Platzer said.

Ryan Sedgley spoke next. He thanked Council for the proclamation, and for efforts to make South 12<sup>th</sup> Street safer, more enjoyable, and more live-able.

Also, "Homelessness is a policy choice," Sedgley said. "Depending on policies made, it is a choice to make people homeless...it is a very solve-able problem, especially for a community this size...I think there are some solutions that this council can do...things like zoning, there's also things like more progressive tax, so when people own more than one home you increase the taxes on each successive home they own...you can also do things like tax people with empty homes. On my block, in my neighborhood, I've counted about four or five empty homes just sitting there.

"That's unacceptable," Sedgley said.

"That's morally just wrong. So let's encourage people to get those houses filled. If they want to keep an empty house that's fine, but they can pay for it. They can fund getting folks in homes..."

Sedgley also said that Main Street would be a better place to be with narrower streets to eliminate traffic and enforcement of the noise ordinance.

"It is one of the things that makes Montrose a very difficult place to live is the noise ordinance not being enforced," Sedgley said. "We have too many extremely loud cars in this town. It makes it miserable at my house, and it makes it miserable to be on Main Street."

Sedgley said, "Finally, as someone who has gone to law school and is very involved with the law, I am really concerned that the Judge was fired..."

Next to speak was Heather Scott. "I am a member of the United Methodist

Church," she said. "I formerly worked quite extensively with social workers in Los Angeles...the unhoused policy angle is really a matter of understanding prevention and how public dollars are best spent. There are certainly moral angles with this as well, but...there are empty buildings. There are funds that have been appropriated in other ways...you are not in a good place to think of housing as something that people earn...housing comes first, and then they are able to line up everything that supports that housing because of their health...their basic needs having been met...just from a risk management perspective I'm just aghast that the city has been foolish enough to put in this camping ban thinking that these problems would go away, because they make them quite a bit worse...you house people first...keep doing the research and reaching out to the professionals..."

Finally, Aleta Swala spoke. Swala said she is a defense attorney who represents the unhoused members of the community. She read from [SB 25-276](#), which says that state and local laws must not infringe on the Constitutional rights of individuals or use state and local resources for federal immigration enforcement.

"...this is a thing now, and it's important."

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve the [minutes of the June 3, 2025](#), regular City Council meeting as presented.

### RESOLUTION 2025-07

Council voted unanimously to approve [Resolution 2025-07](#), setting August 5, 2025, as the hearing date for the annexation of the Black Jack Addition.

### EAGLE RANCH SOUTH FILING 2 FINAL PLAT

Council voted unanimously to approve the [Eagle Ranch South Filing 2 Final Plat](#) to create four residential lots and associated easements and rights-of-way.

### STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whitaker presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report, with [collections](#) and [area](#) reports.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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\*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.\*





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH WELCOMES ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON DR. JARED SANDERFORD



**Dr. Jared Sanderford. Courtesy photo.**

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) and Western Slope Orthopaedics

(WSO) are excited to announce the arrival of orthopedic surgeon Dr. Jared Sanderford, who joined the organization on June 9. Dr. Sanderford specializes in general orthopedics and sports medicine with an emphasis in treating shoulders, hips, and knees.

"Montrose Regional Health is very proud to welcome Dr. Sanderford to the Montrose community medical staff," said Jeff Mengenhausen, MRH CEO. "Montrose and the surrounding communities have a need for quality orthopedic and sports medicine care, particularly for our young athletes—and Dr. Sanderford is here to provide for that need."

Dr. Sanderford has 7 years of experience in his field. His specialized training in general orthopedics as well as sports medicine makes him the ideal candidate for treating both traditional orthopedic patients as well as young athletes. Dr. Sanderford

received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Rocky Vista University in Parker, Colorado. Additionally, he completed his Orthopedic Surgical Residency at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, Oregon and his Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Fellowship at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

"I know my family and practice will thrive in Montrose," Dr. Sanderford said.

"Western Slope Orthopaedics and I share the common value of prioritizing service to the community. I desire to build an atmosphere of active living and community engagement through values of compassion, integrity, and unity in my orthopedic practice."

Western Slope Orthopaedics is located at 910 S. 4th St. in Montrose, Colorado. Call the clinic at (970) 249, 6641 or visit <https://wsorthodocs.com/> to schedule an appointment with Dr. Sanderford.

## HAMS PARTICIPATE IN FIELD DAY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Hams from the Montrose Radio Club will participate in the annual Field Day on June 28 and 29, 2025 operating amateur radio stations on Sunset Mesa, attempting to contact as many other stations as possible during the event.

Set up will begin at 8 AM on Saturday the 28th. "We must be ready to operate by noon and will continue to operate until noon on Sunday" said Royce Seymour the event coordinator. "This is a nation-wide event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. Canadian stations will also participate" he said.

The public is invited to come to the site, located on the north end of Sunset Mesa and see what amateur or ham radio is about. There will be an opportunity for unlicensed individuals to get on the air and experience the excitement of making contacts without relying on any commercial infrastructure. Besides being a contest, the event is an opportunity for Hams to practice doing just that as they would if commercial power and communications were knocked out by a natural disaster.

To reach the site, drive west on Main Street. Turn left, south, on to Chipeta and left again to climb the hill to Sunset Mesa. At the top of the hill turn left once again and look for our antennas to the north.

For additional information call Lew French, amateur call KOLMF, at 970-417-6142.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## CONSISTENT DEHUMANIZATION AND RIDICULE OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS BY SOMEONE WITH A PRESS PLATFORM CAN STIR UP THE KIND OF HOSTILITY THAT CAN LEAD TO REAL HARM

*By Commissioner Sean M. Pond*

Last week, America watched in horror as a man opened fire on Minnesota public officials and their spouses. Law enforcement now confirms it was politically motivated. The shooter had a list of dozens of elected officials and had planned his attacks in detail. These weren't just threats, they were attempted assassinations.

That kind of political violence doesn't come out of nowhere. It builds over time. And while most people are pointing fingers at Washington, I think we need to pay closer attention to what's happening right here at home.

Dennis Anderson, editor of the Montrose Daily Press, recently published a column about me titled "It's Raining on Pond's Line in the Sand." It wasn't journalism. It was personal. He mocked me with phrases like "fragile ego," "fear-mongering demagogue," and accused me of inventing conspiracy theories "between my ears." He claimed I suffer from "attention deficit disorder" and said the next time I'm named grand marshal, I should float through the parade using my

own hot air.

None of this had anything to do with public policy or my job as a Commissioner. It was a character attack, plain and simple. Anderson even dragged Commissioner Scott Mijares into it, saying he "shines my shoes" and implying that our votes are somehow coordinated or foolish. He didn't mention a single resolution, motion, or governing issue. It wasn't a critique. It was a hit piece.

He's never interviewed me. He's never called, emailed, or asked me a single question about the work I do or why I do it.

He has no firsthand knowledge of who I am, and yet he publishes these opinion pieces pretending he knows my motives and my mind. That's not journalism. That's political targeting.

I'm not the only one at risk here. I worry about my wife. I worry about Commissioner Mijares and his family. I worry about Commissioner Hansen and her family. I worry about our staff and every citizen who shows up to a public meeting. When someone with a press platform consistently dehumanizes and ridicules

elected officials, it stirs up the kind of hostility that can lead to real harm.

This isn't about disagreeing on politics. This is about creating a dangerous environment. You don't need to like me to recognize that once a public official is painted as irrational or unhinged, it becomes easier for someone out there to justify acting on that image.

I believe in the First Amendment. I believe in a free press.

But I also believe that when someone with a media platform crosses the line into personal defamation and reckless provocation, they should be held accountable for the consequences.

If something ever happens to one of us, whether it's me, another commissioner, a staff member, or a citizen, there needs to be a record showing exactly how the public narrative was poisoned. This op-ed is that record.

Michigan showed us what happens when the warning signs are ignored. Montrose shouldn't have to learn that lesson the hard way.

*Sean M. Pond*

*Montrose County Commissioner, District 3*

# COFFEE + COMMISSIONER

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## ETHICAL VERSUS UNETHICAL PARADOXES IN MODERN MEDICINE:

### *Examining Late-Term Abortions, pediatric gender transitioning, and vaccine mandates*

Editor:

Introduction

The term “medical hypocritical oath” refers to the Hypocritical Oath, a text that [is traditionally recited](#) by physicians upon graduation from medical school. The oath outlines a set of ethical guidelines for medical practice, focusing on the physician’s duties and responsibilities to their patients, colleagues, and society. **Beneficence and Non-maleficence:** The oath emphasizes the physician’s duty to act in the best interest of the patient and to avoid causing harm.

- Brief overview of the controversy surrounding late-term abortions, gender reassignment surgery for minors, and vaccine mandates.

The Supreme Court issued its decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. Since then, more than 60 million unborn children have lost their lives to abortion. And some states, including Colorado, have no limits as to the gestation of a fetus as to when an abortion can occur. **Right up to the moment of birth.**

- The ethical tensions within medical practice—protecting life vs. promoting personal autonomy.

Women who support abortion claim they have the right to have autonomy over their bodies. Those who support the right to life argue that a fetus has that same right. The right to life [is enshrined](#) in the Declaration of Independence, “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

The gender-affirming care that is [being offered](#) to some underage children is child abuse.

There is no surgery or hormone therapy that will ever change a man into a woman or vice versa. And likewise, everyone should have the right to refuse any injection that medical science cannot prove is

risk-free. After all, why did the pharmaceutical industry insist on legal protection against lawsuits from the COVID vaccines?

- Thesis statement: Addressing potential inconsistencies in the ethical frameworks used to justify all three practices.

The primary inconsistencies in abortion on demand are the fact that when a pregnancy occurs, there are three people involved, but only one [is legally allowed](#) to make the decision to [terminate](#) the pregnancy.

And in the case of gender-affirming care as it pertains to underage minors, it is that they do not have the maturity to understand the consequences of their decision. They are not mature enough to buy a car or have a driver’s license. They [enter into](#) a legal contract, but they can agree to a medical procedure that will never change their sex but will forever alter their life and their ability to procreate.

[Being forced](#) to have a vaccination against your will is the ultimate violation of a person’s autonomy.

Section 1: The Ethical Foundations of Medical Practice

The Hippocratic oath’s primary goal is to “first do no harm.” As this pertains to abortion, there are multiple victims. Obviously, the baby loses its life, and the mother will have to live with the guilt of that decision for the rest of her life. The father, the abortion providers, and those who support abortion will have to live with their guilt.

As for gender-affirming care. The person undergoing the treatment will forever [be altered](#) physically and emotionally and will one day realize their efforts were in vain because they are still the gender they were born with.

And the doctors will have to live with the knowledge that what the patient needed

was psychiatric care and not surgery or hormone therapy. But I doubt they will return the money.

- The role of informed consent and patient vulnerability in medical ethics. A person can only make an informed decision if the medical providers are being honest in their dealings with the patient. But none of these doctors are honestly telling these patients the negative effects. And that no [amount](#) of surgeries and hormones will ever change their sex. And that the emotional effects of an abortion will be with you the rest of your life. And that pharmaceutical companies make a fortune from keeping you sick; they really do not want you to get well.

Conclusion

From my point of view, I no longer trust the medical profession or the pharmaceutical companies.

There are good ethical people in both industries, but they need to be willing to be honest with their patients and the public. Our medical profession has become big business; the days of having a family doctor seem to be on their way out. Your local doctor’s office has become a conglomerate of various providers where you seldom see the same person twice. And insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies are driving the medical profession, especially the cost of services and the lack of personal care.

The providers [are driven](#) by an agenda that follows a script and has become very impersonal.

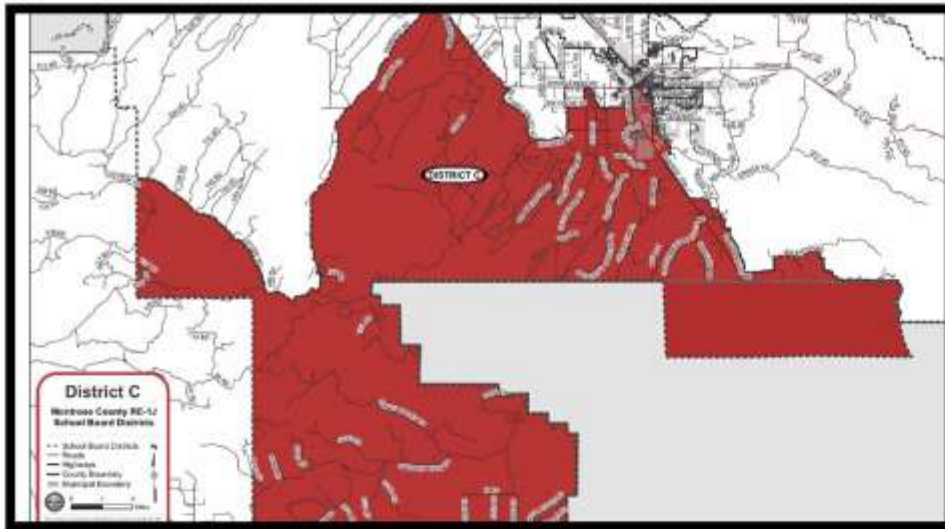
It is becoming clear that anyone who cannot take charge of their healthcare or may become easily confused about medications or medical procedures will need [additional](#) help to navigate our evolving healthcare system.

RAY LANGSTON, Montrose

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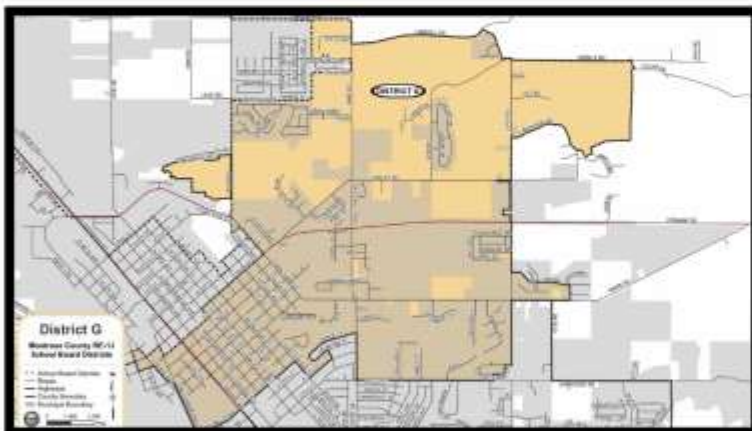




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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE TRUTH BEHIND THE GUNNISON OUTDOOR RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT

### Editor:

The Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act (GORP) is being sold as a community-driven conservation win, but it's a federal overreach that threatens Western Colorado's way of life. Likewise, Colorado Ballot Proposition 82, aiming to turn Colorado into a wildlife sanctuary, endangers the state's hunting industry and rural economies. Both measures ignore humans' vital role in the ecosystem, while County Commissioners supporting GORP prioritize narrow local interests, dismissing impacts on surrounding counties, citizens' rights, wildlife, fire mitigation, ranchers, farmers, and industries like Montrose Forest Products, which faces devastating job losses if GORP passes.

### A Stranglehold on the Land

GORP claims to preserve grazing rights, but without access to maintain fences or tend livestock, those rights are hollow. It's like owning a house with no key. Restrictions choke ranchers' livelihoods. Proposition 82's hunting bans could allow predators like mountain lions to surge, further threatening livestock across counties. Both measures disrupt the ecological balance humans maintain, strangling rural economies.

### Locking Up Resources

GORP blocks future access to Western Colorado's oil, gas, and mineral deposits, despite claims it doesn't affect current drilling. Proposition 82's wildlife sanctuaries undermine the \$60 million hunting industry, a rural lifeline. By prioritizing conservation over economic activity, both control land, minerals, water, and opportunity. In Montrose County, GORP's restrictions threaten Montrose Forest Products, a key employer. Its ban on commercial timber in protected areas could eliminate hundreds of direct and indirect jobs, crippling the local economy.

### The Water Trap

GORP's wilderness designations pave the way for federal reserved water rights, allowing future claims for scenery or recreation over local ranchers and farmers. Without waivers, it endangers water users in Gunnison, Montrose, Delta, and Ouray. Proposition 82's wildlife protections could prioritize ecological water needs, further jeopardizing agriculture and municipalities region-wide.

### A Tinderbox Waiting to Ignite

GORP's limits on forest management, like timber thinning, heighten wildfire risks. Fires destroy watersheds, grazing lands, and economies, with runoff polluting water in counties like Montrose and Delta. Environmentalists behind GORP view humans as separate from the ecosystem, ignoring our role in reducing fuel loads to prevent fires that could engulf the Western Slope. Proposition 82's hunting restrictions could lead to overpopulated deer and elk, causing overgrazing, disease spread, and predator surges, amplifying fire risks. Commissioners supporting GORP prioritize local tourism over regional fire and wildlife balance.

### Who's Behind These Measures?

GORP stems from environmental groups with urban and out-of-state funding, not ranchers or outfitters. They view humans as outside the ecosystem, excluding our role in ecological balance. They've enlisted Rep. Jeff Hurd for bipartisan cover, but it betrays rural Coloradans. Proposition 82, driven by groups like Cats Aren't Trophies, follows the failed Proposition 127, rejected by 55.5% of voters in 2024. Commissioners align with these groups, neglecting neighboring counties' ranchers, farmers, and workers.

### The Bigger Picture

GORP and Proposition 82 echo efforts like the Dolores River National Conservation

Area. Montrose County was excluded from GORP's boundaries to avoid opposition, despite Commissioner Sue Hansen noting Montrose was "at the table." Their concerns were dismissed, leaving them to face wildfire, water, and economic fallout, including threats to Montrose Forest Products. Proposition 82 ignores rural input, risking Colorado Parks and Wildlife's science-based management. Commissioners championing GORP for local gains disregard neighboring counties' rights and economies.

### The Cost of Silence

Many supporting GORP and Proposition 82 don't live the realities of ranching or hunting. Commissioners focus on county-specific benefits, like tourism, ignoring impacts on neighboring areas. Montrose's dismissed concerns highlight this disconnect. Workers, too busy for policy meetings, are sidelined, letting urban agendas dominate. Proposition 127's defeat showed Coloradans value balanced management, but Proposition 82 revives the threat.

### A Line in the Sand

GORP and Proposition 82 threaten rural Colorado's future, locking us out of land, water, and resources, turning towns into tourist traps with no industry. Montrose Forest Products' potential collapse underscores the stakes. Environmentalists' view that humans aren't part of the ecosystem ignores our role in preventing wildfires and managing wildlife. Commissioners' narrow focus betrays Western Colorado's interconnected needs. This is a fight for our way of life.

Elections matter. Silence isn't an option. Compromising our freedoms means giving away our land and livelihoods. Stand up for Western Colorado before it's too late.

**Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"**

**Citizen-Montrose, CO**



# BOCC VOTES TO PAUSE CONVERSATION ON GORP, CONTINUES PROPOSED ZONING REG CHANGES TO AUG. 6



**BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond and Commissioner Sue Hansen discussed a proposed resolution in opposition to the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act (GORP).**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—All commissioners were present for the regular Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Wednesday, June 18. BOCC Chair Scott Mijares called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Ben Garate of Calvary Chapel delivered the Invocation.

## INVOCATION

Garate said, “Lord, we do thank you for our room, where we can share our thoughts...where we can continue to render decisions...where we continue to lift up the Board...they are here to represent all of us in the County...Lord we ask for your wisdom, but we ask also, Lord, for your grace...”

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares read the rules for public comment and opened the floor to speakers.

First to address the BOCC was Michael Badagliacco. “While solar energy promises to combat climate change and provide sustainable power, it’s implementation, particularly through sprawling solar farms, risks eroding landowners’ control over their own land and disrupting the lives of adjacent residents through nuisances...I

strongly oppose the solar expansion with the solar farms due to its infringement on private property rights, through disturbances to neighbors and inefficiencies, environmental impact and aesthetic loss. I do support single family solar...”

Badagliacco urged the BOCC to extend the moratorium on new power generation facilities, to consider nuclear power, and noted the failure and environmental impact of large-scale solar farms.

Leah Vandersluis spoke, encouraging the BOCC to work together and to set aside differences. Quoting a famous Rabbi, she said, “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others....if it is possible...live in peace with everyone...”

Sandy Head of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) spoke about the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act (GORP), which proposes 730,000 acres of public lands in and around the Gunnison Basin. MEDC focuses on primary employers in Montrose, she said, employers that bring outside money into the community. Montrose Forest Products is a primary employer, bringing 448 jobs to the region, has a total impact of \$84.5M directly and indirectly, and has

invested \$74M in capital improvements and equipment. Additionally, the Mill pays \$858,306 in property tax every year, Head said.

“...This is a very, very valuable company in our community...” Head said, and noted President Trump’s Executive Order to increase Forestry.

Next to speak was Jerod Stinson, manager of Montrose Forest Products. Stinson gave background on the company’s purchase of the Mill, and its operations.

“...Our footprint in the community is big; besides everything that Sandy said, there’s a lot of donations that we do...”

Montrose Forest Products Forester Aaron Shay spoke, saying the sawmill is 100-percent dependent on the Forest Service timber output. “It’s a pretty high-stakes game for a sawmill...the philosophy of logging and sawmilling is ‘go like hell when it’s bad and go like hell when it’s good;’ right now we’re trying to go like hell because it’s bad...if we don’t get the supply, our lifeline is pretty minimized, there’s not really a backup plan...looking at the GMUG Forest Plan that just went through...Alternative D would reduce the cut to about 15 percent of the volume that Montrose Forest Products would need to survive. Alternative D of the Forest Plan would be the death of Montrose Forest Products...”

Next to speak was Julie Yarnell. “We live in a beautiful part of Colorado, I enjoy recreating in public lands in Montrose and neighboring counties, and I am opposed to the anti-GORP act resolution that Commissioner Pond would like to introduce to represent Montrose County...the GORP Act will protect and conserve over 700,000 acres of public land, safeguarding the region’s local economy, world class recreation, ranching heritage, wildlife habitat, and clean air and water...Montrose Commissioner Sean Pond is trying to dismantle this act by circulating a petition to stop it and proposing an anti-GORP act resolution on behalf of Montrose County. Thank you to Commissioner Hansen for suggesting waiting for public comments to further review it...”



## BOCC VOTES TO PAUSE CONVERSATION ON GORP From previous pg

want to have protected public lands for future generations to enjoy that are not marred by drilling, mining, overlogging, overgrazing and development. The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area in Montrose County is a success story for conservation and protected lands with multi-use options.

"National conservation areas are valuable."

Yarnell called out Commissioner Pond for his behavior and his op-eds. "...You still owe apologies. Your words have consequences; you are representing Montrose County poorly...Commissioners Ponds and Mijares, please focus on local issues that you can implement solutions for, specifically like lifting the moratorium for renewable energy facilities..."

The final comment was presented by Elizabeth Corder. "...I am vehemently opposed to this proposed resolution in opposition of the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act...it has overwhelming support...this resolution on the other hand is not at all rooted in facts and appears to be just performative politics...both myself and my husband...are strongly opposed to this resolution."

### INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager Leslie Quon asked that Item Two under General Business (*Consideration and approval to upgrade an existing Part-Time C&R Office Technician position at pay grade 202, hourly rate of \$18.41 to a Full Time C&R Vehicle Registration Technician position at a pay grade of 205, hourly rate of \$24*) be moved to the Consent Agenda, "as it is a routine personnel adjustment with no anticipated discussion."

### CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve Consent Agenda items as presented.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

The first item was *Consideration and possible adoption of Resolution No. 31-2025 in opposition of the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act (GORP), proposing 730,000 acres of public lands in and around the Gunnison Basin.*

Commissioner Sean Pond said that he felt compelled to hold off after hearing from the commenters and stakeholders.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said that GORP affects watershed and fire mitiga-

tion efforts as well as restricting timber harvesting. "...Fire is not behaving like it used to in the past, it puts Montrose County and an important business in Montrose County, at significant risk...it's like a teeth gnashing experience to go through this...I want a seat at the table--if we do a resolution right now, are we going to have a seat at the table...I think we're positioned now...that we could have some significant impact in making this a stronger resolution..."

Hansen suggested a pause.

Commissioner Pond said that cattle ranching will also be impacted, as will outfitters and hunters. He agreed with Commissioner Hansen on fire mitigation and the watershed. "...Just the freedoms and liberties of the general public to access public land; any time that the federal government takes control of public property, we lose, whether that be access or industry...and then there's the watershed, that's absolutely accurate Commissioner Hansen. The possibility of uncontrolled wildfires without fire mitigation could be detrimental to the water flows that we have in Montrose County...I would like to be included in this conversation..." Pond said.

"...We have to have these open conversations to be able to get to a solution," Hansen said, adding, "I can't believe we're agreeing on this."

"Nobody's asked me," BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said, and engaged in discussion with Hansen and Pond.

Pond moved to pause the conversation; the BOCC unanimously approved the motion.

The Board also considered Resolution Number 32-2025 extending a moratorium of acceptance of new applications for power generation uses in Montrose County, Colorado for six months. After some discussion the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

The BOCC considered the *Announcement of the County Manager finalist(s) in accordance with Title 24- Government – State Administration, Article 6 – Colorado Sunshine Law Part 4 – Open Meetings Law 24-6- 402 (3.5) Meetings – open to public – legislative declaration – definitions.*

Human Resources Director Leslie Quon announced that the finalist for the County

Manager position is Bradley Mitchell.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said that she has some heartburn because policies were not adhered to. "...I strongly object to the way this has been handled...I am not happy with the way this rolled out."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said that the matter was handled in Executive Session as required by law.

The BOCC voted to approve the next item, *"the purchase of (6) Kenwood Viking VP8000 Multi Band Portable Radios from Two-Way Communications of Grand Junction, CO. The radios will allow communication with local fire and other emergency agencies in the area as well as access all 800 channels that are available. Upon approval, a purchase order will be issued to Two-Way Communications in the amount of \$22,806."*

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT-GENERAL BUSINESS

As considered in previous meetings on May 28 and June 4, the BOCC reviewed the Ranger Ranchettes Special Use [SU24-005] proposal to allow construction of personal hangars and/or hangar homes as well as ensuring continued access to and use of the existing historic airstrip at Parcels 399318206001, 399318207001, 399318207002, and 399318207003.

Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond reviewed the proposed conditions, and Applicant Dan Penasa was given time to present.

After hearing additional public comment as well and taking a brief recess, Hansen moved to approve the Ranger Ranchettes special use application to allow construction of personal hangars and/or hangar homes as well as ensuring continued access to and use of the existing historic airstrip at Parcels 399318206001, 399318207001, 399318207002, and 399318207003 subject to conditions, also removing conditions 12 and 17.

The final action item was the proposed *Amendment to the Montrose County Zoning Regulations related to Power Generation Facilities, Massage Therapy Businesses, and Natural Medicine Businesses.* After some discussion, Commissioners agreed to continue the proposed zoning changes to the meeting of Aug. 6.

With no further business, Commissioners voted to adjourn.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA HEALTH WELCOMES NEW PAIN MANAGEMENT PHYSICIAN TO ENHANCE PATIENT CARE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA—Delta Health is pleased to announce the addition of William “Scott” Timothy, M.D. as a specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with a focus on pain management.

Specializing in comprehensive pain management, Dr. Timothy utilizes both diagnostic and therapeutic procedures as part of a broader treatment approach focused on returning patients to active, fulfilling lives. His philosophy emphasizes that while procedures can be effective for diagnosing and treating pain, they are most beneficial when part of a collaborative effort to restore function and improve quality of life.

“Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation actually has its origins in caring for wounded veterans from the world wars,” said Dr. Timothy. “The field emphasizes holistic treatment of the patient to improve function and quality of life. My approach centers on the belief that healthcare is a team effort with the patient at the center of that team, where education and communication play vital roles.”

Dr. Timothy earned his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma and completed his residency at LSU in New Orleans. He further specialized through a fellowship in Orthopedic Medicine at the Kenner Center for Sports Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery in Kenner, Louisiana.

Everyone’s journey to Colorado’s Western Slope is different, and Dr. Timothy’s reflects his love for mountain living. Originally from Arkansas, where he attended college, he and his family moved to Colorado Springs after his residency, before eventually settling on the Western Slope. “I like small-town living and getting to know my patients and colleagues,” said Dr. Timothy. “It feels like you help make a meaningful impact in a community in a personal way. That is why I was drawn to Delta Health’s culture and commitment to excellence. Even just walking around the hospital and clinics, I was impressed by how proud everyone was to be a part of Delta Health. The people seem down to earth and it’s easy to want to be part of the team in a place like that.”

Dr. Timothy and his wife, Dr. Stephania



*William “Scott” Timothy, M.D. Courtesy photo.*

Timothy, a general surgeon at Delta Health, have two sons who will both be attending college next year. When not caring for patients, Dr. Timothy enjoys mountain biking, snowboarding, and spending time with family and friends.

For more information about Dr. Timothy or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Delta Health Orthopedics Clinic at 970.399.2400 or visit [deltahealth-co.org/orthopedics/](https://deltahealth-co.org/orthopedics/).


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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE BOMBING OF IRAN IS A STUNT AND A DISTRACTION

*Editor:*

Fool me once, shame on you, Fool me twice, shame on me.

Remember – “weapons of mass destruction”? I believed them. Why would my government lie to me? But it did. There were no weapons of mass destruction. We invaded Iraq.

This time I’m not so naive. I don’t trust this government. The bombing of Iran is a stunt and a distraction. An opportunity to play war games and show the world the mighty power of the USA military. Testosterone is alive and well.

How about come for dinner and “LET’S TALK”?

*Jo Clugg, Monrose*

## CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: A WIFE’S STORY OF SMEARS, SACRIFICE, AND STANDING BY HER HUSBAND

*By Danielle Pond, Wife of Montrose County Commissioner Sean Pond*

I’m not a politician. I never wanted to be in politics. And neither did my husband.

If you knew Sean Pond like I do, you’d understand just how far from his nature this life is. He’s a hunter. A fisherman. A man of the mountains. He finds peace in the wild, away from noise, away from people, away from politics. He doesn’t like crowds. He doesn’t like attention. And he certainly doesn’t like the games and corruption that come with government.

And yet, here we are.

Not because we wanted this, but because we couldn’t sit back any longer and watch what’s happening to our home.

Sean didn’t run for office. He was appointed, after a sudden vacancy on the board. The county had only ten days to fill the seat, or the governor likely would have. Four people put their names in, and Sean was the underdog, an unknown, a nobody, just a man trying to stop another government land grab.

At the time, a Montrose County Commissioner and a Mesa County Commissioner had quietly assembled a working group to push a National Conservation Area proposal in the same region we had just fought to protect. 60,000 acres of public land were on the line. Sean couldn’t watch it happen. He stepped up, not for power, but for principle.

And somehow... he was chosen.

Honestly, as his wife, some days I wish he hadn’t been.

He still hates the spotlight. He still hates the drama. But the more they push, the

more they try to break this county, break this state, break this country, the harder he fights back.

And I promise you this: you are never going to break him. The more they try to ruin the America he grew up in, the more determined he becomes to protect it.

He is the defender of public lands and personal liberty. He’s not fighting for himself, he’s fighting for you, even if you don’t see it. Even if you don’t agree with him. Even if you’re the one trying to shut him down.

But here’s what most people don’t see: Sean has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring order and function to this board. He’s reached out. He’s extended the olive branch. He’s asked for cooperation. He’s tried, over and over, to turn the page and move forward, for the good of Montrose County.

And yet, there’s always one voice in the room, not loud, but persistent, undermining decisions, slowing progress, and doing just enough to keep tension alive. Every time the board starts to move in a positive direction, there’s a subtle resistance. Calculated. Personal. Disruptive. And no, I won’t name names. But if you watch closely, you already know.

Still, Sean keeps showing up. He wants meetings to be calm, efficient, respectful. He wants solutions, not sideshows. He tells me all the time, “I just want to get things done. I don’t want the drama.” And let me tell you, he hates drama more than anything.

What nobody sees is how much this has cost us. How many late night conversations we’ve had, just trying to make sense

of it all. How many days we’ve said, “How did we get here?”

We never wanted this fight. We just want to be left alone. To live in peace. To believe in freedom without being punished for it. But instead, we’ve become targets. Not just politically but personally.

Dennis Anderson, editor of the Montrose Daily Press, has taken it upon himself to try and destroy my husband in print. And I want the community to know the truth: Dennis Anderson has never spoken to Sean. Not once. No phone call. No email. No interview.

He doesn’t know Sean.

He doesn’t know me.

He’s never met our children or our grandchildren.

But that hasn’t stopped him from printing hit pieces, twisting facts, and painting a false image of a man he’s never even tried to understand.

This isn’t journalism. This is bullying. This is harassment. And it’s dangerous, and he’s put us in danger.

We’ve had to install cameras. I check our locks every day. I hesitate before attending public events or posting family photos. And for the first time in my life, I did something I never imagined doing: I applied for a concealed carry permit.

Sean has always carried responsibly, he’s had a permit for years. But me? I never thought I’d feel the need. And yet, because of the fear and hostility created by Dennis Anderson and certain members of Montrose County, I took the class, got certified, and now carry too. Not for politics, for protection.

That’s what they’ve done to me. That’s

**Continued next pg**



## CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: A WIFE'S STORY *From previous pg*

what they've done to us.

And while I'm being honest, let me share something else:

Sean has been asked, over and over to run for higher office. These calls and messages aren't just from everyday folks in the community, though there have been many. I've seen calls come in from elected officials, from executive members of central committees, from neighboring Republican chairs across the state, and even from Washington, D.C. These aren't just casual mentions, they're serious requests from serious people who know what kind of leader Sean is.

And every time, he gives the same answer: "No. I won't abandon Montrose."

He loves this land. He loves these people.

He believes this is where he can do the most good.

But as his wife, I'm going to say something I don't say out loud very often:

I'm scared of the day he stops saying no. Because if they keep pushing him, if they keep lying, threatening, smearing, and dragging our family through the mud, they're going to push him into something they cannot control.

And I say that with love, fear, and pride tangled together.

Good Lord, they have no idea what they're unleashing.

Sean doesn't want power. He doesn't want a title.

But if they push him too far, and he steps into something bigger, he will do it with

honor, not vengeance. With conviction, not ego.

He will continue to stand for what he believes in, not because he was provoked, but because he was called.

We are not a threat. We are a family who wants peace, safety, and to be left alone like everyone else.

But when pushed, he will rise. Not in anger, but in service to the values that matter.

I'm proud of him. I'm scared for him. And I pray they stop.

Because at the end of the day, this isn't about politics. It's about people.

And no one should have to pay this price just for trying to do the right thing.

*Danielle Pond, Montrose County*

# READ ALL ABOUT IT



# MONTROSE MIRROR



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## WHO'S THE JUDGE?

### ***City Council Fired the Municipal Judge on March 31st for ??? No one's talking...isn't that interesting?***

By David White

According to the original 1914 City Charter of the City of Montrose and revisions to the Charter throughout the years, it is the duty of the Montrose City Council, under Article VII, Section 1(c) to appoint a Municipal Judge as follows: **The City Council shall appoint a Municipal Judge who shall hold office during the pleasure of the City Council and shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and qualified, subject, however, to the recall provisions of this Charter.**

On March 7, 2023, attorney Erin Maxwell was sworn in as the new Municipal Judge at the City Council meeting that day (to loud applause) replacing former Municipal Judge Charles Greenacre who had been appointed to the position in March of 2021 following a career as a County Court and District Court Judge ([March 7, 2023 City Council Meeting](#)). Ms. Maxwell has worked in the Colorado Public Defender's office in Montrose and also has a private practice law firm, Erin Maxwell Law, LLC, which is registered at her home address in Montrose.

On March 31, 2025, following a City Council Executive Session, Ms. Maxwell was terminated by the Montrose City Council after having been put on "administrative leave" following an Executive Session on March 10, 2025, where direction was also given to put together a severance package for Judge Maxwell whose salary in 2023 was \$53,728.00 according to public records. This salary was 10 percent higher than the average and 12 percent higher than the median salary in the City of Montrose and 64 percent higher than average Municipal Court Judge salary in the state of Colorado. (<https://govsalaries.com/maxwell-erin-174585371>) According to the City Attorney in a statement he made during the May 19, 2025 City Council Work Session, the Municipal Judge's work load averages around 20 hours per week.

So, what gives and why wasn't a press release from the City of Montrose forthcoming about the termination of Judge

Maxwell, who, by all appearances, may not have been released in accordance with the City's Charter, specifically, the recall provision. She apparently had a contract with the City, but without a Colorado Open Records Act (COR) request, the contract's provisions aren't readily available to the public, nor are the potential violations of the City's Charter open for review.

While there has been no information forthcoming from the City Manager (Bill Bell), City Attorney (Christopher Dowsey) or City Council about Judge Maxwell's termination, news reports, primarily coming from Grand Junction and Denver media sources and also national news sources such as MSN, paint a story that City leaders don't want to see get out.

It seems that Judge Maxwell is no fan of the proclivity of our City Manager and his acolytes on the City Council to put lipstick on the proverbial pig. You see, image is everything to these people. The decay taking place behind the façade that they've created cannot be challenged, or else you're silenced and, of course, they too practice their own form of silence with their tried-and-true statements such as "no comment, it's a personnel matter" or "no comment, it's part of an active investigation," or "the City Manager, City Attorney, et al. were out of the office and could not be reached for comment." Such a double standard, but these folks are pros at it.

After doing a bit of research, it appears that former Judge Maxwell seems to be a fan of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, something that City officials don't seem to care too much about. Two rulings ***against the City*** where the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and other Constitutional rights were key, by their own Judge, this year, appear to be the main reason why she was shown the door. Adding to these are a claim by the City Manager that "the termination stemmed from longstanding administrative issues dating back two years." "We had some communication issues and understanding roles and

responsibilities in the way of setting salaries and wages, where we had a disconnect," Bell explained. ([Montrose judge fired weeks after ruling against city | 9news.com](#)). Sounds like a power struggle between Mr. Bell and Judge Maxwell doomed her employment with the City.

Let's look at the two cases. The first came about after a Montrose Police Department officer "cited local resident Josh Smith with disorderly conduct – a charge later amended to interference – after the man used coarse language to complain that three Montrose officers had clogged up the drive-through lane at a local fast-food joint" (the A&W/Long John Silver's eatery on N. Townsend).

"Smith was set to go to trial in February. That never happened. Montrose Municipal Judge Erin Maxwell dismissed the case, ruling that Smith's "behavior in this situation was immature, offensive and unnecessary." But it was also protected free speech, **she wrote in finding that the city's code was "unconstitutional as applied in this case, based on these facts."** Further into the story, we find that: **"The City of Montrose has agreed to pay a man \$35,000 in a tacit acknowledgement that one of its police officers violated his free speech rights by ticketing him for swearing."** ([Colorado city to pay \\$35,000 to man after free speech dispute with police | 9news.com](#)) Yikes! You and I are on the hook for that even if the City's insurance company paid the claim, which we might never know.

The second case is one that most locals have heard of and that is the one involving the Montrose United Methodist Church and their decision to shelter roughly 20 homeless (aka "unhoused") individuals. This last winter, around 20 people stayed there under an agreement with the church, with another 20 to 25 people who would come in at night and park their cars or put up tents. According to an article in the Denver Post on June 16, 2025 ([Judge fired after blocking Montrose from emptying church homeless camp](#)) the dispute with the church began



## CITY COUNCIL FIRED THE MUNICIPAL JUDGE ON MARCH 31ST FOR ??? From Previous pg

with a City ordinance. As the article states: *"The encampment at the church traces its origins to a city ordinance passed in November by the Montrose City Council. [Ordinance 2670](#) made it illegal for individuals to camp on public property within the city limits. It also stiffened penalties for camping to include mandatory jail, up to 10 days, for second offenses and mandatory minimum jail sentences for third offenses and beyond."*

*"The potential punishments made Montrose's camping ban one of the most stringent in Colorado. Homeless advocates could not find any other municipality in Colorado that uses mandatory jail sentences for camping violations."*

*The city quickly went on the offensive, issuing the church citations for zoning, nuisance and trash violations. Between December and May, the church received 42 citations — each carrying a maximum penalty of \$2,650.*

According to the Denver Post story, *"City Manager Bill Bell [told Colorado Public Radio](#) earlier this year that the city has shelters for "the good people," but that they won't allow violent individuals, sexual predators and drug users to stay there." "We don't, as a city, believe that it's our job to figure out the solution for people who have made really bad decisions in their lives," he told the radio station.*

The Denver Post further reports: *"In late February, city officials in Montrose and representatives from the community's oldest church met before a municipal judge, seeking to settle a simmering dispute. The municipal court judge, Erin Maxwell, sided with First United Methodist, rejecting the city's request to clear the grounds. Church leaders cheered the ruling.*

*But less than three weeks after the hearing, the Montrose City Council voted unanimously to put Maxwell on administrative leave and negotiate a severance package. On March 31, the council voted to terminate her contract."*

Finally, and to Mr. Bell's point about the

termination being related to a long running two year dispute with Judge Maxwell where ***"some communication issues and understanding roles and responsibilities in the way of setting salaries and wages"*** played a role in her termination as Municipal Judge, it appears that the never-ending need for Mr. Bell to control all facets of the City's operations and to shut down discord, he, in collusion with the City Attorney and Mayor Frank, have come up with a change to the City Charter that you'll get a chance to vote on (most likely this coming November) wherein they intend to put before you a change to Article VII (Courts and Legal Services) (which is the controlling language for our municipal court), the ***REMOVAL*** of existing City Charter language that clearly states that the Municipal Judge is responsible for ***"court personnel."*** (See this section of the City Charter here: [ARTICLE VII. - COURTS AND LEGAL SERVICES | Code of Ordinances | Montrose, CO | Municode Library](#)). This section reads as follows:

*d) The Municipal Judge may appoint one or more assistant municipal judges who shall serve in the absence of the Municipal Judge, and who shall hold their office during the pleasure of the City Council. Municipal Judge shall provide for the authority and responsibility of the Municipal Court, including the annual budget, ***court personnel*** and regulations.*

According to the statements made in the videotaped City Council Work Session on May 19<sup>th</sup> by the City Attorney Christopher Dowsey, court personnel, under the proposed City Charter change, will be managed by the City Manager and "delegated staff" if approved. The reason? Because "it's not the Judge's job to pick them." City management apparently knows what's best. ([\(241\) May 19, 2025 City Council Work Session - YouTube](#)). Why? Shouldn't the City Manager's office be hands off of the Municipal Court?

On top of this, the same folks that are pushing this change are now advocating for the Municipal Judge ***not*** to be a resident of the City of Montrose or Montrose

County because "you can find a qualified judge to serve our community pretty much anywhere in the State." We have traveling doctors, nurses, physical therapists and more, so why not have a traveling judge so the thinking goes.

When looked at objectively and understanding that while I'm not taking sides with either of the cited cases (both have their positives and negatives), the overall evidence points toward City officials settling a score with their appointed judge.

When you pull back the proverbial curtain, the Wizard (aka our now long of tooth 14-year reigning City Manager, Bill Bell) clearly has more power that's been bestowed upon him than any City Manager in Montrose history. It's only when he's finally shown the door that the closets in City Hall will spill out the skeletons of what will be the legacy we're being left with, and which future generations will have to deal with on account of the last 14 years of City Council's allowing him unfettered control. Then again, we'll just have ourselves to blame as elections do have consequences and our elected Council's ultimately will bear responsibility for what is festering below the surface and what will come as more revelations are made.

To Ms. Maxwell...all I can say is that you did your job objectively and to the best of your ability from all that I can see. Unfortunately, you were a political appointee who got caught in the political crosshairs of the Montrose elite. That in and of itself should be fair warning to anyone seeking positions such as this one.

***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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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## FIRST 5 MONTHS OF TRUMP'S 2ND TERM SAW LARGEST INCREASE IN BLUE COLLAR WAGE GROWTH IN NEARLY 60 YEARS

*Editor:*

Our household mail consists mainly of letters providing updates on various charitable organizations, some of which we contribute to regularly. In reading several of the ones received this week, I was struck with the stark contrast between the competence and effectiveness of these non-government entities versus the complete ineptitude, corruption, and lack of positive results from our own federal government's attempts at providing aid. Mercy Ships, founded by Olathe native Don Stevens, now has two ships providing free life-saving surgeries to suffering people around the world. When the ships dock, hurting people line up by the thousands, and their volunteers provide hope and healing --- transforming lives around the world. Samaritan's Purse, founded by Franklin Graham, airlifted an emergency field hospital to Myanmar to provide life-saving care and relief to earthquake victims. Their volunteer teams helped homeowners in eastern Kentucky recover from devastating floods. A Samaritan's Purse livelihood program in South Sudan is bringing hope to families displaced by war. Volunteers in Missouri helped victims of a devastating tornado. A vocational training program in Vietnam helps vulnerable youth rise above poverty. Hundreds of healthy babies were delivered at Samaritan's Purse's emergency field hospital in Sudan. Food For The Poor has been helping children and families in need across Latin America and the Caribbean. They have fed millions of people, built thousands of homes, and hundreds of schools and clinics, while only 3.1% of their funding goes to administration. People in the Montrose area are familiar with Shepherd's Hand and all the good things they do for our area's homeless and hungry. Thanks to Trump, Musk, and DOGE, we now know what a total farce our federal government's "aid programs" are. Very little of the billions of dollars of taxpayer money funneled through these government programs actually reach anyone in need. "Democrat slush fund" is a more accurate description of the aid process. Here's how it works. To start with, the funds are designated for Democrat pet projects having nothing to do with starving people or disaster relief. You've all seen the long list of examples: trans comic books in Peru, pottery classes in Morocco, atheism in Nepal, a biological weapons lab in Wuhan, China, etc. Next,

most of the funds go through "Non-Government Organizations" (NGO's), which are managed by wealthy politicians and bureaucrats. Those NGO's pay themselves outrageous salaries and fees. A significant portion of those salaries is then funneled back to the Democrat Party as political contributions. So, the earthquake victim in Myanmar still needs help, but it is failed Democrat governor candidate Stacey Abram's group that suddenly gets \$2 billion for "environmentally friendly household appliances"? This week four people were convicted in a massive bribery scheme at USAID --- one of the agencies Democrats tried to shield from DOGE. Imagine what the world would be like if our government aid actually went to the needy rather than to the Democrat party and their wealthy NGO bureaucrats.

Also this week, the NYT revealed the Democratic National Committee's money problems are so serious they are considering a loan. Inquiring minds want to know if the DNC going broke has anything to do with DOGE putting a serious kabash on the Democrat slush funds. It is also interesting that ActBlue, the Democrats fundraising powerhouse, is in chaos, with at least seven senior officials inexplicably leaving the group amid allegations that a significant portion of the DNC's funding came from foreign sources. ActBlue made no attempt to ensure donation to Democrats came from actual Americans. Imagine that. A more significant factor in the funding woes (and their 20 something percent favorability) is the fact Democrats have been doubling down on taking the crazy side of every issue. This week they are going crazy over the 6-3 Supreme Court ruling upholding Tennessee's ban on "gender affirming care" for minors. (To interpret, "gender affirming care" means "allowing kids under 18 to be sexually mutilated.") Also, a bunch of Democrats who didn't vote for Trump are taking to the streets in mostly Democrat cities in a futile attempt to force the will of the minority on the majority. Their totally inept and unpopular candidates lost the election. Pathetically, they are now turning to third world dictator tactics to make it more difficult for our duly elected president (the king) to govern and carry out the will of the majority --- which is to undo the illegal invasion of millions of unvetted illegals, many of whom are dangerous criminals. Unfortunately, Democrats are

so invested in open borders that they are now openly choosing to be against law and order, rather than admit fault and help the country recover. Encouraging unrest and staging PR stunts at ICE facilities while prioritizing criminal illegals certainly contributes to the party's unpopularity and doesn't seem to be drawing too many legitimate contributors to their cause.

This week provided another prime example of Democrats' blatant disregard for the American taxpayer. Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, and Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees both resigned from their positions at the Democratic National Committee (DNC). The fact that both held positions at the DNC exemplifies the open corruption of the Democrat party. Both are public unions that bargain against taxpayers. With their presence on the DNC, both union leaders were in effect representing both sides in the bargaining process --- with no one negotiating on behalf of the taxpayer. The process works similar to the NGO's and government aid. Under Weingarten, the AFT spent \$16.5 million dollars in the last election cycle alone, all going to the Democrat party. She is rewarded with an influential position on the DNC, which awards the union with very generous salary and benefit increases whenever their contracts come up for renewal. Everyone is happy --- except for the taxpayer of course, who had no one representing them.

One quick smile: In stark contrast to the negative growth under Biden, and in spite of Democrat predictions to the contrary, blue-collar wage growth in the first five months of Trump's second term saw the largest increase for any administration in nearly 60 years.

Trump also achieved a positive growth in his first term. One more example this week of Democrats having no sane leadership: Not only did Ilhan Omar put down the U.S. turning into "one of the worst countries," the congresswoman again showed her anti-American sentiments when she posted about black freedom and the need to root out systemic racism in the U.S. She was forced to delete her post when it was pointed out that there are still tens of thousands of people in her home country of Somalia still living in slavery today.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NEW SHUTTLE SERVICES AT THE RIDGWAY RIVERFEST IN 2025

#### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-The annual Ridgway RiverFest is known for its river races including the Junk of the Unc homemade watercraft competition.

Besides the talented Ouray Mountain Rescue Team kayakers, who accompany the racers and show off their skills before the race, people may not know that "pleasure" floaters also show up to enjoy the Uncompahgre River during the festival.

This year, non-racers who want to float on paddleboards, duckies and other boats will have a service to pick them up at a river take-out.

"RiverFest is a great day for anyone wanting to float the Unc to come out and enjoy some drinks, music and other fun before or after their float. For our 17<sup>th</sup> annual event, a new company and RiverFest sponsor, Best Slope Adventure Company, will also provide a van ride and haul boats and SUPs on its trailer back from Dennis Weaver Park a few times throughout the day," explained RiverFest Coordinator Tanya Ishikawa.

Racers and Junk competitors also get free shuttles back from their finish lines as a regular part of the race organization.

The nonprofit Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) puts on the free community festival at Rollans Park in Ridgway on June 28, the last Saturday every June. For 2025, the organization has also arranged for free van rides from TelluRides between Montrose and Ridgway. The Ridgway-based transportation company and RiverFest sponsor will provide scheduled rides for festival goers from Montrose and further north, who can park in Montrose, ride to the festival, and get a

ride back.

"We are hoping that people take advantage of our TelluRides service so they don't have to find a parking space on festival day in Ridgway and they can save some carbon emissions by not driving separately. Plus, we think this is a great service for those who can't drive or who want to have a drink or two at the festival and return safely to Montrose," said Ishikawa who is also the executive director of UWP.

Montrose van riders need to reserve their seats in advance on the RiverFest website: [ridgwayriverfest.org](http://ridgwayriverfest.org). River racers and pleasure floaters just need to check in at the UWP Information Booth on festival day. Information about check-in times, race registration, and other details is also available online or by emailing [ridgwayriverfest@gmail.com](mailto:ridgwayriverfest@gmail.com).

"It's important that all who float on the river during RiverFest wear life jackets, a helmet and proper footwear. The day is for fun so we want everyone to practice safe river recreation, to help avoid injuries and other accidents," she cautioned.

The top prizes for the Junk of the Unc this year are a \$500 boat rental from Ridgway State Park courtesy of Colorado Parks & Wildlife and a \$200 guided raft trip or equipment rental from Best Slope Adventure Company. Other prizes will be given to the first place winners in the paddleboard, hard shell and inflatable boat race categories, plus nine top finishers in the Junk and other races will be awarded a glass trophy from Ouray Glassworks and Pottery, donated by Canyon Bridge.

This year's festival has an expanded exhibitor section with lots of local information, giveaways, games, and other ac-

tivities. Second Chance Humane Society brings adoptable pets, 4Corners River Sports will have demo gear, Delta Compost will give away free compost, and more than a dozen RiverFest sponsors and UWP partners will be there, too. UWP will have an updated watershed information and activity booth with several ways to learn about local water conditions, projects, and science from educators and scientists.

The silent auction is similar to last year's large selection with around 50 great products and services to bid on. The highest priced auction item is a guided Via Ferrata trip for four people from Basecamp Ouray, and other items range from restaurant certificates to art, adventure backpacks, and local camping and lodging stays.

As usual, the festival includes local brews from Colorado Boy, margaritas from The Liquor Store and Ridgway Mountain Market, and food trucks, Marchio's Grill and Cedars Mediterranean this year. And Tellurides' original jam band, Joint Point, will offer tasty tunes.

Nearly 100 businesses, organizations and individuals donated to this year's festival to keep it free to festival goers and to support the nonprofit's year-round activities in watershed monitoring, restoration, and stewardship. The top sponsors are Alpine Bank, Black Hills Energy, Double RL Ranch, Newmont, RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service, and Wolfpaw Ranch. More sponsors can be seen at [ridgwayriverfest.org/2025-sponsors](http://ridgwayriverfest.org/2025-sponsors).

For festival schedule, go online to [ridgwayriverfest.org/events](http://ridgwayriverfest.org/events). For information about UWP, go online to: [uncompahgre-watershed.org](http://uncompahgre-watershed.org).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BRAD MITCHELL ANNOUNCED AS FINALIST FOR MONTROSE COUNTY MANAGER POSITION

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- The Montrose County Board of Commissioners has announced that Brad Mitchell has been selected as the finalist for the position of County Manager following an extensive nationwide search. Mitchell, whose career spans over 30 years across law, corporate leadership, real estate, and energy sectors, is the top candidate being considered for the county's chief administrative role.

"The Board has taken great care in selecting a finalist with the right experience and leadership qualities to serve Montrose County," said Scott Mijares, Chair of the Montrose County Board of Commissioners. "Brad Mitchell brings a broad and unique background in legal counsel, organizational management, and strategic planning. We look forward to further evaluating his fit with the goals and values of our community."

Mitchell's diverse professional background includes serving as a partner in a Houston-based law firm, founding multiple companies in the energy and real estate sectors, and leading operations as CEO and general counsel. His experience includes interpreting law and regulation, managing risk, supporting real estate development, and navigating complex financial transactions. He has also advised city planners, county commissioners, and corporate boards.

Mitchell holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Tulsa College of Law, and a BA and MA in Political Science from the University of Delaware where he studied environmental policy, government, public management, statistics, and public administration. He is a member of the Texas State Bar and is licensed in real estate sales.

The Montrose County Board of Commissioners anticipates naming the new County Manager at the July 2 Board of County Commissioners Meeting.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE MISGUIDED PUSH FOR UNIVERSAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

*Editor:*

For decades, the narrative that everyone must pursue a college degree has been sold as the path to an educated, prosperous society. However, a closer examination reveals that this push was less about fostering critical thinking and more about steering young minds toward ideologies that challenge the foundational principles of the United States. The emphasis on universal college education has often served as a vehicle for indoctrination, promoting views that undermine the values of individual liberty, free markets, and limited government that define our Republic.

The idea that a college degree is essential for success gained traction in the mid-20th century, fueled by government policies and cultural shifts. Programs like the GI Bill made higher education accessible to millions, a noble intent to reward veterans and boost the economy. Yet, over time, this morphed into a societal expectation that college was the only path to a fulfilling career. By 2020, over 65% of high school graduates enrolled in college, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. This surge was not driven by a universal need for advanced academic training but by a cultural dogma that equated degrees with social status and employability.

However, the modern university system has increasingly prioritized ideological conformity over intellectual diversity. Many institutions have become echo chambers where certain viewpoints, often critical of American values, dominate curricula and campus culture. A 2018 study by the National Association of Scholars found that 78% of college courses in history and social sciences at top universities emphasized themes of social justice, identity politics, and systemic oppression, often presenting these as uncontested truths. These narratives frequently cast the United States as inherently flawed, focusing on its historical shortcomings

while downplaying its achievements in advancing individual freedom and prosperity.

This focus is not accidental. The rise of critical theories in academia, such as critical race theory and postcolonialism, has shifted the purpose of education from fostering independent thought to promoting specific ideological frameworks. These frameworks often portray American principles like individualism and meritocracy as tools of oppression. For example, a 2021 report by the Manhattan Institute noted that 35% of college faculty openly supported integrating "anti-racist" pedagogies into their teaching, which often frame the U.S. Constitution and free-market systems as inherently discriminatory. Students are taught to view the nation's founding documents and economic systems with skepticism, if not outright hostility.

This ideological shift has real-world consequences. Graduates emerge from universities not only with degrees but also with a worldview that questions the legitimacy of the Republic's core tenets. A 2020 Gallup poll revealed that only 55% of Americans aged 18-34 had a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the U.S. government, compared to 73% of those over 55. This generational divide reflects the influence of academic environments that emphasize grievance over gratitude. Young people are taught to see the nation as a source of systemic injustice rather than a beacon of opportunity, eroding the civic cohesion necessary for a functioning republic.

Moreover, the push for universal college education ignores the reality that not every career requires a degree. Trades like plumbing, electrical work, and carpentry offer stable, well-paying jobs that do not demand four years of academic indoctrination. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that jobs in construction and skilled trades will grow by 10% through 2030, outpacing many white-collar fields. Yet,

the stigma against non-college paths persists, driven by a narrative that undervalues practical skills and overemphasizes academic credentials.

The financial toll of this system is staggering. Student loan debt in the U.S. exceeds \$1.7 trillion, burdening millions with obligations that delay homeownership, marriage, and retirement savings. A 2022 study by the Federal Reserve found that 20% of borrowers were behind on payments, disproportionately affecting those with degrees in fields with low economic return. This debt trap is a direct result of pushing students into college without regard for their aptitudes or the market's needs, all while exposing them to curricula that may alienate them from their country's values.

The solution is not to abandon higher education but to reform it. Universities must recommit to teaching critical thinking over ideological conformity. This means fostering open debate, exposing students to diverse perspectives, and emphasizing primary sources like the Federalist Papers or the Declaration of Independence in their historical context. Additionally, society should elevate alternative pathways, such as apprenticeships and vocational training, as equally valid routes to success. Policy changes, like redirecting federal subsidies from degree programs to trade schools, could help balance these options.

The push for universal college education was never just about learning; it was about shaping minds. While the intent may have been to create an informed citizenry, the result has often been a generation skeptical of the very principles that built the nation.

By rethinking the role of higher education and valuing diverse paths to success, we can foster a society that respects both individual potential and the foundational ideals of our Republic.

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



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## STU KREBS

***October 28, 1934 – June 5, 2025***

Timing is everything and (John) Stuart Krebs was lucky enough to be born at a time (1934) and place (Montrose, Colorado) when most of the things that were important to him were possible. As a youth, helping with friends' sheep camps, he was able to act on his lifelong love of nature and mountains.

He attended CU in Boulder, got a degree in engineering and a commission in ROTC which sent him to Germany for two years during the cold war where he was a Company Commander. When he was mustered out of the army, he spent a year in Europe traveling, skiing, climbing and learning to speak German.

Returning to the US, he met Barbara Nagel on a Junior Colorado Mountain Club climb of Blanca Peak. They were married in 1961 - the year they paddled kayaks through Glen Canyon (now under Lake Powell).

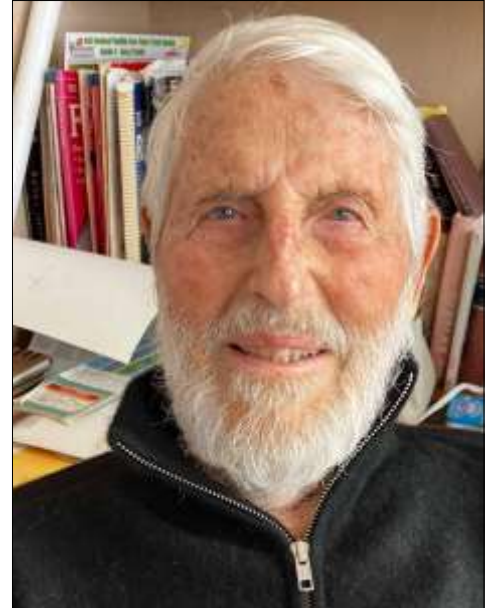
As a couple they bought a VW beetle and drove from Europe to Pakistan to meet Peace Corps friends and climb in the Hindu Kush mountains. Returning to Europe they drove through the Middle East and, once again due to lucky timing, were able to see the giant Buddha statues in Afghanistan (now destroyed), visit Iran and the Holy Lands not yet a part of Israel.

Back in Colorado, in graduate school, they went to Chile to help with a geography land-use project. Eighteen months later they drove home through South and Central America (10,000 miles from Santiago, Chile to Montrose, Colorado), finished a PhD in Geography, then taught at CSU in Ft Collins for 15 years. During that time two sons were born, and the couple built a passive solar house.

In 1980 he resigned from CSU and moved back to Montrose where he engaged in community projects such as Montrose Downtown, Western Colorado Congress, Uncompahgre Valley Association, Public Lands Partnership, Valley Food Partnership, Time Bank of the Rockies, Great Decisions Discussions, and Friends of the Himalayas, built a second passive solar house, and raised goats.

He continued adventuring - climbing volcanos in Mexico, Mt Foraker (next to Mt Denali in Alaska), cross country skiing into huts, paddling kayaks through the Grand Canyon and other rivers in the west. He took the entire family on a section of the Churchill River in Canada, and in his later years took annual blackberry picking, ocean paddling trips.

He was always ready to help friends get out into nature - or to repair their cars,



shoes or equipment. He understood and could fix zippers.

He is survived by his wife, Barb; son, Sven and wife, Shauna Tewksbury; son, Arn and wife, Sue Freda; two grandsons Silas Krebs and Cameron Ticherich; grand daughter, Cora Ticherich; sister in law, Meg Nagel, and two sisters, Sandi Key and Garee Zellmer

A memorial gathering will be held August 17 at the Ute Museum, 1 to 4 pm. Bring short stories and a loving heart.

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## LARRY WALKER

***April 21, 1940 — June 16, 2025***



### *A Loving Tribute*

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Larry Walker, who went home to be with the Lord on June 16, 2025, at the age of 85. Larry Walker was a cherished husband and a beloved member of our community.

Born on April 21, 1940 in Titusville, PA,

Larry Walker grew to exemplify the values of kindness, dedication, and love. He devoted his life to teaching others about our Lord Jesus Christ, touching the lives of countless individuals along the way. His family moved to Monte Vista, CO when Larry was about 5 years old.

He served in the Airforce from 1958 to 1962, spending most of his time in Roswell NM, working as a mechanic on B52 aircraft.

Larry met Patricia (his wife) in 1963 at an Elk Lodge dance. They were married June 21, 1964. They moved to Alaska in 1969, owning a car and power sports dealership. Larry enjoyed fishing, hunting, and flying his plane in the wilds of Alaska. He helped plant Faith Baptist Church in Fairbanks.

In 1995, Larry and Pat attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminar in Fort Worth TX, receiving training for church ministries, which enabled them to plant several churches. Larry was a Mission Service Corp Volunteer associated with NAMB (North American Mission Board).

In 1996, they settled in Camano Island, WA, doing many different church activities. They then spent several years moving around in their motor home serving churches.

Finally settled in Montrose, CO for over 22 years.

Every Monday morning in the summer you could find Larry in his jeep ramrodding a bunch of jeeps exploring the beautiful San Juan Mountains.

Larry, with others, was instrumental in planting Celebration Church. Larry also took the lead of the Colorado Baptist Mission Team, Colorado Baptist Campers on Mission, trained and served on the Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief Team for several years.

Larry Walker leaves behind his wife of 62 years, Patricia Ott Walker and two nephews, Tommy and Terry Rowell. His family and friends will forever hold him close in their hearts.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to local Christian organizations.

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



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## JACK STEENBERGEN

***July 4, 1942 — June 15, 2025***



JACK STEENBERGEN was born in Gunnison, Colorado July 4, 1942, to Father, George Steenbergen, and Mother, Eleanor Matchett Steenbergen.

Preceded in death by Father, Mother, Brother, Donald Steenbergen and Grandson J. D. Steenbergen.

Survived by two Sons, Jeff in Sapulpa, Oklahoma and George in Olathe, Colorado. Granddaughter Stephanie, Great Grandchildren, Jimmy Dakota and Brooklyn.

Married Betty Forehand in Las Vegas, Nevada April 7, 2001.

Jack once was asked if he could drive a team he replied, "I can herd six, drive four and put two in the mailbox." Jack learned to drive a team at a young age on his parents' ranches, first on Stueben Creek then the Razor Creek ranch east of Gunnison in 1960.

He was president of Cattlemen's Days 1976-1977. He rode bareback broncs, and he won the Watershed Bareback riding in 1965 and was an avid team roper with local roping club. He and his son, George, won the branding competition in Gunnison in 1987. He cherished all his Gunnison friends and co-workers with the Division of Wildlife. He was a man of many talents and a real fine cowboy.

In lieu of flowers, the Steenbergen Family would like to request donations be sent to Jack's church, Cowboy at the Cross, PO Box 754, Delta, CO 81416

## SANDRA W. ADAMS

***December 24, 1936 — June 11, 2025***

SANDRA W. ADAMS, 88 years old, of Montrose, CO passed away peacefully on June 11, 2025, at Montrose Regional Health.

She was born on December 24, 1936, in Bootle, England to John Frederick and Winifred Jones. She spent most of her young life in England with her two brothers and a half-brother and half-sister. She loved to dance and was a professional dancer in her teen years. She met the love of her life, Edwin J. Adams at a military dance while he was stationed in England in the United States Air Force.

They were married on September 1, 1956, in England and were shipped out to Morocco, Africa shortly after that as newlyweds. They travelled to many places as John was in the Air Force for 20 years.

Blessed in this marriage were two children, a daughter, Tracy (Adams) Lindeman and a son, Steven John Adams.

Most of her married life she spent in their home being a devoted wife and mother. She loved bingo, gardening, reading, bowling, camping and cooking for her family and friends. She also took great delight in watching the many Hummingbirds she fed while sitting on her back porch swing on the back patio. They brought her great joy, along with her little yorkie lucky.

Sandra is survived by her older brother Ronald F. Jones of Joplin, MO, her two children Tracy (Earl) Lindeman of Lexington, NE, Steven J Adams of Montrose, CO. Three grandchildren Ryan (Alexa) Lindeman of Grand Junction, CO, Dr. Christopher Lindeman of Gainesville, FL, and Danielle Lindeman of Colorado Springs, CO. And one Great-Granddaughter Ellie Jae (Ryan and Alexa).

She was preceded in death by her devoted husband of just over 60 years John Adams, her brother Adrian Jones and sister-in-law Lilli Dinkel Jones (Ron's Wife).

Cremation was provided by Crippin Funeral Home. No services are planned at this time.





# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## DORIS FERN KESSLER

***July 8, 1937 — June 12, 2025***



DORIS FERN KESSLER, 87, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on June 12, 2025 in Loveland, Colorado, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on July 8, 1937, in Montrose to Don and Esta Galloway, Doris was raised on

the family farm and ranch where she enjoyed a childhood immersed in the beauty of rural life. One of her cherished memories was playing the flute in the Montrose High School marching band. With a diploma in hand and love in her heart, Doris graduated high school and married Hank on the same day.

Doris was known for her generous spirit, compassionate heart, unwavering kindness, and her infectious laughter. In earlier years, she treasured camping adventures with her beloved husband Hank, going to Cow Camp, and embarking on cross-country travels with her brothers and sisters. She often spoke of her love for the smells of crisp mountain air and the delicate fragrance of blooming spring lilacs.

As a woman of deep faith and service, Doris dedicated much of her later life to helping others. She was an active member in her church, often organizing meals for community occasions and faithfully

attending Bible study. A favorite family tradition was gathering around the table for lively card games, where her laughter and warmth filled the room.

In 2019, Doris relocated to Loveland to be closer to her children and grandchildren, whom she adored. Family gatherings, the holidays, making Christmas cookies, attending a grandchild's performance, going to the symphony, shopping and a spa day with her daughter Betty followed by the savoring of a margarita and little everyday moments that made life sweet filled her heart. Her active life in Loveland included water aerobics at the pool two to three times a week, hosting Bible study groups, competing for bingo prizes, movie nights, and fellowship with her dearest friends over meals in the dining room. She even found a new passion for line dancing, which brought her immense joy.

Doris is survived by her children Randy, Betty, Jeff and Scott, her grandchildren Dana, Aaron, Kameron and Cheree and

## MICHAEL REY TORRES

***June 25, 1946-June 13, 2025***

MICHAEL REY TORRES, age 78, passed away on June 13, 2025 at home peacefully with family by his side. Born on June 25, 1946, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mike was the only child of Juan Bautista Torres and Angelina Padilla Torres.

As a child he traveled the United States and World with his parents as his Dad was career US Army. He was a graduate of The University of New Mexico and served time in the United States Navy. After a brief time in California moved to Colorado where he lived until 1996 when he and his family moved to Kearney, Missouri. The majority of his career was spent in the Rural Electric Cooperative Program from which he retired 7 years ago. His family often joked that he then had a full time job in trap shooting. He loved the outdoors and while in Colorado hunted elk, fished for rainbows (Until he found bass fishing at Lake Powell), skied, backpacked, canoed, rode horses, etc. Many a camping trip ended with an amazing story of something that had "happened!"

His first marriage to Sally Ann Morgan ended in divorce.

His second marriage was to Micki Maynes and she survives.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and family with his wife Micki and children Matthew S (Jonalyn) Torres, Melaine C (Matthew) Sublette, Ryan S Torres, Keith W Torres, and step-daughter Audrey M (Derek) Petersen. Grandchildren Samantha Torres, Olivia Torres, Jace Sublette, Mia Sublette, Tobi Sublette, Ryanna Petersen, Owen Petersen, Eli Petersen, Caleb Petersen, Samuel Petersen. He was preceded in death by his parents Juan and Angie Torres and one son Kyle.

He will be remembered for his Integrity, strong work ethic, love of the outdoors, and adventure. Most of all for his love of family. His presence will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to

The Fulfillment House – An opportunity to provide enriching employment opportunities for adults with special needs.



ISSUE 527 June 23, 2025

# ART & SOL

## HELPING KIDS HELP NATURE

*By Carrie Krickbaum, Friends of Youth and Nature*

It's only natural that kids have some level of fascination with nature – don't we all? What a thrill to see herds of elk in a meadow, a cow and calf moose in a willow wetland, or the bright blue flash of a bird flying across your path. The more kids see and learn about these critters, the more they may be inclined to want to DO something to help them. Earth Day in April is often the day where we become more aware of nature and focus on the environment and how to engage in actions to help our planet, but this can be accomplished anytime.

Bluebird boxes are one of the ways to engage kids in crafty activities that help them learn about nature and provide nesting spots for our local population of bluebirds. Jon Horn of the Black Canyon Audubon Society (BCAS) puts in many hours creating blue bird box kits for kids to construct and hang in the best locations to attract nesting blue birds. For each kit, he assembles the house to make sure the pieces fit, takes them apart, and then puts them in a bag that includes directions.

What a winning project (and an easy one!) for teachers to incorporate into their environmental education curriculum or Earth Day activities. Outdoor education teacher Krista Javoronok of Ridgway Elementary School loves doing this activity every spring with her 1<sup>st</sup> grade students.



**Elementary students from the North Fork Valley construct bluebird nest boxes for their schoolyard habitats during a Public Lands Day celebration on the Gunnison National Forest.**

Ouray elementary 1<sup>st</sup> graders also participated this year by hanging their boxes in a park in Ouray. They did this, along with teacher Jen Anessi and Ouray Parks Department employee Sean Hart, to help the Mountain Bluebirds in the area. Are you familiar with a river trail or other landscapes with flowing water adjacent to an open field? If you think about it – you may already know a perfect place to hang a blue bird box. What a pleasant surprise

for your kids when the birds decide to move in and make it their new nesting spot! There are many kits available online or instructions to make your own. A couple resources are: [Free Bluebird House Plans - Multiple Designs](#) and the Colorado Bluebird Project at: [Colorado Bluebird Project | Castle Rock, CO - Official Website](#). Or you can contact the Audubon Society for one of their kits! Members of the BCAS also design, build, and sell elaborate

**Continued next pg**



# HELPING KIDS HELP NATURE From previous pg

bird boxes at county fairs.

By engaging kids in these crafty and fun projects, we can extend that interest and concern beyond Earth day throughout the rest of the year. Nature activities can show kids how to be stewards and learn more about animal behaviors and habitat needs.

What else can you do with youth to help nature? **Project Learning Tree (PLT)** is an award-winning environmental education program designed for educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. It offers hands-on lessons and activities on various topics such as forests, ecosystems, wildlife, and water, making it suitable for diverse communities and geographies. The program aims to help young people gain awareness and knowledge of the environment and their role within it. "LEARNING IS IN OUR NATURE" - Project Learning Tree. Materials can be purchased online at <https://shop.plt.org/Shop/ProductDetails/prek-8-environmental-education>.

Helping our pollinators... We all know that pollinators are critical to our environment. To support pollinators with kids, you can:

**-Build a cozy bee hotel** to provide habitat

for solitary bees.

**-Set up a pollinator watering hole** to keep them hydrated.

**-Plant a pollinator garden** with native plants that offer food and shelter for local pollinators

**-Avoid using pesticides**, which threaten pollinator populations.

**-Leave some 'wild' spaces** in your garden to support pollinators.

The National Wildlife Federation at NWF.org has many ideas and information about helping pollinators. Their blog is: 10 Ways to Save Pollinators - The National Wildlife Federation Blog

Helping Monarch Butterflies. Monarch Butterfly numbers are rapidly declining. According to an article in USA Today, an annual survey led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) of the recognizable species wintering in central Mexico found the second-lowest number of monarchs on record. This year's estimate found the Eastern Monarch Butterfly colonies took up just 2.2 acres of regional forests, 59% less than during the 2022-2023 winter season.

Many people state that they don't see the migrating Monarch Butterfly numbers like they used to, whether it's those that fly to Mexico, or the western route to

California. Since Monarch caterpillars feed on milkweed, one way to help them along as they migrate is to plant more milkweed or just don't kill the milkweed that is naturally growing. A fun activity to do with kids is to make milkweed seed bombs together then plant them or throw them in an area that would be good habitat. The Save Our Monarchs blog has some instructions and resources for creating milkweed seed bombs at: <https://www.saveourmonarchs.org/blog/milkweed-seed-balls-101>.

What's really cool is you can also get your area designated as a butterfly waystation by going to <https://monarchwatch.org/waystations>. This is a part of the Monarch Watch program that will give you information on types of milkweed to plant for our region and how to have your area certified and placed on the map of waystations across the country on their website. Another way to help them along is to plant a butterfly garden as a food source for migrating Monarchs and other butterflies as well. Information on how to do this can be found on the Colorado State University Extension site at: <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/attracuch-as-ting-butterflies-to-the-garden-5-504-2/>







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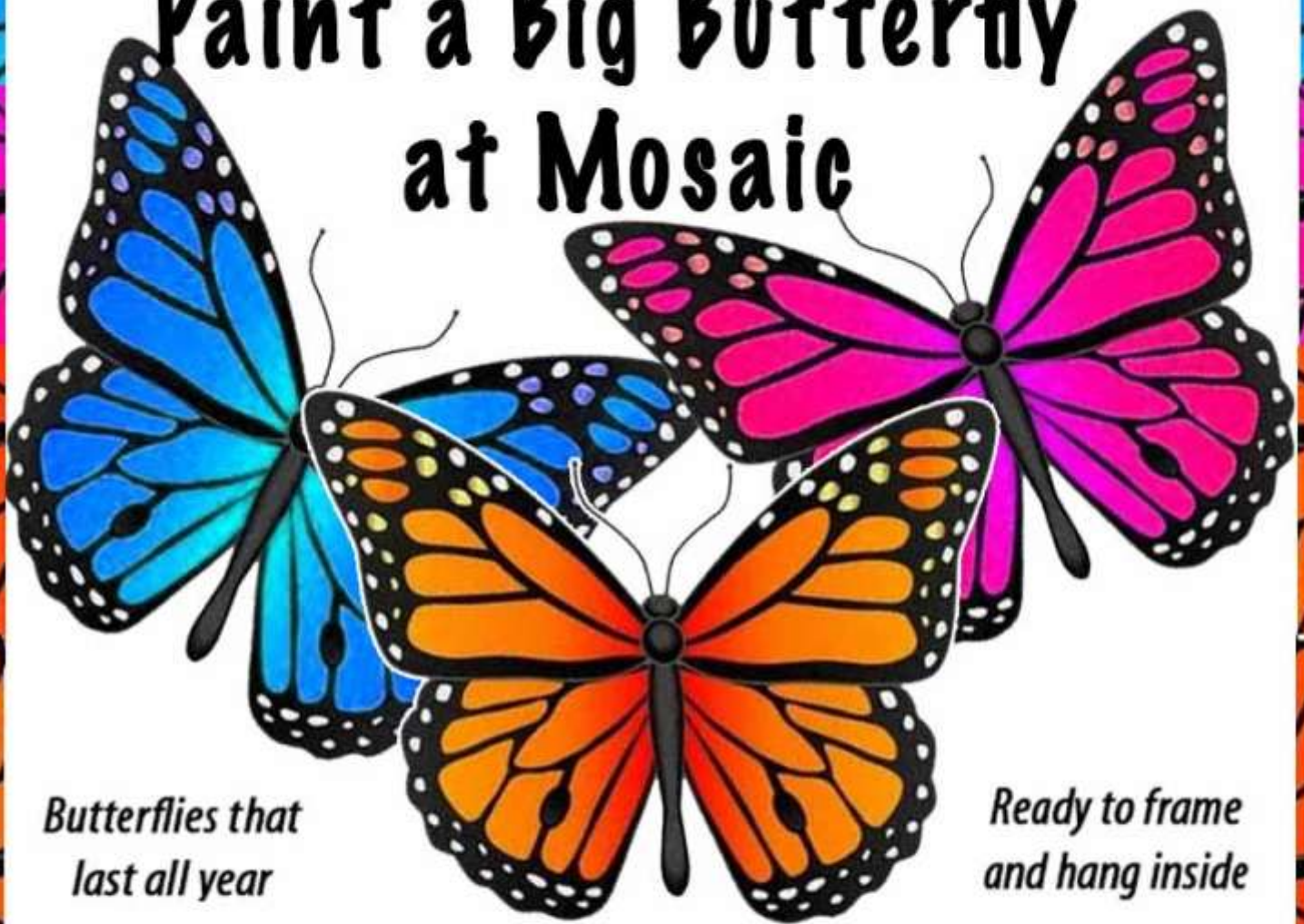
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# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

## WEEKLY CARTOON

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by Tim Jones



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# The Satisfied Woman

## NO THANKS, I'M GOOD. HOW MODERN WOMEN ARE REDEFINING FULFILLMENT WITHOUT SETTLING.

In today's world, women are embracing a new era of independence, self-sufficiency, and self love. Gone are the days when companionship was sought at any cost, or when society's expectations pressured women into lack-luster relationships. Now women are choosing the company of their pets, a good book, a glass of wine, or an engrossing TV series over shallow dating experiences that offer little in the way of true connection or future fulfillment. I hate to quote Miley Cyrus, but like the song says, "I can buy myself flowers, write my name in the sand, talk to myself for hours, say things you don't understand...I can take myself dancing, I can hold my own hand...I can love me better than you can."



By Gia Pirelli.  
Courtesy photo.

Ouch. Why? Because women have realized that they don't NEED a man to com-

plete their lives—and certainly not one who brings nothing meaningful to the table. The modern woman is confident, and perfectly capable of entertaining herself. Whether curling up with her beloved dog to watch "Yellowstone" reruns, savor a rich Cabernet, or getting lost in the pages of a thought provoking novel, she finds joy in the simple, authentic pleasures of life. She enjoys her own company and the sanctuary of her own home.

This shift isn't about rejecting relationships altogether. It's about exercising choice—the luxury of being selective. Women today are far more intentional about what they let into their world. The bar is higher because it can be. When you are fulfilled within yourself, you're not looking for someone to complete you. Instead, you're open to welcoming someone who compliments the rich, full life you've built.

And that means men need to step up. Real connection, shared interests, depth, meaning, respect, nurturing, care, commitment, energy, and genuine investment — these are no longer "nice to haves."

They are essentials. A casual date with no substance? A relationship with no future? No thanks. We are no longer entertaining empty interactions just to pass the time.

The satisfied woman creates her own happiness from a deeper place within. She's not waiting for a romantic partner to bring her joy, security, or purpose. She cultivates those things herself—through passions, friendships, pets, hobbies, work, and personal growth. Any romantic connection must add to that, not take from it.

So if a romantic partner comes along with little to offer beyond surface charm, yawn-worthy sex and a few dinners, many women today are content to simply say, "No thanks, I'm good." Because a cozy night at home, wrapped in her favorite chenille throw, with her dog at her feet and an engaging show on the screen is far more satisfying than a shallow date or a hollow relationship.

No offense, but if you're not bringing authenticity, depth, and effort, chances are she's already chosen the dog over you. And that's not settling. That's thriving.



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**\$347,000.00**

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**1.5 bathrooms**

**CONTACT: LESLIE GORE**

📞 19702753195

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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  
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 day of the month we celebrate a potluck  
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**Vision:** We see Jesus Christ restoring  
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Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021  
[www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com](http://www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com)

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** (970) 497-4925

**Email:** [celebrationmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationmontrose@gmail.com)

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

**Worship Service Times:** 9am and 10:45am

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

**Celebration Kids:** (age birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
 programs offered both services.

**Student** (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

## CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

**Name of Church:** Christ's Church of the  
 Valley

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

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: [CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com](mailto:CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com)

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

**Name of current Senior Pastor:** Ken Law-  
 rence

**Worship service times:** 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of  
 God.

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose

**Affiliation:** Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-  
 od

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

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

**United Church of Christ (UCC)**

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

**Office hours:** Call or text for appointment

**Phone:** 970-765-7070

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

**Website:** [communityspiritucc.org](http://communityspiritucc.org)

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service:** Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-  
 thentically.

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

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation

**Address Office hours** N/A

**Contact:** 720-951-9941,  
[office@ccfmontrose.net](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),  
[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://www.ccfmontrose.net)

**Name of current Senior Pastor.** Led by  
 elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene

**Address:** 705 South 12th Street

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

**Contact Information:** Office Phone 970 249-9213, [mncfirst@gmail.com](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com), [www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM  
Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian

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

**Contact:** 970-249-4732, [info@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:info@fpcmontrose.com), [www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ

**Address:** 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: [office@montroseucc.org](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)

Website: [montroseucc.org](http://montroseucc.org)

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service times:** Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

## MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Orthodox

**Meets:** 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist

**Address:** 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

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

**Current Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kevin Young

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

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

email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

*matter what stage of life they are in.*

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

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



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

[rose@yahoo.com](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://www.ststephensmontrose.com)  
**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian  
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

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

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist  
**Address:** 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8am-12pm  
**Contact Information:** Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at [info@vbcmontrose.org](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales  
**Worship Service Times:** Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

*Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost. Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.*

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following

### information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church  
 Denomination affiliation  
 Address Office hours  
 Contact information (phone number, email address, website)  
 Name of current Senior Pastor  
 Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.

Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?





# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## PAULO MUNGUIA NAMED SAN MIGUEL COUNTY POET LAUREATE FOR 2025-27

### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE-Upon the recommendation of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program, Paulo Munguia was appointed San Miguel County Poetry Laureate at the San Miguel County Board of Commissioner (BOCC) meeting Wednesday June 18.

While Munguia resides in Montrose, he works on construction and performs and has exhibited his poetry in Telluride.

"Denver and Santa Fe have both appointed poet laureates living outside their jurisdiction but within their spheres of influence," explained Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director. "We're proud to honor Pablo who's appeared as a performer at Telluride Arts and has exhibited at the Ah Haa School for the Arts."

In 2006 the BOCC created the honorary position of Poet Laureate of San Miguel County to "honor a member of the local community who has demonstrated significant literary achievement." The post runs for two years.

Joanna Yonder was the previous county poet laureate and she did a host of readings, performances and workshops for adults and kids as part of her two years of service. Former county poet laureates include Daiva Chesonis, Elissa Dickson, Peter Waldor, Ellen Marie Metrick, and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer.


You can locate the county website page for the project here:

<https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/708/Poet-Laureate>

A collaboration of San Miguel County and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program, the county poet laureate project continues thanks to the generosity of a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, support from the Wilkinson, Lone Cone and Naturita libraries, private donors and Talking Gourds' annual Fischer and Cantor poetry contests.



**Paulo Munguia. Courtesy photo.**




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

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter

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





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## CONTACT DETAILS

📞 970-249-0493

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

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

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





# MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT

## TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL 2025



**Above, Durban-Denver:**  
"Rigid"

**The Challenge:**  
In one word or less, describe  
your 2025 Telluride Bluegrass  
Festival experience!  
Photos by B. Slate.

**Below, Paul, Moab, UT:**  
"Newby."



**Above, Kristin and Boone-Minturn:**  
"Joyful."

**Below: Henry-Laramie, Wyoming:**  
"Community."



**Below-Rick-Washington, DC:**  
"Fantastival."





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Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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

**July 1**-On Tuesday July 1 at 5PM, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs Project 504 N.1st. All Welcome to promote healthy environment. Non-partisan, info 970-765-9095

**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.

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



# TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL 2025



*Telluride Bluegrass 2025:  
Photos by Harry Switzer.*



*From the very first note of the first Telluride Bluegrass Festival in 1974, musicians and festivarians have flocked to the former mining town to find musical gold. Pictured top left is Bela Fleck and band, right is Fleck's harp player. Photos by Harry Switzer.*



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