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ASSOCIATION



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## RE-1J BOARD DENIES MCA APPLICATION; RENEWS SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT IN FIVE TO ONE VOTE WITH VALERIO VOTING TO DENY



*Constituents and staff await the start of the regular Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, June 24, where Montrose County School District RE-1J directors voted four to two to deny the Montrose Classical Academy Charter School application for the second time. Meeting Screenshot.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With Board Vice President Steve Bush absent, the remaining Montrose County School District RE-1J directors voted four to two to deny the Montrose Classical Academy Charter School application for the second time on Tuesday, June 24, with District A Director Neisha Balleck and District B Director Ted Valerio voting to approve the application. In other business, the Board of Education voted to approve renewal of Superintendent Carrie Stephenson's contract in a five to one vote, with District B Director Ted Valerio voting to deny.

Present for the regular meeting were Board President Sarah Fishering (District E); District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde.

### COMMUNITY INPUT

Four community members,

*Continued pg 29*

## DMEA: HYDRO STRONG, NEW PHASES OF ELEVATE GOING ONLINE

By Gail Marvel

On June 24, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. All board members were present in person.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, determination of a quorum, and agenda approval.

**Introductions:** Attendees were comprised of board members, department heads, staff, and guests. Guests included DMEA members Joseph Gill (virtual), Carol London (Electrify Montrose), and Tony Hoag (Co-President of Citizens Climate Lobby).

### Organizational Business

#### Action Item: 2025 Board Election Report –

Data provided by Survey & Ballot Systems	
Eligible Voters	30,331
Paper Ballots	3,115
Web Ballots	1,800
Duplicate Web/Paper Ballots	40



*The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) June 24, 2025, regular Board of Directors meeting was held in the Grand Mesa Boardroom. Following his election at the 2025 Annual Meeting, Ken Norris assumed his seat as the new director for the South Region. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

*Continued pg 21*

[Project 7 Resiliency Project Meeting: By Gail Marvel!](#)

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

[Local Events Calendar! Regional News Briefs!](#)

[Local Church Directory! Cartoon by Tim Cox!](#)

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

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### UPCOMING LECTURE: *ISRAEL AT WAR & WHAT IT MEANS FOR AMERICA*

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--ISRAEL AT WAR & WHAT IT MEANS FOR AMERICA. Speaker, Hanoch Young, Sunday, Aug. 10 at 3 PM at Covenant Hebraic Fellowship, 62701 Jig Road, Montrose. For more info, call 970-250-9322.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# MHS TRAP TEAM FINISHES IMPRESSIVE FIRST SEASON, TAKES 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE IN CONFERENCE

By Trenton Wise

MONTROSE-The Montrose High School Trap Team just completed their first season with impressive results, earning second place in their conference. The team accepted their award on June 7, 2025, at the Colorado State Tournament held at the Pikes Peak Gun Club in Colorado Springs. Coached by Trenton Wise and Travis Fletcher, the team showed remarkable growth and dedication throughout the season. At the state tournament, Chase Summers earned first place in the novice class, and several teammates scored over 90—a notable achievement for a first-year team. The team extends their heartfelt thanks to all who supported them, especially their sponsors, including Pheasants Forever.

Montrose High School Trap Team photos  
courtesy of Trenton Wise.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## UNEARTHING DISPARITY: THE QUESTIONABLE ETHICS OF COLORADO'S HUNTING TAG DRAW

*Editor:*

In the heart of Colorado's public lands, where wildlife management meets treasured outdoor traditions, trust is a foundational currency. Yet for many resident hunters and conservation advocates, that trust has been steadily eroding—particularly when it comes to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) hunting tag draw system. Now every time you apply for a draw tag you [are charged](#) \$8.00. CPW says the fee is the cost of keeping the database of preference points. And if you are unsuccessful in the primary draw you will get another chance in the secondary draw with another \$8 fee of course. But imagine my surprise when I [opened up](#) the secondary draw list and found that the tag I [was denied](#) in the primary draw was now available in the secondary draw. CPW claims that the secondary draw is about making sure that the harvest quota [is met](#). Looks like double speak for we did not make enough money so we will sell the same tag multiple times until we meet our "financial" quota.

Colorado's big game tag allocation has long [been touted](#) as a model of fairness, balancing opportunity with conservation. But beneath the surface lies a process increasingly perceived as opaque, inequitable, and alarmingly susceptible to commercial interests. This year out of state hunters can no longer come into Colorado and buy unlimited over the counter tags. But when you examine the secondary draw list it has very generous numbers of tags available for nonresidents only. After all they pay a much higher fee for a tag.

So once again CPW is more interested in managing money rather than managing wildlife.

At the core of this controversy is the preference point system—a mechanism intended to reward persistence by giving frequent applicants a better shot at limited licenses. While this might seem fair in theory, critics argue the system has created an elite class of hunters who monopolize high-demand tags for coveted hunts like bighorn sheep and trophy elk. For newcomers or those without the luxury of time and resources, the odds are dismal. The preference point system is [definitely questionable](#) as to how it [is administered](#). Last year after ten years of applying for a bull elk tag in unit 61 I finally drew that coveted tag. But as luck would have it me and my wife both came down with COVID just a few days before I was to go hunting. I got a statement from the doctor and got my preference points restored. But when I applied for that same tag this year, I was unsuccessful now with 11 preference points. So, eleven times \$8 is \$88 plus \$67.86 for a resident Elk tag so that is \$155.86 still cheaper than the \$825.03 for a nonresident tag. But still 2.3 times as much as the cost of a resident tag. Adding to the frustration is the loophole-riddled landowner preference program. Large landowners receive a disproportionate number of tags, [ostensibly as](#) compensation for habitat stewardship. But in practice, these tags [are often sold](#) or transferred to high-paying clients and outfitters, turning a public resource into a private commodity. This legal sidestep not

only undermines fairness—it fuels the [perception](#) that access is for sale. [A large number of](#) the private land only tags that are available in the secondary draw require the hunter to use an outfitter to access that property. The outfitter fee is somewhere between three and ten thousand dollars. So only wealthy hunters can afford that. There again those who can afford to pay, get to play. Moreover, CPW's lack of transparency in how tags [are drawn](#)—especially for premier units—raises red flags. The state employs a closed-source algorithm for tag distribution, offering little in the way of audibility or public oversight. For a system that controls access to a shared public good, this opacity is not just inconvenient—it's unethical.

Many lifelong residents and ethical hunters now find themselves edged out by nonresidents with deeper pockets or well-positioned connections. The commercialization of opportunity [appears to run](#) counter to the foundational principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which emphasizes equal access, science-based management, and public trust. I have counted 4553 draw tags slated for nonresident only. No where are there any draw tags labeled resident only.

To be clear, this is not an attack on hunters—nor on the idea of tag allocation itself. It is a call for greater accountability, more [equitable](#) access, and a recommitment to fairness in how Colorado manages one of its most cherished resources.

*Ray Langston, Montrose*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY ANNOUNCES INDEPENDENCE DAY CLOSURES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— City of Montrose offices will close in observance of the Independence Day holiday starting on Thursday, July 3, 2025. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close for the holiday.

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

The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open. The Rusty Putter restaurant located at the golf course will be closed; however, the snack bar will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Thursday, July 3, will instead be served on Tuesday, July 1, and Wednesday, July 2. For routes west of Townsend Ave., trash pickup will occur on Tuesday, July 1. For routes east of Townsend Ave., trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, July 2.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service on Thursday, July 3, will instead be served on Friday, July 4.

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

Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit [Cityof-Montrose.org/Trash](http://Cityof-Montrose.org/Trash)

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

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### HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS UPDATED VIDEO ON RENOVATION OF THE 1923 COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND OPENING OF TIME CAPSULE THERE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—On Wednesday, July 2 at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm, Montrose County Historical Society presents an updated video on the progress of renovation of the 1923 county courthouse and the opening of the time capsule placed there. The public is welcome to attend this free program. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DRIVERS TO EXPECT DELAYS THROUGH WORK ZONES

*Special to the Mirror*

**GARFIELD/EAGLE COUNTIES** — The Colorado Department of Transportation and contract partner, KSK LLC, is scheduled to begin a bridge joint replacement project on Interstate 70 in Glenwood Canyon starting mid-July. The project will replace 23 bridge joints and conduct guardrail repairs from mile points 116 to 133. This is a two-season project, with anticipated completion expected around Fall 2026, and a winter shutdown is planned when the weather becomes too inclement for crews.

### Project Benefits

Bridge joints connect the roadway to elevated bridges, allowing for expansion and contraction as vehicles drive over them, which is critical infrastructure for safe roads for motorists. The 23 structures in Glenwood Canyon will be worked on at or near the following areas:

Exit 119 No Name  
Exit 122 Grizzly Creek Rest Area  
Exit 123 Shoshone Power Plant  
Exit 125 Hanging Lake Trailhead  
Exit 129 Bair Ranch Rest Area

### Traffic Impacts

For this project, traffic control may involve a lane closure up to 2.5 miles long in either the westbound or eastbound I-70 lanes through Glenwood Canyon. Motorists should expect one lane closure per direction while the bridge joints are replaced.

-Vehicles will be reduced to one lane traffic in either direction, throughout the duration of the project.

-Daytime work hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

-The speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph through the work zone.

In addition to this project, critical construction projects are underway across the



*The Colorado Department of Transportation and contract partner, KSK LLC, is scheduled to begin a bridge joint replacement project on Interstate 70 in Glenwood Canyon starting mid-July. Courtesy photo.*

I-70 Mountain Corridor.

[Click here](#) for additional maps and resources for all I-70 projects taking place between Golden, CO and Utah border this summer.



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## MAG CHLORIDE SCHEDULE FOR 6/30 - 7/2/25



### Attention: Mag Chloride



#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE COUNTY-The mag chloride schedule for the week of 6/30 - 7/2/25 is as follows:

- Vicuna Rd from Hwy 550 west to 6875 Rd
- 6875 Rd from Vicuna to cul de sac
- Uncompahgre Rd from end of pavement Buckhorn side north to pavement
- Pahgre Rd from south canal north to Trout Rd.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## REGISTRATION OPENING JULY 7 FOR DELTA HEALTH BLOOD DRAW AND HEALTH FAIR

### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA- Registration opens on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 8:00 am for the Delta Health Blood Draws and Health Fair taking place on Wednesday, August 20 through Friday, August 22, 2025 by going online to [deltahealthco.org/healthfair/](https://deltahealthco.org/healthfair/). Appointments are strongly encouraged, however walk-ins are welcome.

This year the blood draws are being held in three locations:

-Wednesday, August 20th from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Cedaredge, at the Cedaredge Community Center located at 140 NW 2nd Street, Cedaredge, Colorado 81413

-Thursday, August 21st from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Hotchkiss at Delta County Fairground's Heritage Hall located at 403 S. 4th Street, Hotchkiss, Colorado 81413

-Friday, August 22nd from 6:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta, located at 531 Palmer Street, Delta, Colorado, 81416

This year, the annual Health Fair with local vendors from the Western Slope is happening on Friday, August 22, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Delta at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center.

"Delta Health is excited to continue hosting this annual event in Delta for the community," said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Chief Executive Officer "It is a great opportunity for folks to receive comprehensive lab work at a potentially lower cost."

Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted; Delta Health will not be able to bill insurance companies. Fasting for 12 hours is required for all health screens requiring blood draws. Participants are encouraged to drink plenty of water, one cup of black coffee is permitted, and medications can be taken as usual. Many participants will opt-in for their results to be sent to the Quality Health Network (QHN) where their Primary Care Provider will have access to the results and be able to review them with their providers at their next appointment.

For more information on this year's blood draw and health fair, visit <https://deltahealthco.org/healthfair/>.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH OPENS REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR AND BLOOD DRAWS *Community organizations invited to apply for wellness booth space*

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#### Blood Draw Dates

**August 2:** 4H Event Center, Ridgway | 7:00–10:00 AM

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

**August 6-8:** Montrose Pavilion | 6:30–9:30 AM  
(No walk-ins Aug 6-7; Registration required)

#### Health Fair

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

Free community event with blood draws, screenings, wellness booths, giveaways, and expert info!

Walk-ins welcome at most locations, but  
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#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) is pleased to announce the return of its annual Health Fair and early blood draw events, bringing affordable health screenings and wellness resources to our communities.

A series of early blood draws will be held across several communities to give residents convenient access to low-cost testing:

-Friday, August 2: 4H Event Center, Ridgway (7 to 10 a.m.)

-Tuesday, August 5: Olathe High School (6:30 to 9:30 a.m.)

-Wednesday through Saturday, August 6 to 9: Montrose Pavilion (6:30 to 9:30 a.m. daily). Walk-ins will not be accepted on August 6 or 7. Registration is required for those dates.

Participants are strongly encouraged to register online at [montrosehealth.com/healthfair](http://montrosehealth.com/healthfair) to help reduce wait times and make the check-in process efficient for everyone.

The week culminates with the MRH Health Fair on Saturday, August 9, from 6:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. This free community event features blood draws, health screenings, wellness booths, giveaways, and expert health information. Montrose Regional Health is currently accepting applications from community organizations and wellness experts interested in hosting a booth at the event. While MRH departments and partners will be given priority, outside exhibitors will be considered based on space availability and alignment with Health Fair guidelines. Applications are due by July 28.

For full event details, to register for a screening, or to apply for a booth, visit [montrosehealth.com/healthfair](http://montrosehealth.com/healthfair).





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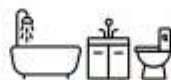
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📞 970-615-9412

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

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

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





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH TO HOST FREE MEDICARE IN A NUTSHELL PRESENTATIONS *Doug Speedie, MD, to guide community members through upcoming Medicare changes*

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- – Montrose Regional Health (MRH) is offering a series of free community presentations to help residents navigate upcoming changes to Medicare. Medicare in a Nutshell will be led by Doug Speedie, MD, a certified Medicare counselor with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), who brings years of expertise in navigating Medicare options.

Starting January 1, 2026, MRH will no longer be an in-network provider for Humana Medicare Advantage plans. These sessions will help individuals prepare for the change, whether they are new to Medicare, reviewing their current plan, or seeking clarity on coverage.

Presentation dates (choose one):

- Monday, June 30 | 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 13 | 10 a.m. to noon
- Monday, Sept. 29 | 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

All sessions will be held at the Montrose Regional Health Conference Center, located on the Lower Level of the hospital at 800 S. 3rd Street. Light refreshments will be provided, and all community members are welcome.



**Doug Speedie, MD.**  
*Courtesy photo.*



# FREE DUNKS

while supplies last

**Montrose County Public Health**  
**1845 S. Townsend Ave. West Wing**  
**(970) 252-5011**



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## TAXPAYERS ADVISED TO BEWARE OF RECALL EFFORTS

*Editor:*

In many respects our local politics can be a direct reflection of the politics we see in Washington DC. Since Trump's landslide victory in November the Democrat Party and its lapdog media have resisted every move Trump has made, in direct opposition to the will of the majority of the American people. That opposition is because the Democrat Party has lost complete power over the direction of our country.

Here in Montrose County the same scenario has been in play. In the spring of 2024 Commissioner Sue Hansen violated the county's resolution against supporting one county republican over another. Her hand-picked candidate, Big Lou Stark, was handily defeated by Scott Mijares. She saw her political power start to erode and began to work behind the scenes to discredit Mijares.

When Mijares was officially seated on the

BOCC she continued to try to undermine him.

When Sean Pond was seated on the BOCC, she saw all of her power disappear. With her move from Republican to Unaffiliated it was clear to see that she enjoined her Democrat friends to assist her and continuing to try to undermine both Mijares and Pond. A team player for the betterment of Montrose County she certainly is not.

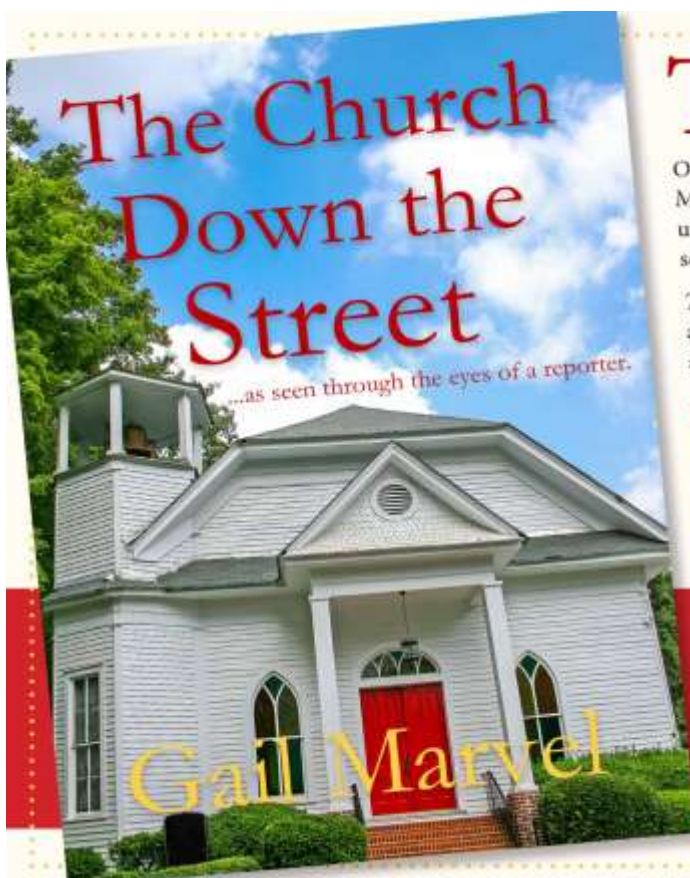
On the national level the Democrat Resistance has relied heavily on manipulating the Fake News to spread their Resistance. Here in Montrose Hansen has sweet talked none other than Dennis Anderson of the Montrose Daily Press to assist in her campaign of resistance to her loss of political power. Anderson's OP EDs are snarky diatribes aimed at discrediting Mijares and Pond. Readers should take note that since becoming Publisher readership has declined and the Daily Press

has been reduced to only two issues per week. Because of that the Daily Press main office is now for sale, all of which falls squarely at Anderson's feet because of obvious decline in credibility.

It appears that Hansen is the driving force behind an attempted recall of Mijares, scheduled to start July 14 with a recall for Pond to start in August. Make no mistake, Hansen's push for these recalls is motivated by the fact that she has lost her power on the BOCC. More importantly the Democrat support of these two recalls is because they see an opportunity to flip the BOCC to Democrat control and turn Montrose County Blue.

Taxpayers are advised to be aware of these recall efforts. Additionally, taxpayers would be wise to contact both Mijares and Pond to learn exactly their experiences on Hansen's divisive actions behind closed doors.

*Dee Laird, 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





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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY OF MONTROSE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose invites you to spend your holiday celebrating Independence Day the right way.

We will have our staple 4th of July parade at 10 a.m., a celebration concert held by the Montrose Summer Music Series, and a fireworks show to end the day by Zambelli Fireworks.

The theme for our parade this year will

be Heroes Among Us.

Entries in this parade will not be judged, but we encourage everyone to decorate their floats to show off the heroes in their lives and the community. If you have any questions please contact Thomas Cenicer via email or by telephone (970-252-4881).


### Free Concert

The California Honeydrops will headline

the free Independence Day concert at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater, brought to the celebration by the Montrose Summer Music Series.




Gates open at 5 p.m. and the music begins at 6 p.m. with the opening act, D&G Railroad.

Visit the Montrose Summer Music Series website for more information about this year's series of free concerts.



**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"**

### "WHILE YOU WERE OUT" ENJOYING YOUR SUMMER.....

ATTENTION: Montrose Mayor, City Councilors, and Montrose taxpayers

As overseers and hiring/firing authority of City Manager Mr. William Bell, and ultimately responsible for every tax dollar spent, y'all take time for a closer look. Remember "EXPECT WHAT YOU INSPECT?" Are we coming in loud and clear yet? The funneling of taxpayer \$\$\$\$!

Is it no surprise that Bill Bell, Conner Bell, Sydney Bell, and William Woody (of Steve Woody fame) won the HopeWest Hospice Golf Tournament on June 21st held at Cobble Creek? The foursome that tied them did not spend YOUR taxpayer money. They were runner-up with the same score!! Well, it gets better!! When there is one, there is more than one

**\$1,000.00** 6/10/25. "Operating Fund".

**Bill Bell's family and friend, winners of the HopeWest Hospice Golf Tournament.**

**\$1,000.00** 5/8/25. "Public Safety Fund".

Police Chief Blaine Hall's "Golf Team".  
HopeWest Hospice Golf Tournament

**\$8,000.00** 5/19/25: Remington's (Bridges)  
Get this! RE: "Self-Insurance Medical, Dental, Vision"

**\$4,000.00** 5/19/25: Remington's (Bridges)  
RE: No category assignment-time to go back and check?

**\$1,280.00** 5/19/25: Remington's (Bridges)  
RE: "Self-Insurance Medical, Dental, Vision"

**\$ 640.00** 5/19/25. Remington's (Bridges)  
No category assignment - check with legal first!

**\$5,530.00** 10/17/24. Links at Cobble Creek  
RE: "City Championship Green Fees and Prize Money".

**\$5,530.00** 10/17/24. Bridges Golf Club  
NO KIDDING:

**\$5,530.00** 10/17/24. Bridges Golf Club  
NO KIDDING:  
RE: "Payment for City Championship"  
Why not hold this at Black Canyon (owned by the City)?

**Hmmmmmmmmmm \$5,530 X 2 = \$11,060.00**  
Two City tournaments? or "prize money?"

Let's see... does the City of Montrose own Black Canyon Golf Course, the one that runs in the red every year by hundreds of thousands of TAXPAYER dollars???

Or is this Bill Bell's Golf Course?

**This information should be published in Bill Bell's "Fact versus Fiction" prank in the Montrose Mirror.**

**You do the Fiction Mr. Bell. Montrose Citizens' DOGE can do the Facts.**

**TOTAL \$32,510 spent on The Bridges and Cobble Creek!!**

Expenditures endorsed by City Mayor David Frank, and City Council's J. David Reed, Judy Ann Files, David Glaspell, Ed Ulibarri. City Attorney? "No "there there?" Any conflicts of interest?

Only lawsuits and elections can fix this travesty and abuse of YOUR taxpayer funds.

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# HYDRO STRONG, NEW PHASES OF ELEVATE GOING ONLINE From pg 1

Final Web Ballots	1,760
Onsite Ballots	24
Total Returns	4,899
Percent Returned	16.15%

A change to this year's ballot was the requirement for people with authorization to vote for multiple entities to give their title as well as sign their name. This additional verification allowed for 95 ballots to be deemed as valid.

Newly elected Director Ken Norris replaced incumbent Jock Fleming (not in attendance). North Region Director Stacia Cannon said, "I want to thank Jock Fleming for his years of service. He has been with us since 2019. He was with us during some pivotal changes in this organization. So, as we say goodbye to Jock, we welcome Ken Norris who brings knowledge and experience." Round of applause.

## Action Item: Elect Board Officers

Kevin Williams asked why the secretary/treasurer position was combined and discussion about the position, as well as the need for four financial signatories, was presented and explained with historical background.

## Elected Board Positions for 2025-2026:

President – Stacia Cannon

Vice-President – Kevin Williams

Secretary/Treasurer – Jacob Gray

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Steve Metheny

**Action Item: Establish Financial Signatories** – Four signatories were appointed.

## Action Item: Appoint Organizational Board Representation

Western United Electric Supply Organization (WUES) – CEO Jack Johnston

Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) – Damon Lockhart

**Action Item: Assign Committee Members & Chairs**

As President, Cannon assigns board members to the various committees.

## General Business:

Membership & Meter Report and approval of the minutes from the May 2025 Regular Meeting and the June 2025 Annual Meeting. Approved unanimously.

## Informational Item: Committee Chair Reports

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

Lockhart said, "We did not meet. Nothing to report."

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

Heuscher said, "Did not meet."

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

Williams said, "Did not meet."

**Executive** – Stacia Cannon, Chair.

Cannon said, "Did not meet."

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

Johnston's report included a PowerPoint presentation. He said, "This is the SAIDI [System Average Interruption Duration Index] graph. We are approaching last year's trendline. There have been quite a few poles hit [auto] and one drunk farmer with a swather. We'll see if it spikes up."

Williams asked about last week's fiber damage. Johnston said, "Even if electric [line] is taken out, [Elevate] fiber can stay intact. There have been some gunshots from people who were trying to take out birds on the wire."

Johnston continued, "Hydro is really strong. There is a full month's report. It's been a good flow season for the river. Some employees have gone on a helicopter patrol to see the system from an aerial view. A couple of employees are attending a cyber tech conference in Denver. The phishing avoidance is 100 percent. The annual meeting was great with employee volunteers; more than the previous year." Staff reported that an estimated 400 were in attendance, 205 members registered, and 250 attended the business meeting.

Williams said, "One food truck had a flat tire and didn't show up. There was a long line for food and waiting time was an hour." Staff will evaluate for next year's event.

Norris said, "My compliments to the staff. My wife and I had to park quite a distance away, but a side-by-side was driven by employees. They treated us like gold. The shuttle group was very alert and a good representation."

Johnston read a letter from a woman in

Paonia who won the lawn mower. The woman shared that her old lawn mower had just died, and the cost of a new mower was almost prohibitive. She wrote, "You've made this 77-year-old very happy!"

Johnston said, "New phases of Elevate [subsidiary] are going online and there is a lot of positive feedback. We are having supervisor training specifically for those who manage others. Financials are trending positive. Elevate is doing much better than projected. With warmer weather [air conditioners] revenue in May is up; large commercial is up. As a whole, cash is going to be tighter with a lot going out."

General discussion included long term credit for Elevate, Light Up the Navajo expense/funding, the September ribbon cutting for Garnet Mesa solar, and the October budget conversation.

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

No meeting; nothing to report.

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

Lockhart said, "There were two meetings to report on. The main meeting was in Holyoke." Referencing the empty Russell Stover building in Montrose he said, "We toured Lay's potato chip factory and also toured a huge elevator company. The two main pieces [of his meetings] were the purchase of the new building. They have entered into a contract for \$2.475 M for a building in Lakewood. The current building is listed for \$1.650 M and three companies are interested."

Williams asked about the million-dollar difference. Lockhart said, "It will be split up 23 ways [CREA membership]. We'll talk more in the executive session. The CEO search is narrowing down. We'll have a decision between September and November so they can start in January. There are some good visionary people [candidates]. Legislatively we are not in session, but the staff is working."

## Conferences, Webinars & Meetings

Ryan Sedgeley reported on an inspiring conference on thermal/heat pumps, Enno

## HYDRO STRONG, NEW PHASES OF ELEVATE GOING ONLINE From previous pg

Heuscher reported on a Cedaredge event that recognized DMEA as a sponsor, and Cannon reported on two events: a webinar and a ribbon cutting for North Fork Trails.

**Informational Item: Bylaws** – Sarah Abbott, General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer.

Abbott said, “The last review of the Bylaws was August 2021. It’s not an action item today, just for discussion. There are not a lot of changes, just clean-up, removing redundancy terminology, and capitalizing words. If you want, it will go in the July newsletter and direct members to the webpage where they can comment.”

Williams asked Abbott to discuss an overview of the purpose for the revisions. Abbott said, “The board should take a look because laws change frequently. There are operational issues.”

Cannon said, “Members need to know how they can contact their directors. Comments and feedback can go to directors, as well as to the staff.”

### **Action Item: Montrose & Delta County Fairs Junior Livestock Auctions**

For participation in the Buy-Back purchase of 4-H animals, Emily Sanchez will attend the Montrose County Fair on July 26 and Damon Lockhart will attend the Delta County Fair on Aug. 2.

### **Member Comments:**

Carol London, President of Electrify Montrose, said, “At the last meeting of the Forum there was a question to Jack whether DMEA would consider incentives, similar to what Tri-State used to offer. Jack’s response was that at the next planning session the topic will come up. We want to thank the board for acknowledging our request.”

Tony Hoag said, “We have a petition to get the Commissioners [Montrose Board of County Commissioners] to pass a request that they have talked about for two years. It’s on power regulations. We have 250 signatures at this point. We are going to the West End and to Olathe [to garner support].

We’d like to have you [DMEA board

members] with us. We can produce energy here...electric rates kept in check. We want to tell the Commissioners they’ve done enough talking, let’s get it done.” Hoag gave the board his phone number and email so that those who want to support his initiative can add their name to the petition.

When asked about the number of signatures they wanted to get, Hoag said, “It’s not a legal document, but in my mind 500 signatures would be a powerful statement. I know we [solar proponents] are like the black hat.”

CEO Johnston took exception to the term “black hat” and the implied characterization that DMEA thought of themselves as wearing the white hat and the solar activists as the guys wearing black hats.

### **Background:**

As stated in the DMEA Bylaws introduction, “The core mission of the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (the “Cooperative”) is to purchase, distribute, and generate dependable electric power for consumers within the area served by the Cooperative (the ‘Service Area’).”

Member Joseph McGill, who attended virtually, added to the solar discussion.

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

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

“Upon motion from Director Heuscher, seconded by Director Sanchez, the Board unanimously approved a capital budget amendment for an asset purchase.

Upon motion from Director Lockhart, seconded by Director Sanchez, the Board unanimously approved updates to Board Policy 101.

Upon motion from Director Heuscher, seconded by Director Williams, the Board unanimously approved updates to Board Policy 103.

Upon motion from Director Norris, seconded by Director Williams, the Board unanimously approved updates to Board Policy 104.

There were no additional items to ad-



*Prior to the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) June 24, 2025 regular board meeting, Director Steve Metheny (left) visited with Carol London, President of Electrify Montrose. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

dress. The Board adjourned its Regular Meeting at 7:22 p.m.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dist. 9 – (South Region) Ken Norris, 970-**  
**596-9892, [ken.norris@dmea.com](mailto:ken.norris@dmea.com)**



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SAN MIGUEL REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY RELEASES 2025 REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE— The 2025 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is now complete, providing the San Miguel County Housing (SMRHA) and its regional partners updated information regarding changes in housing trends.

Led by SMRHA and conducted by Denver-based consulting firm EPS, this assessment will ultimately update the region's previous 2018 RHNA and guide local leaders in addressing affordable housing needs throughout San Miguel County.

An intergovernmental meeting with SMRHA, San Miguel County and the Towns of Mountain Village and Telluride will be held on July 7 at 1 p.m. via Zoom to

present the insights of the RHNA report and provide an opportunity for local governments to take action toward adoption of the assessment. "This project demonstrates another great partnership between the Towns of Mountain Village, Telluride and San Miguel County, as we recognize housing needs don't stop at any one of our boundaries, but are regional in nature and have impact even beyond our County borders," said Jarrod Biggs, SMC Deputy County Manager. Overall, the report highlights the progress regional partners have made in developing affordable housing even though those efforts have been outpaced by demand from both existing and new residents for housing with-

in the Towns and throughout the County. The rising demands have further highlighted the need for affordable housing development for households across a broad range of income levels in our region. The RHNA process was initiated in early 2024, and included extended community and employer surveys through the summer and into the fall of 2024.. This work fulfills the requirements established by Senate Bill (SB24-174) - Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance, which mandates that all local governments in Colorado with populations over 1,000 complete a housing needs assessment report every six years. More information about the bill can be found [here](#).



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## HUMAN REMAINS FOUND IN REMOTE AREA CONFIRMED TO BE EDNA QUINTANA

### MEDICARE IN A NUTSHELL

*A free community presentation  
with Doug Speedie, MD*

Certified Medicare Counselor,  
State Health Insurance Assistance Program



**Navigating Medicare doesn't  
have to be overwhelming.**

#### 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!



MontroseHealth.com

#### Special to the Mirror

**SAGUACHE**— On June 17, 2025, a hiker in a remote area of Saguache County discovered what appeared to be human remains and immediately contacted the Saguache County Sheriff's Office. Deputies promptly responded to the location and secured the scene pending further investigation.

On June 18, 2025, Saguache County deputies returned to the scene alongside Agents and Crime Scene Analysts from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and two cadaver dog teams from Colorado Forensic Canines. A coordinated search was conducted, and the remains were carefully recovered and transported to the El Paso County Coroner's Office for examination.

On June 25, 2025, the El Paso County Coroner's Office confirmed the identity of the remains as Edna Quintana, who had previously been reported missing. The 55-year-old was reported to have gone missing around May 3, 2023, while rock hunting on County Road 46AA in Saguache, Colorado.

Saguache County Deputies have since made contact with Ms. Quintana's family to inform them of the identification and to offer their support. The Sheriff's Office expresses its deepest condolences to the Quintana family during this difficult time.

At this stage, the manner and cause of death remain under investigation. Autopsy results and forensic testing are still pending. The Saguache County Sheriff's Office is working closely with the CBI to determine the circumstances surrounding Ms. Quintana's death.

We urge anyone who may have information regarding Edna Quintana's disappearance or death to contact the Saguache County Sheriff's Office at 719-655-2525.

Further updates will be provided as the investigation develops.



**Edna Quintana.**  
*Courtesy photo.*



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL COALITION UPDATE

Dear Editor:

UPDATE: Wow! What success we are having with opening the bricks up for businesses to show their support.

So far Alpine Bank, BND Batteries, Citizen Bank, Horsefly Brewery, Montrose Ford, Sidelines Sports Bar and Chow Down Pet Supplies all have submitted orders for Patriot bricks for the new memorial. Thanks to you all! We also have at least three dozen other applications delivered to area businesses who have said they wish to join us.

If you are interested in showing your business's support, please call Amy Eifling at 970-765-2210 or stop by the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans Warrior Center at 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, to have us drop off a form, pick up a form and/or drop off a check. The business bricks are available for \$500 and will be placed together at the new memorial in a special Patriot section.

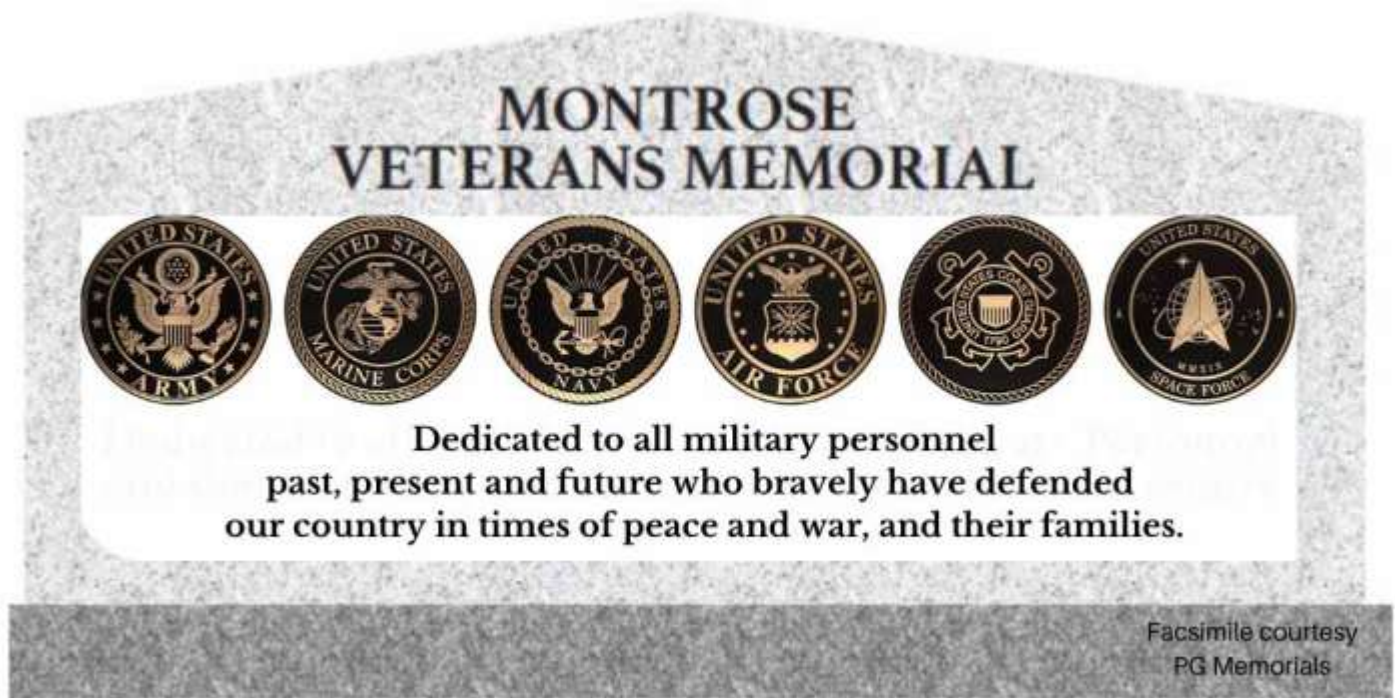
Also, great news! Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition nonprofit board of directors, City of Montrose Colorado Government and Montrose County - Government representatives will meet Wednesday, July 2 to discuss construction, bids, etc. for the new memorial. We expect architect Phil Motley and Stryker Construction rep Mike Hurd might also attend.

We are working diligently on final plans and hope to put a shovel in the ground later this summer.

Sincerely,

Les Williams

MVMC BOD President



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## UNITING FOR IMPACT: HOW COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER, COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION AND PHILANTHROPY COLORADO ARE STRENGTHENING COLORADO'S NONPROFIT ECOSYSTEM THROUGH COLLABORATION

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-Community Resource Center, Philanthropy Colorado, and Colorado Nonprofit Association are coming together to transform Colorado's nonprofit and philanthropic landscape through deep collaboration more than ever before. Each of our organizations brings distinct strengths: Community Resource Center's deep roots in rural leadership and nonprofit capacity building, Philanthropy Colorado's expertise in funder engagement and sector advocacy, and Colorado Nonprofit Association's statewide influence in nonprofit policy and professional development.

Together, we are forging a united front to

ensure that Colorado's diverse nonprofit sector has the resources, training, and voice it needs to thrive. This collaborative model is not just about working alongside one another, it's about intentionally aligning strategies, sharing tools, and developing joint programs that serve the entire state. At Community Resource Center, collaboration is embedded in our DNA. Through initiatives like the Rural Action Network®, GrantCorps, and the Colorado Grants Guide®, we convene nonprofits, funders, and policymakers to address complex local challenges with shared solutions. Our efforts extend beyond service provision to building leadership and capacity, especially in communities that

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This alliance reflects a shared vision: that Colorado's nonprofit and philanthropic communities are stronger together, and that meaningful, systemic change requires coordination across missions, geographies, and institutions. Together, we are not only building a more resilient infrastructure for the sector but also modeling the kind of collaborative leadership needed to meet the evolving needs of Colorado's communities.

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# RE-1J BOARD DENIES MCA APPLICATION *From pg 1*

including a child, spoke in support of the Montrose Classical Academy Charter School application; one community member spoke against approval of the application.

Speaking in support of MCA were Sophia Sharman, Michael Sharman, Leah Vanderluis, and Cindy Dozier.

Speaking in opposition to the application was Ellen Angeles.

## CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of District F Director Jody Hovde, Consent Agenda Item Two, *"Approve purchase of technology updates at Montrose High School in an amount not to exceed \$125,000,"* was pulled for further discussion. The remaining Consent Agenda items, including Personnel Report, were approved as presented. Following a brief discussion, Item Two was approved as well:

## NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Education considered a *"Recommendation to Approve Adoption of the 2025-2026 Budget and related resolutions 06-2025 Appropriation Resolution 2025-2026; 07-2025 Use of Fund Balance Resolution 2025-2026; 08-2025 Budget Reserve Increase Resolution 2025-2026."*

Finance Director Emily Imus presented information on the 2025-2026 Budget and resolutions.

Following the presentation, District A Director Neisha Balleck asked about the impact of a charter school on the school district's Per Pupil Funding (PPR).

Imus said that Per Pupil Funding, which is based on the Funded Pupil Count, would remain the same. Still, the School District would lose funding due to those funds being passed on to the charter school. District expenses would remain the same despite the funding reduction, she noted.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2025-2026 Budget and related resolutions 06-2025 Appropriation Resolution 2025-2026; 07-2025 Use of Fund Balance Resolution 2025-2026; 08-2025 Budget Reserve Increase Resolution 2025-2026.

The next item to be considered was a Recommendation to (Approve/Deny/Approve with Conditions) the Montrose Classical Academy Charter School.

A rubric was included in the meeting

packet.

District A Director Neisha Balleck moved to approve the charter application submitted by Montrose Classical Academy to open a charter school for the 2026-27 school year, subject to conditions based on the findings in the charter review process and as determined by the Board of Education.

Board President Sarah Fishing asked if there was any discussion.

Balleck spoke, thanking the MCA Board for taking the time to reapply. She spent time discussing criteria for the decision and the review process. and noted that the External Reviewer had recommended denial; she raised concerns about the External Review and addressed specific concerns of the reviewer.

"...the classical model and delivery of the full approach that this Classical Academy is offering hasn't been done in our district, and it is different. The Singapore Math that they're offering is different. Latin from grade school on is different..."

District C Director Alice Murphy also spoke, thanking the MCA Board for their efforts and the District Office for providing the rubric. She thanked the District Accountability Committee. "It was good to sit down and talk with them and hear what they had to say."

Murphy thanked the public as well, saying that she made an effort to get out in public to hear feedback. "Getting that community comment was good."

Murphy listed her concerns, including the budget; special education; the choice of opting for Social Security over PERA; food service -- "you have to have a facility and it would take remodeling that facility...you have to get a group that you're going to go with..."

She discussed the costs of food service, "A lot of costs that were not added into the budget..."

She also discussed concerns of the District Accountability Committee.

District B Director Ted Valerio spoke, "...It's very evident everybody's put a lot of effort into trying to solve problems or concerns as we go along...we're in the middle of trying to make a good decision on overall what to do."

The Number one concern is money, Valerio said.

He said that he received emails despite those things being discussed and made clear in meetings. Misinformation was rampant, he said, and discussed the intent of the law concerning charter school reviews. The process has been impacted by subjectivity, he said, "...I try to stay away from a lot of subjective things, but I've seen a lot of it within this whole process...From what I've seen from MCA is they're doing their best to present objective material, and how it's received, I don't know. So, I have to go back to, we need to maintain our focus on what the law is giving us to look at.

"One of the small things...it was addressed to the Charter School, it was a deficiency, for 'Do you have your web site in compliance with the new state law on accessibility.' So, I just did a little bit of a check before I came today on our (school district) main page...and we're deficient in 22 positions on our main page at the school district...we're requiring, as we should, that level to occur within the MCA, yet we're deficient there also. So, I'm not saying we shouldn't hold them to a high standard, because we absolutely should, in fact we're mandated to do that, but we need to make sure that it's not an impossible achievement..."

Overall, people really do want more choice, Valerio said. "Our community with our younger people who actually have kids in school, they really do want that for Montrose..."

Board President Sarah Fishing said that there was a direct question by Director Neisha Balleck concerning the financial impact on the district, and added that the question was answered by the administration.

District F Director Jody Hovde spoke. "...I have reviewed this second application, I appreciate the improvements you have made in it from the initial proposal...I still worry about the sustainability financially, and their operational readiness...there's around 200 elementary letters of intent...you look at that 200, and then you look at, we have approximately...2500 elementary students that are part of

## RE-1J BOARD DENIES MCA APPLICATION From previous pg

MCSD...

"So then I say to myself, is this a need, or is this just a special subset of families that want something different?

"...So, it tells me that this isn't really like a proposal that's popular, or unpopular, but that it's a complex decision that we're making...I think it's an issue that's complex across our country right now in a lot of ways...I have done my research, I have taken feedback from stakeholders...I have listened and I've tried to listen intently to both sides...I don't think it's a black and white decision...if it's approved, it has to be viable, it has to be transparent, it has to be sustainable for five, ten, 15, 20 years...we have to make sure that whatever our decision is, it's going to move on for the long haul, not the short haul..."

District A Director Neisha Balleck noted that there's a lot of different things the board is required to look at, and the board can't be subjective. "...I just want to acknowledge that they have really gone above and beyond on acknowledging...I'm concerned that if this is denied, it'll really just be blatant disrespect to MCA's efforts and the quality of this application.

"It just makes me concerned that maybe

the application maybe wasn't really thoroughly gone through with eyes with a legal view, or thoroughly gone through at all..."

It would benefit the Board of Education to be more familiar with charter school law, Balleck said.

The motion to approve the application with conditions was denied in a four to two vote, with Balleck and Valerio voting to approve.

District C Director Alice Murphy then moved to deny the application.

The motion to deny was approved in a four to two vote, with Balleck and Valerio voting to deny the motion to deny.

The board considered the final New Business item, approval of the Superintendent's contract.

Valerio raised concerns over the fact that neither the evaluation nor board member input would affect retention of the Superintendent.

"I have never seen that, where we have a governing board that's over somebody as their sole employee, yet nothing the board says would affect their retention or discipline. Just kind of a strange thing that would end up in a contract—I'm sure the

teachers don't get the same consideration."

Balleck asked why the three-year contract is not an annual contract, "If we keep voting every year to restart the three years."

The board in the past has not done that (annual contract), Fishing said. "I believe it offers stability for the district. The board can also choose not to retain the superintendent for cause."

Valerio said that it really doesn't make sense.

Fishing said that the board could have a legal discussion; Hovde suggested an executive session to talk about the length of the contract.

Renewal of the Superintendent's contract was approved in a five to one vote, with Valerio voting to deny.

The Board entered into Executive Session for a conference with Attorney Jon Fero to discuss the charter school resolution in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(b) and then returned to regular session.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board of Education will meet again for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 12.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES NEW AMAZON LAST-MILE FACILITY

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Amazon announced plans to expand its investment in Colorado by opening a new delivery station in Montrose. This new 12,000-square-foot site is being constructed near the Montrose Regional Airport. Launch plans for this delivery station are in the early stages and construction is underway.

"This last mile facility will allow us to better serve customers in Montrose and the surrounding area," said Sam Bailey, Amazon's senior manager of economic development policy in Colorado. "We're grateful for our partnership with the Montrose Economic Development Corporation. We look forward to sharing more details about this facility in the future."

The new last-mile facility, located at 496 County Road in Montrose, will help power the last mile of Amazon's fulfillment process by enabling fast, everyday delivery directly to customers' doorsteps. Packages are transported to delivery stations from Amazon fulfillment and sortation centers and then employees process customer packages for last-mile delivery. Most employees in customer fulfillment

and transportation earn between \$17 and \$28 per hour.

"It has been an exciting venture working with Amazon and their team over the last 15 months," said Sandy Head, executive director of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation. "Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) focuses on primary jobs and Amazon fits within our mission. Amazon will bring good paying jobs and new opportunities to Montrose. It is an honor to have them choose Montrose for this distribution facility." City of Montrose Mayor David Frank, who also sits on the economic development board, said he is pleased to have Amazon as a new member of the community.

"The City of Montrose welcomes businesses that offer employment at a higher wage and offer more economic diversity to our community," said Mayor Frank.

Since 2010, Amazon has created more than 20,000 full- and part-time jobs in Colorado and invested more than \$15 billion across the state, including infrastructure and compensation to employees. These investments have contributed

an additional \$15 billion to Colorado's economy and have helped create more than 29,600 indirect jobs on top of Amazon's direct hires—from jobs in construction and logistics to professional services, based on the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

In addition, thousands of independent sellers—most of which are small and medium-sized businesses—in Colorado, are selling to customers in Amazon's store, creating thousands of additional jobs across the state.

**About Amazon** Amazon is guided by four principles: customer obsession rather than competitor focus, passion for invention, commitment to operational excellence, and long-term thinking. Amazon strives to be Earth's most customer-centric company, Earth's best employer, and Earth's safest place to work. Customer reviews, 1-Click shopping, personalized recommendations, Prime, Fulfillment by Amazon, AWS, Kindle Direct Publishing, Kindle, Career Choice, Fire tablets, Fire TV, Amazon Echo, Alexa, Just Walk Out technology, Amazon Studios, and The Climate Pledge are some of the things pioneered by Amazon.



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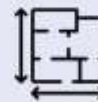
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SUBTERRA INSIGHTS, LLC: TARGETING CONSERVATIVE MUNICIPALITIES TO FLIP ELECTIONS?

*Editor:*

I attended a meeting at the United Methodist Church in Montrose on June 26, which Ellen Angeles announced at the last MCSB District meeting. It was sponsored by Subterra Insights, LLC. Although Subterra promotes itself as a neutral organization on their website, I discovered that there seems to be a hidden agenda to affect change in conservative areas, and they are targeting the upcoming Montrose County School Board election in November.

Led by Rob Rogers and Melissa Hendrix, the website states:

"At Subterra Insights, we are committed to pioneering innovative solutions that drive transformative decisions. One of our most groundbreaking contributions to the **political** landscape is the Citizen Lifetime Value (CLV) metric. This advanced tool, adapted from marketing analytics, enhances **voter targeting** and digital advertising, providing a comprehensive, data-driven approach to understanding and engaging voters." (<https://subterrainsights.com/revolutionizing-voter-targeting-with-citizen-lifetime-value-clv/>)

This sounds harmless, but at the beginning of the presentation, several videos of Betsy DeVos, her husband and Lance Wallnau talked about the need to take over education (which Mr. Rogers called Christian Nationalism). At the get-go, the stage was clear: to make people think that all conservatives are Christian Nationalists, and how imperative it is to elect people outside of this ideology. There might be some "Christian Nationalists" who want to bring Christianity into the public classroom, but to make a sweeping statement (or impression) is dangerous.

We have two conservative school board members currently, and they are anything but "Christian Nationalists." However, they both have a desire to see our public schools effective in raising up well-educated and well-adjusted future leaders of our country. Mr. Rogers also claimed that "Christian Nationalists" are appealing to voters' fears to get their support by using deception. Again, this does not apply to Montrose County.

Another disturbing issue was their view on charter schools. They do not believe that charter schools should be public schools. They claimed that certain people are given preference to attend over others, which does not align with the rules of charter schools. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-serve basis, and if there are more students than spaces, a lottery occurs. All children are accepted: ethnicities, genders, disabled, etc. The impression given was charter schools self-ruled and had little accountability, however, that is not true.

My son went to a charter school in Boulder County and it resembled a public school. There was no elitism, favoritism and unaccountability, and I was very involved.

One last point... Mr. Rogers stated that public schools shape civic identity, workforce readiness and basic trust in institutions. Charter schools do this as well. As a matter of fact, students in many charter schools learn about civics and how government is run. more than

regular" public schools. Unfortunately, that is not the case for most public school students. Check out this article from the American Federation of Teachers: [https://www.aft.org/ae/summer2018/shapiro\\_brown](https://www.aft.org/ae/summer2018/shapiro_brown).

I will give Mr. Rogers credit in that he says that everyone should care about public education in Montrose, and all of us should be familiar with our school board and what is going on in our community. Absolutely!

*Leah Vandersluis*

*Concerned Citizen of Montrose*



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMOCRAT LEADERS PERFECTLY OK WITH INCREASED CRIME, CORRUPTION, CHAOS

*Editor:*

If Democrats would stop giving me prime examples of their having no sane leadership, I would stop writing about them. New York City primary voters just selected Uganda native Zohan Kwame Mamdani, a socialist and intifada supporter, as the Democrat party candidate for mayor. Mamdani checks all the boxes required for success in today's Democrat party: He supports Hamas and sharia law. He is anti-Semitic and promises to arrest Netanyahu if he enters NYC. He is for gender transitioning of minors. His platform is short and to the point: free everything --- free buses, government operated grocery stores, a war on landlords including rent freezes and obstructing foreclosures --- and defunding and eliminating the police. His plan to pay for his agenda is to tax the rich and corporations to oblivion, which will accelerate the exodus of the city's taxable population.

As Democrats shed supporters (males, female athletes, Jews, Christians, parents, blacks, Hispanics, the sane?) and the city sheds residents, the radical elements of the party increase proportionately, and the party's stranglehold on the city increases. NYC is just following in the footsteps of Los Angeles, whose mayor considers Fidel Castro her hero, and Chicago, whose mayor has been described as a communist. Not surprisingly, Mamdani is fully supported by the usual Democrat party luminaries (Bernie Sanders, AOC, Chuck Schumer, Pocahontas, Letitia James, etc.). Democrat "leaders" are perfectly OK with the increased crime, corruption, financial mismanagement, and chaos that will follow if Mamdani is elected.

Democrats still haven't figured out that Trump won the last election in a massive victory because voters rejected their delusional thinking on almost everything. The invasion of 10 to 15 million unvetted illegals during Biden's tenure was a huge turn-off to voters, including many Democrats. The Democrat party fully intended for that invasion to continue. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that continuing the invasion (ten million more? 100 million? a billion?) was untenable and unsustainable without totally destroying this country. Likewise, the vast majority of Americans find Democrats' interference with police and ICE agents and the open encouragement of riots and unrest to be repulsive. Likewise for unaddressed crime

in the streets, the drag-queen culture, the abortion at any time and for any reason culture, the all-white-people-are-racist culture, etc. Democrats also still haven't figured out that they can't win elections if they can't put forth candidates that at least appear to be somewhat normal and are at least marginally competent. Voters are more than turned off by Democrats like Ilhan Omar bitching about racism and inequality in America while ignoring that her native country Somalia is so corrupt they still have tens of thousands of people in real slavery. Democrats also do themselves no favors when the face of their party is someone like Jasmine Crockett, who this week mocked Melania Trump for the type of visa she first used to come to the U.S. Crockett characterized the EB-1 visa as an "Einstein visa" and ignorantly tried to make fun of Melania as supposedly a stupid person undeserving of the visa because she was once a fashion model. In fact, for that visa, you're supposed to have "evidence of commercial success in the performing arts," which would have qualified Melania quite well. Aside from that, Melania speaks five or six languages fluently and is obviously quite intelligent. I've listened to some of Crockett's diatribes. Suffice it to say, her private schools and law school failed to give her much of a command of the basic English language and her intelligence is less obvious.

Meanwhile, in the real world, Trump brokered historic peace agreements between some of the world's most volatile rivals --- India and Pakistan, Israel and Iran, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. In May, Trump used trade as leverage to broker a peace agreement between India and Pakistan, threatening to cut trade benefits unless both sides (both nuclear powers) agreed to halt military action. As for Israel and Iran, Trump brokered a ceasefire deal after 12 days of war. You won't read about the historic peace agreement ending the DRC-Rwanda conflict in our illustrious media, because it doesn't fit their narrative. That 20-year war was responsible for millions of deaths (more deaths than any other conflict since WWII), legions of child soldiers, and at least six failed UN missions. All are stunning diplomatic victories.

With the well-conceived and incredibly successful strike to destroy Iran's nuclear ambitions, you would think that just once Demo-

crats would take a moment to be something other than destructively partisan. Their playbook is obvious and is wearing thin with the American people: feign a crisis and do everything possible to sidestep Trump. Dems couldn't decide whether the attack was too aggressive or not aggressive enough, or whether it was a total failure or just a reckless success. They reflexively pivoted to challenging the commander-in-chief's authority to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. This is the same Dem party that under Obama and Biden sent Iran pallets of cash (billions) and lifted sanctions --- bribes dressed up as diplomacy --- effectively financing Iranian terrorism around the world. This is the same Dem party that now wants to impeach Trump for bombing Iran without congressional approval, but recent Democrat presidents bombed Yugoslavia, Syria, Yemen, and directed a war in Ukraine using US weapons, all without congressional approval. Obama bombed Libya for seven months without authorization, whereas Trump's attack on Iranian nuclear sites was shorter than Kamala Harris explaining why she loves yellow school buses. The hard fact is, legally speaking, Congress did authorize the strikes in its Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) signed into law following 9/11. Since that time, including twelve full years of Democrat control, Congress could have, but chose not to, terminate the AUMF.

Democrats are now also wringing their hands about Iranian sleeper cells inside the US --- conveniently forgetting that Iranian nationals are here because of Biden's open-borders policy.

This past week, eleven Iranian nationals illegally in the US, including a Revolutionary Guard sniper, were arrested. Guess who will be setting up every legal roadblock to deporting or prosecuting any of these foreign nationals and portraying them as persecuted heroes?

Here are some reasons to smile: The Supreme Court this week ended nationwide injunctions by rogue judges, greenlit third-country deportations, authorized states to defund Planned Parenthood, and re-asserted parental rights in education to opt out of LGBT school propaganda. Also, this week's all time record high stock market further beclowned the so-called media "experts."

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*



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**CONTACT: LESLIE GORE**

📞 19702753195

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

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



# **DAVE FRANK - MAYOR / MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL**

**will be announcing a  
proclamation at the  
Montrose City Council Meeting  
on Tuesday - July 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6 pm  
honoring our veterans.**

**April Heard & Amy Eifling  
(representing Welcome Home Alliance for  
Veterans)**

**has received a request from  
Mayor Dave Frank  
to receive the Proclamation  
on behalf of our veterans.**

**April & Amy are requesting our fellow  
veterans to join us  
on Tuesday - July 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6 pm  
at the Montrose City Council meeting  
as we receive the proclamation from  
Mayor Dave Frank.**

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## PROPERTY FEATURES



3 Bedroom



2 Bathroom



Fully Furnished



1162 SF



8x8 Matching Shed

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(\$1,622.00 mortgage plus  
\$676.00 lot rent)

## CONTACT DETAILS



970-249-0493



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



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

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



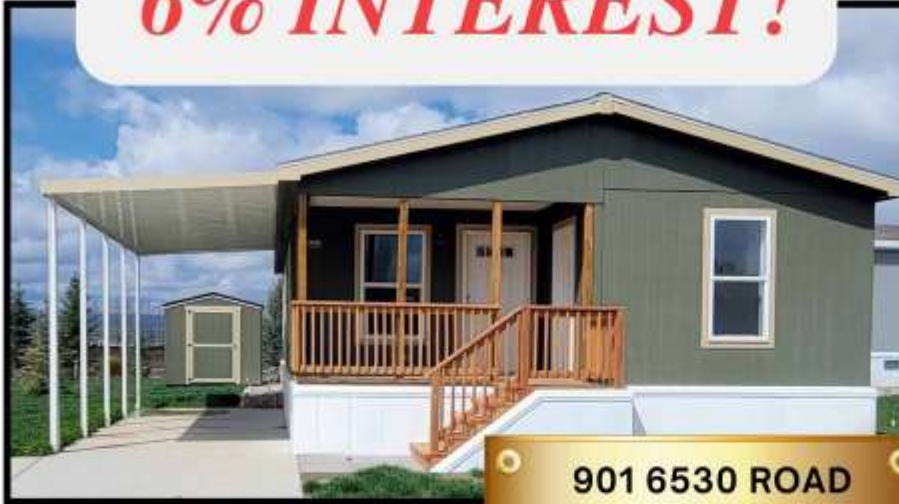


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Welcome Home

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MONTROSE, CO**



**PROPERTY FEATURES**



**3 Bedroom**



**2 Bathroom**



**Lovely Open  
Concept Home**



**1344 SF**



**8x8 Matching Shed**

**\*ONLY \$2,100.00  
PER MONTH\***

**(\$1,424.00 mortgage plus  
\$676.00 lot rent)**

**CONTACT DETAILS**



**970-249-0493**



**manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com**



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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.\*





# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PRESIDENTIAL ARTICLE II AUTHORITY UPHELD BY SUPREME COURT

*Editor:*

The United States Constitution balances power among government branches while preserving their distinct roles. Article II, Section 1 states: **"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America."** This foundational principle ensures a strong executive to enforce laws and protect national interests. However, when Congress or the judiciary oversteps, it risks undermining the separation of powers, a cornerstone of our Constitutional Republic.

On June 26, 2025, the Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, ruled against rogue District Federal judges issuing nationwide injunctions. This landmark ruling reinforces that such actions by lower courts can improperly encroach on the President's Article II authority, particularly in areas like national security or foreign policy, where executive power is paramount. The decision clarifies that only Article III courts, primarily the Supreme Court, hold the constitutional authority to check executive actions in a manner consistent with the separation of powers.

Congress can also threaten this balance by

enacting laws that delegate excessive authority to administrative agencies or courts within the Executive Branch, diluting the President's ability to exercise Article II powers. Such laws may be constitutionally suspect. Historical precedent, like President Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus during the Civil War, supports the President's authority to prioritize constitutional duties, even amidst legal challenges.

Administrative courts, or non-Article III courts, within federal agencies handle specialized matters like immigration or veterans' benefits. These courts, subordinate to the President, lack authority to issue binding rulings that override executive decisions. When they overstep, they create tension within the Executive Branch, as the Supreme Court's recent ruling underscores.

Article III courts play a vital role in checking executive and legislative actions. However, judicial activism, such as nationwide injunctions by lower courts, can disrupt the balance of powers. The Supreme Court's decision builds on cases like *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*

(1952), affirming that presidential power is strongest when rooted in constitutional or statutory authority but not unlimited. The President remains accountable through congressional oversight, impeachment, and judicial review by Article III courts. Yet, when laws or judicial actions undermine the President's duties, they threaten the government's structure. Alexander Hamilton, in *The Federalist No. 70*, emphasized a vigorous executive as essential for national protection and steady law administration. Encroachments weaken the Executive Branch and the nation.

To preserve this balance, Congress should avoid laws that unduly constrain presidential authority, and courts must exercise restraint in matters of executive discretion. The American people should demand that elected officials and judges uphold the Constitution's clear intent. The Supreme Court's June 26, 2025, ruling is a critical step toward ensuring that executive power remains vested in the President, as the Constitution intends.

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



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

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BATHROOMS

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CONTACT: LESLIE GORE



19702753195

lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com

<https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## FASCISM KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

Editor,

In a recent opinion piece, I wrote about the three-legged stool. I expressed a concern that if one branch of government is given more power than the other, we will start seeing our Republic falter and eventually fall. The Supreme Court's decision to limit the power of the Federal court system with respect to applying injunctions against presidential executive orders will disrupt the checks and balance structure of our government.

In a Republic, political power is held by the **people** or their elected representatives, rather than by a monarch or other hereditary ruler. Key features include elected officials, a focus on the common good, and, **a constitution that limits the power of government**. I don't think our current administration or the majority in

Congress supports the concept of "we the people."

Trump demands loyalty to him not the Constitution. That is a classic example of authoritarianism, someone who demands that people obey completely and refuses to allow them freedom to act as they wish. Authoritarianism leads to fascism; in fact, it is a key component of that form of government. Other traits of fascism are Ultra-Nationalism; it glorifies military power and violence, viewing them as essential for national strength and expansion.

One does not have to look too far to see examples of this militarism, look at the June 14th parade, look at Trump's zeal for imperialism regarding Canada and Greenland. Another trait of fascism is suppression of opposition. You don't have to look

past the protest in LA where the POTUS deployed active-duty marines to try and squash the voice of the people. The American People.

The Supreme Court's June 27, 2025 decision is only going to embolden Mr. Trump. He will stretch the authority given to him by the Supremes. In order to maintain that power he knows he needs key enablers to stay in Congress. It would not surprise me to see Trump declare Marshal Law in 2026 and suspend or cancel the mid-term elections thus ensuring at least two more years of absolute control.

He needs to be neutered. You do that by removing his enablers from Congress every election cycle.

Stand up and fight for the United States of America!

*Dave Stockton, Montrose*



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

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**  
*Montrose Author & Reporter*

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



# CALKINS QUESTIONS LACK OF ANSWERS FROM CONSULTANT AS PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY PROJECT DISCUSSIONS GRIND ON



*The Project 7 Water Authority held their monthly meeting on June 26. It is now recommended that the Resiliency Project to build a second water treatment plant south of Montrose be smaller, with phased in projects, rather than one big project. (Facing L to R) Chair and Olathe Representative Jake Foreman, City of Montrose Representative David Bries, and Alternate Chipeta Representative Kathy Calkins. In a five-to-one vote, Calkins voted against extending the D.A. Davidson (Financial Advisor) contract. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-The June 26 Project 7 Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jake Foreman. The April 24, 2025, minutes were approved.

## Changes to Agenda:

Removed Item #7, Legal Update. Attorney James Silvestro was unavailable.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Resiliency Program:

The Resiliency Project, which was first presented in 2023, would build a second water treatment plant south of Montrose with direct access to Ridgway Reservoir. The project continues to change and evolve. As larger contracts (design/build/construction) are allowed to expire, there is a need to extend, and make new contracts with individuals. Outside legal will be charged with producing a Standard Contracting Template, which should be in place by August.

Engineer Rick Huggins, who is not currently under contract, is working pro bo-

no. Huggins recommended revising the project to a phased project with seven or eight packages over a 10-year period. Phased work will better manage cash-flow.

## Recommended Work Packages (PowerPoint Slide)

- Raw Waterline (including early work package)
- Finished waterline
- Finished waterline Segment D
- COM HWY 550 & Otter Road Vault
- Tri-County Appurtenant Structures
- Water Plant Construction
- Water Plant Expansion 1
- Water Plant Expansion 2

Huggins said, "This is more of a pay-as-you-go project. We can lower the capacity a little and still have a meaningful project."

Vicki Ripp of Tri County Water Conservancy District said, "Would any of these run concurrently? A couple of these going together?"

Huggins said, "In terms of the first pro-

ject I recommend the raw waterline. We can do together or separate."

Ripp said, "Why would you build a pipe to nowhere?"

Huggins said, "It's not uncommon. It comes to the community as reorganization [and] to see it come through [as a finished product]. There shouldn't be any fear about that. Intergovernmental Agreements [IGA] are critical for us, necessary to manage. Tri-County and Montrose to manage. There will be three IGAs."

## We are planning for three IGAs to formalize roles, responsibilities, and finance (PowerPoint slide)

**IGA 1** – Operational, Staff Level Development

-Signed by Tri-County and Project 7 Water Authority.

**IGA 2** – Operational, Staff Level Development

-Signed by Tri-County, City of Montrose, and Project 7 Water Authority

**IGA 3** – Financial, Manager and Finance Director Development

-All parties are signatory

-Relies on the financial input volunteers for guidance

-Formalizes the recommendations of the cost allocation study

-Covers asset repayments, depreciation, payment for services, and ownership.

Chipeta Water District Representative Kathy Calkins said, "This is putting the cart before the horse. We were going to have answers to four questions before we did this. We want to know about cost allocation."

City of Montrose Representative David Bries said, "There are a lot of pieces to the puzzle. It's hard to have all the pieces. There's how to operate, how to fund, how to allocate. We have to balance all of that at the same time."

Huggins said, "It's an ongoing conversation. I'd like to remain on the team. And Jessica [Garver employee] would keep the team intact."

Chair Jake Foreman said, "It's not like you're going out and spending a lot of money right now."

Attending virtually, D.A. Davidson Municipal Advisors Representative Greg Swartz



# PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY PROJECT DISCUSSIONS From previous pg

said, "As the board knows we are conducting a Cost Allocation Study [Hazen Sawyer of North Carolina] for member agencies. We are going to be comparing rates of 10 regional water supplier companies to Project 7. On July 24 Hazen Sawyer will do a presentation."

Financial advisor Swartz presented a projected rate. He said, "We are projecting if the project is not ready to proceed in 2026. We are reasonable with \$2.70 for 2026. We will update in July and August. We can get by with a \$2.70 [per 1,000 gal] increase."

## 2026 Preliminary P7WA Rate and Schedule (PowerPoint Slide)

Year	\$ Per 1,000 gal	
2018	\$0.90	Actual
2019	0.90	Actual
2020	1.00	Actual
2021	1.15	Actual
2022	1.30	Actual
2023	1.45	Actual
2024	1.95	Actual
2025	2.45	Proposed
2026 - A	2.45	Proposed
2026 - B	2.70	Proposed

## Authority Manager's Report – Adam Turner.

Consumption Report – May 2025

Cash Flow Report – May 2025 (\$600,000 up from water sales from last year)

Process Control – May 2025

## Updates:

Turner reported on snowpack on Blue Mesa, Taylor, Ridgway, and Silver Jack and slower communication with the Bureau of Reclamation. He said, "The Bureau of Reclamation has lost a lot of staff with the early retirements and buyouts."

## New Business:

**Proposed 2026 Rate Structure and Schedule** (covered previously for planning purposes)

## Renewal of Advisor Contract (action – renewal)

The D.A. Davidson contract expires in June. Turner said, "We need to renew Greg's contract for two months, to the end of August. That will give us time to come up with a standard contract."

Calkins said, "We're extending the contract when we haven't come up with answers?"

Turner said, "This is to have him remain on the team."

Calkins said, "Why aren't we meeting deadlines? Who's not on the ball?"

Swartz said, "I'm confused about not meeting our deadlines. If I have missed a deadline, I apologize. I'm helping to find out what is affordable and what is not. Our financial model can only answer part of your questions. I don't know that we've missed a deadline. You're [Project 7] doing a pretty good job compared to others across the nation."

Calkins said, "I thought we were working on four questions...the 2 ½ percent of median household income. It's become sort of a shell game. Where do we stand on the bond rating? [We were told] by the end of June we would have all the information. We could vote by July or August. In one meeting Greg told us, 'I'll be glad to be done with this...'"

Swartz said, "I don't mean to be defensive or offensive. It's clear I'm taking this more personally than I should. I'm hanging up and someone can notify me of your decision!" Swartz disconnected from Zoom. **Action:** In a five-to-one vote the D.A. Davidson contract was extended for two months. Calkins voted no.

**Background:** Since October 2024, the topic of Cost Allocation has arisen in every public meeting. During the February 27, 2025 meeting Swartz presented a calendar/

timeline that he would send out prior to each monthly meeting. He said, "More than half [of the board] is worried about cost allocation. We'll have a firm response by March 14<sup>th</sup> and make recommendations to the board by March 27<sup>th</sup>. Once firm, it will take two to three months to complete. I'm more worried about consensus than I am about timing."

## Standard Contracting Template - Informational

Meeting adjourned.

## Project 7 Background:

Established on Sept. 29, 1977, the Project 7 Water Authority is a cooperative among seven water entities that provide domestic water to the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley. The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member). Project 7 Board meetings, the fourth Thursday of every month at 4:30 p.m., are now available to the public on Zoom.

## Project 7 Contact Information:

The seven entities that represent the Project 7 Water Authority are:

The City of Montrose David Bries 970-240-1484 dbries@cityofmontrose.org

The City of Delta Mayor Kevin Carlson 970-874-7566 kevin@cityofdelta.net

The Town of Olathe Mayor Jake Foreman 970-323-5601 jacob.foreman@geocities.com

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District Vicki Ripp 970-874-5127 info@tricountywater.org

The Chipeta Water District John McCollum 970-209-5137 jmc-collum@rvemontrose.com

The Menoken Water District Randy Meaker 970-249-5118

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## GOLF AND GUNS – TWO POPULAR SUBJECTS THESE DAYS

### *City and State - Games People (Politicians & the Elite) Play*

By David White

#### Golf...

So more of our City tax money was at and in play at the Cobble Creek Golf Course recently. According to Montrose Press columnist and former publisher of the paper, Steve Woody, ***"The team of Bill Bell, Connor Bell, Sydney Bell and William Woody won the annual HopeWest hospice golf tournament Saturday, June 21, at the Links of Cobble Creek. The tournament featured 27 teams and was a scramble format."*** so wrote Mr. Woody in an article that appeared in the Montrose Press on June 24<sup>th</sup> about the HopeWest/Hospice golf tournament fund raiser that was held at this private golf course.

(DIVOTS: Golf Notes | Local Sports News | [montrosepress.com](http://montrosepress.com))

HopeWest is a wonderful organization that does so much for communities on the Western Slope during times that challenge most families. Charity events are held often to support the organization. Most non-profits rely on these to keep their operations going. ***But that's not the point of this letter.*** The point is that you and I paid the entry fee for this "charity" event that Montrose City Manager Bill Bell and his family (son Connor & daughter Sydney) and William Woody, Public Information Director for the City of Montrose (Steve Woody's son) played in to the tune of \$1,000.

In addition, we find that Montrose Police Department (most likely through Chief Blaine Hall, a direct subordinate to City Manager Bell) forked over another \$1,000 in entry fees for this tournament paid for out of the Public Safety Fund (I hope the \$1K didn't come out of the Public Safety Sales Tax dollars they receive!). According to the HopeWest website, "great prizes" were awaiting the winners ([Montrose Golf Tournament - HopeWest](http://Montrose Golf Tournament - HopeWest)). I would hope that the "winners" (Bill Bell and family) declined the prizes and if not, will offer them to the City or other charitable or-

ganizations in lieu of taking something that was technically paid for with taxpayer dollars. Certainly, with a salary and benefit package in the \$250,000 range, such would have been a person's (other than Mr. Bell) first thought, but I highly doubt it crossed his mind. As if this wasn't enough, there was an expenditure made last month of \$13,920 by the City to The Bridges Golf & Country Club for four (4) unidentified City employee golf memberships there and written off to the City's self-insurance fund as a prepayment of memberships that will be reimbursed (supposedly), monthly, by these nebulous and unnamed City employees. Given the City Manager's penchant for golf, my suspicion is that he's one of the four beneficiaries of this interest-free use of taxpayer dollars.

On top of these payments, last October, the City paid over \$11,000 for two "City Championship" golf tournaments held at The Bridges and Cobble Creek Golf courses. The absurdity of all of this is that ***the City OWNS A GOLF COURSE!!*** and we're paying thousands and thousands of dollars for tournaments and memberships at other local golf courses to the tune of ***almost \$27,000*** over the last 9 months all the while pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the maintenance and operation of our own Black Canyon Golf Course???

The common denominator in all of this is that ***Bill Bell loves golf!*** He's used the City coffers to pay for tournaments that his kids have been in all to benefit them and their ability to obtain athletic scholarships at the colleges or universities of their choosing as well as sponsoring the American Junior Golf Association Regional Tournament held at The Bridges in 2021, 2022 & 2023 that cost the City (us) ***over \$100,000*** and added to that, was payment of his son Connor's entry fees for two of the three tournaments, the last of which

coincided with Connor's senior year in high school and the tournament hasn't been back since, yet the contributions continued in 2024 to no doubt benefit his daughter Sydney who is on the Montrose High School golf team and will be graduating in 2026! What the heck???? And it continues as evidenced by the \$2,000 paid for this latest charity golf event. Not even the City Council can control the spendthrift ways that their own employee uses as justification for the abuse of his access to the City treasury. These incestuous relationships just sicken me when put into proper context. The problem is that the public is unaware of how these people are connected and how their tax dollars are being misused! As I often say, wake up folks!

#### Guns...

In 2024, Governor Jared Polis signed a whopping 519 bills into law. They range in topic from property taxes to gun storage to wolverine reintroduction, and many took effect on January 1, 2025. In 2025, he signed 476 bills into law with many going into effect tomorrow, July 1, 2025. Gun bills were at the forefront of a rancorous and decidedly far left legislative session that drew national attention to Colorado.

Some of the bills going into effect tomorrow include two (2) gun related bills:

***House Bill 1174: Sponsored by Majority Leader Monica Duran, D-Wheat Ridge, and Sens. Kyle Mullica, D-Thornton, and Marc Snyder, D-Colorado Springs, the measure requires applicants for a concealed carry permit to complete eight hours of in-person training taught by a verified instructor. The course must include instruction on topics like safe storage, federal and state laws pertaining to the purchase and possession of guns, and state laws pertaining to the use of deadly force for self-defense. Additionally, applicants are now required to pass a written exam and a live-fire exam.***

## GOLF AND GUNS – TWO POPULAR SUBJECTS *From previous pg*

**House Bill 1353:** The final portion of House Bill 1353, which requires firearms dealers to obtain a state permit, mandates the Department of Revenue to develop training or approve training courses for firearms dealers. The training can be either in-person or virtual and includes an exam with a required score of 70% or higher to pass. Also going into effect on July 1 is a section of the law requiring dealers to conduct fingerprint background checks on prospective employees and prohibits them from hiring individuals who have been convicted of an offense that prohibits them from owning or possessing a firearm or has been convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses in the past five years. Additionally, the bill requires firearms dealers who believe someone has purchased or attempted to purchase a firearm illegally to inform law enforcement within 48 hours. The bill was sponsored by Reps. Emily Sirota, D-Denver, Andrew Boesenecker, D-Fort Collins, Jeff Bridges, D-Greenwood Village, and Dafna Michaelson Jenet, D-Commerce City. Read more about the bill [here](#).

As a reminder, another gun related bill went into effect back on January 1<sup>st</sup> and that bill requires you to lock up any firearm you have in your vehicle or face a fine. The following is information on that gun bill:

### **Firearms in Vehicles Must Be Stored Securely (HB24-1348)**

As of January 1, 2025, guns must be stored in cases inside locked vehicles.

**The issue:** Denver Police Department reported that 1,221 guns were stolen in 2023—846 from vehicles. Democratic lawmakers hope that requiring gun owners to securely store their weapons in vehicles will help reduce the amount of firearm theft in the state.

**The Law:** The [new law](#) requires that any handgun left in an unoccupied vehicle must be locked in a hard-sided case and out of sight. The vehicle must also be locked. Rifles and other firearms must be locked in a case out-of-sight as well,

though the case can be soft-sided. If a firearm is stored in the trunk of a vehicle, the trunk must be locked. The law offers exceptions for antique firearms, law enforcement officers, and people who live in recreational vehicles.

**Punishment:** According to the bill's text, the unlawful storage of a firearm in a vehicle is considered a civil infraction and may result in a fine up to \$100.

A bill unrelated to guns will require local County governments to provide copies of materials requested through an open records request at a flat rate fee of \$40.00 vs. a charge by the page. I've had estimates in the hundreds of dollars for requests I've personally made of local governments and welcome this change but wish it applied to municipalities as well.

**HB24-1269 from 2024 Regular Session:** This act modifies the fees collected by county clerk and recorders to be a flat \$40 fee instead of a fee per page, unless otherwise specified. No fee is allowed for the filing or recording of a certificate of death, a verification of death document, or a certified copy.

Back on March 31<sup>st</sup>, a bill that passed in 2024 went into effect with little public notice or fanfare regarding the right of illegal immigrants to hold Colorado driver's licenses. Here's a breakdown of that law:

### **Undocumented Immigrants Can More Easily Obtain Driver's Licenses (SB24-182)**

**The issue:** While undocumented immigrants in Colorado can already apply for driver's licenses, there are barriers to doing so. Currently, immigrants must present either a Colorado income tax return or a federal social security number, plus proof of Colorado residency for the last two years. Moreover, with [an increasing number of migrants in the state](#), the need to expedite the process is urgent.

**The law:** [The new legislation waives the two-year waiting period and allows immigrants to produce alternative documentation—including a passport or consular identification card—rather than a tax re-](#)

[turn or social security number. Applicants will still be required to pass the standard written exam, driving test, and vision screening in order to be eligible. Furthermore, their driver's license cannot be used to vote or obtain public benefits.](#)

These are just a few of the 995 bills that passed into law and were signed by the Governor over the last two years. Rather than ridding the books of antiquated or outdated laws, they keep piling on new ones. This is just insanity. The legislature needs to take a step back and stop passing bills until they get rid of the thousands of laws that no one is enforcing or even know that they exist. The lawmakers and the bureaucracy are simply out of control! For more information on these and other new laws, visit the following sites:

[8 New Colorado Laws Taking Effect in 2025 You Should Know About - 5280](#); [New Laws in Colorado to Take Effect on July 1 | Legislature | coloradopolitics.com](#); [Governor Polis Completes State-Wide Bill Signing Tour, Signing New Laws to Reduce Housing Costs, Make Colorado Safer and Save People Money | Colorado Governor Jared Polis](#)

So...golf and guns. An interesting combination to focus on depending on where you sit in the political pecking order. In my opinion, both are greatly flawed. Priorities need to be looked at and addressed. Political leaders need to stop this nonsense and focus on what is best for their respective citizen populations and not just the special interests or self-promoters. We have plenty of both.

**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

### MONTROSE SCHOOL BOARD REJECTS CHARTER SCHOOL

*Editor:*

On Tuesday, June 24, 2025, the Montrose County School District (MCSD) Board rejected the Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) application for the second time. This decision raises a question: why does the board oppose a charter school aiming to raise educational standards? The answer involves control, influence, and resistance to change.

Charter schools like MCA must meet the same academic standards as public schools but operate under their own boards. This reduces the district's direct control. MCSD's student performance is low, with only 30% proficiency in reading and 28.2% in math. An independent charter could improve this through innovative teaching and higher standards. So why

resist?

Community tips point to external influences, specifically the far-left group Indivisible, active in Montrose and the Western Slope. Allegations suggest this group is swaying some board members to oppose MCA. Their motives seem focused on maintaining ideological control rather than improving education. A classical academy emphasizing rigorous academics and diverse methods might challenge certain narratives.

Why else would the board oppose a school focused on academic excellence? MCSD's low proficiency rates show the need for change, yet the board resists. Claims that they are protecting their ability to influence students are serious but match their opposition to MCA's mission

of fostering critical thinking and classical education.

MCA has a path forward. The school's appeal will go before the Colorado Board of Education, which can overturn the district's decision. This review offers hope that MCA can bring its vision to Montrose, giving parents and students an alternative to a struggling system.

The MCSD Board's refusal to embrace change reflects a struggle over who controls education.

The community must demand transparency and accountability. The Colorado Board of Education should prioritize students' futures over politics. Montrose and its children deserve better.

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

### PUBLIC LAND ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

*Editor:*

Public land on the chopping block.

Very interesting situation.

Let me first explain that I am a descendant of a pioneer in Colorado when Colorado was still a territory, not yet a state, so I am a student of the public land scandal in America. My ancestor and I are not immune.

Having said that, I will tell you that the Southern Ute Indians in Colorado must be shaking their heads that the white man is at it again.

This time the white man's own grazing and recreational land is on the chopping block, including National Park Land and Bureau of Land Management Land. Both being horribly mismanaged has led to what I am about to tell you.

In the mid-1800s the land in southern Colorado was "given" to the Utes in small "allotments" which created a checkerboard pattern then the Federal government sold off the remaining "unassigned" lots to the public. The rest of the story is the most unfair and evil thing that ever happened to Native Americans. The reason for allotments was to force the Utes to assimilate.

And now, with this big beautiful bill stunt, the white man is just about to have "their" land sold off in parcels thanks to Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah).

If you don't stop it, billionaires will own the land or worse communists will own the land.

My motive for telling you this is to help stop the 2nd biggest land scandal in American history. That is not an exaggeration. If we are able to stop it this time we need to be prepared for the next time an evil encumbered politician has the same stupid idea.

We need to alert President Donald Trump that this trash has been inserted into his "big beautiful bill". Be alert that the Senator will hear the resistance and withdraw the inclusion only to change the verbiage and at the last moment get it reinserted. These land grabs of public land have to stop once and for all. Are you listening SCOTUS?

Good luck Americans....and I mean that honestly from the bottom of my heart. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands.

God bless America.

Happy Independence Day America.

**Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose**





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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### WHEN PERSONAL LIFE IMPACTS PROFESSIONAL LIFE: DUIs CAN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT EMPLOYMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO—When you're enjoying a beer at the ballpark, a cocktail at dinner or a smoke at a barbecue, you likely aren't thinking about work. Yet, a bad choice to get behind the wheel impaired can lead to significant consequences on a person's ability to find a new job or maintain your existing one. According to Colorado Crime Statistics over 15,560 DUI cases were filed in 2024. In addition, 214 traffic fatalities involved an impaired driver (1/3 of Colorado traffic fatalities) last year. Drivers make choices every day, Colorado State Troopers want you to make the safe one. "Troopers, judges, and employers all take DUI seriously for a reason: it can and does impact innocent people. When you think

about who a company would want to represent them, a person with a DUI doesn't typically come to mind," stated Chief Matthew C. Packard, Colorado State Patrol. "Employers have a range of policies regarding DUI convictions. Some are extremely strict, depending on the nature of your job."

Being convicted of DUI may disqualify a person from certain jobs, like those involving driving (trucking, forklift operator, transportation, etc.) or law enforcement. Even if other careers or employers are more lenient with their DUI policies, losing your license for nine months can hinder a person's job performance and reduce their duties. Other professions, like healthcare, require licensing, and employ-

ees with DUIs can face additional scrutiny from licensing boards, which can result in further disciplinary actions or even revocation of their licenses.

"It is difficult to see the long-term effect that a DUI can have on your life," explains Col. Packard. "When you are 20, it's hard to imagine that a decision you make today could impact your income or employment options when you are 30 or 40. But employers often conduct background checks, and depending on their policies, a DUI conviction could lead to job denials, especially if positioned against other candidates without a criminal record."

Keep your personal choices out of your business life. Plan for a sober ride, every time to celebrate outside of your home.



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# STATE & NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## OLDER ADULTS OUTNUMBER CHILDREN IN 11 STATES AND NEARLY HALF OF U.S. COUNTIES

### *Special to the Mirror*

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU-The U.S. population age 65 and older rose by 3.1% (to 61.2 million) while the population under age 18 decreased by 0.2% (to 73.1 million) from 2023 to 2024, according to the [Vintage 2024 Population Estimates](#) released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The data show the population continued to age, with the share of the population age 65 and older steadily increasing from 12.4% in 2004 to 18.0% in 2024, and the share of children declining from 25.0% to 21.5%. Ongoing growth among the older population, coupled with persistent annual declines in the population under age 18 has reduced the size difference between these two age groups from just over 20 million in 2020 to just below 12 million in 2024. From 2020 to 2024, the older popu-

lation grew by 13.0%, significantly outpacing the 1.4% growth of working-age adults (ages 18 to 64), while the number of children declined by 1.7%.

"Children still outnumber older adults in the United States, despite a decline in births this decade," said Lauren Bowers, chief of the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Branch. "However, the gap is narrowing as baby boomers continue to age into their retirement years. In fact, the number of states and counties where older adults outnumber children is on the rise, especially in sparsely populated areas." As recently as 2020, there were just three states where older adults outnumbered children: Maine, Vermont, and Florida. By 2024, this number had increased to 11, with Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania,

Rhode Island, and West Virginia joining their ranks.

Similarly, from 2020 to 2024, the number of U.S. metro areas with more older adults than children increased from 58 to 112. This represents nearly 30% of the nation's 387 metro areas. Additionally, in 2024, three metro areas with at least 1 million people (Cleveland, OH; Providence-Warwick, RI-MA; and Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT) had more older people than younger people for the first time.

In 2020, 31.3% (or 983) of the nation's 3,144 counties had more older adults than children. This figure increased to almost 45% (1,411 counties) in 2024. In both years, most of these counties had small populations and were located outside of metro and micro areas.

## STATE LAND BOARD TO HOST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TRUST LANDS SUMMER CONFERENCE

### *Special to the Mirror*

DENVER – The Colorado State Land Board (SLB) is proud to announce it will host the 2025 National Association of State Trust Lands (NASTL) Summer Conference.

The conference, themed "Resilience & Stewardship: Managing an Intergenerational Trust," will be held at History Colorado in Denver from Sunday, July 20 to Wednesday, July 23, 2025. State trust land managers, policymakers, and industry professionals from across the nation will come together to discuss best practices, innovative strategies, and the future of trust land management.

"We are honored to welcome our NASTL colleagues to Colorado for this important event," said Nicole Rosmarino, Director of the Colorado State Land Board. "This conference provides an invaluable opportunity for us to collaborate, share insights, and collectively advance the stewardship of state trust lands for the benefit of public education and other vital beneficiaries. We look forward to showcasing Colorado's unique approach to managing our

2.8 million acres of trust lands."

"NASTL's origins date to November 1931, when land administrators from eight Western states met in Salt Lake City, Utah, to discuss shared issues," said NASTL Executive Director, Lisa Schneider. "The initial agenda, remarkably similar to today's, included trust fund investments, conservation, federal land withdrawals, grazing management, and the School Lands Act of 1927. Colorado has hosted nine conferences dating back to 1935. We are thrilled to be back in Colorado and look forward to engaging in deep conversations and building stronger relationships among the delegates."

The NASTL Summer Conference is a premier event for professionals dedicated to optimizing revenue and managing assets derived from state trust lands. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sessions. Highlights from the agenda include: Monday, July 21: Washington D.C. Update, State and Affiliate Roll Call, and breakout sessions covering topics such as

Geologic Carbon Capture Sequestration, Beneficiaries & Land Commissioners collaboration, and Stewardship.

Tuesday, July 22: Keynote address from the Director of the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission, NASTL Business Meeting, breakout sessions on Recreation, Cultural Resource Management, Affordable Housing, and a Colorado Rockies Game in the evening.

Wednesday, July 23: A full-day tour of Lowry Ranch, a 26,000-acre trust property, including stops to hear from experts and explore complex layered leasing.

### **Registration is now open!**

The conference agenda and registration details can be found on the [NASTL website](#).

The National Association of State Trust Lands and the Colorado State Land Board extend their sincere gratitude to all sponsors. Their invaluable contributions have been crucial in enabling a national association with diverse stakeholders and an evolving issues landscape to advance its ambitious goals.



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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE: TOM ( JOSEPH T. ) HOLLINGSHEAD

A Celebration of Life for Tom ( Joseph T. ) Hollingshead will be held July 5th at the family home. The address is 62281 Highway 90 , Montrose ,Colorado. Visit with family from 11:00 to 12:00. You are then invited to join us for a barbecue and to toast Tom in our celebration of his life.

### WAYNE RAYMOND ADAMS *February 25, 1958 — June 19, 2025*



It is with deepest sorrow we announce the passing of Wayne Adams. Wayne was born to Ernestine and Raymond Adams in Denver, Colorado. He spent his childhood in Bailey with his sisters, Laurie and Gayle. Winters were spent at the family-owned Geneva Basin Ski Area where he skied and worked. Summers were spent at Blue Mesa riding his dirt bike to a favorite fishing spot. He graduated from Platte Canyon High School in 1976. He attended two years at Mesa State College before marrying his high school sweetheart, Chris Burke, in 1980.

They moved to Montrose and, in 1984, they opened Park Avenue True Value with the help of Wayne's father-in-law, Walter Burke. Together, Chris and Wayne ran it for 38 years. In his spare time, Wayne built the family home and a cabin from the ground up. Wayne was a master of many trades, including construction, electrical, plumbing, woodworking, mechanics, and more. Customers shopped at True Value seeking his expertise and friendship, but mostly he will be remembered by the way he made them feel.

He enjoyed building furniture and classic car restoration, was a loyal Avalanche and Rockies fan, and loved the Grateful Dead. Wayne was an exceptional fly fisherman who tied his own flies. He loved the Lake Fork of the Gunnison almost as much as his best friend and fishing partner, Chris Adams. They remained devoted to each other for 44 years. He was a loving father who always put his daughters first and supported them in everything they did.

He is survived by his wife, Christine Adams; daughters Whitney Adams and Emily Adams; and son-in-law, Josh Schutz. His granddaughter, Juniper, adored him. He will be greatly missed by his sisters, Laurie Dahlman (Steve) and Gayle Blair (Dave). He shared a lifelong bond with his wife's brothers and sisters, whom he loved as his own: Tim Burke (Rita), Steve Burke (Jackie), Pete Burke (Tammy), Joe Burke, Carrie Stephenson (Tedd), and Colleen Aller (Billy). He was especially close to his mother-in-law, Marril Lee Burke, and was "Uncle Wayne" to many cherished nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank HopeWest for their exceptional care, and extend gratitude to volunteers, professional caregivers, friends and family for their support. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Colorado Canyons Association or Hope West.

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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## KATHLEEN KLEO LARSON

### *August 31, 1948 — June 24, 2025*



KATHLEEN KLEO LARSON, 76, of Montrose Colorado gained her angel wings June 24, 2025, at home with her husband and daughters by her side.

Kathy was a devoted wife to her husband Richard for 59 years. They raised 4 daughters, Teresa Larson, Michelle Keltz, Christine Larson, and Angela Gallegos.

Kathy is survived by her sister Mary Schuch, and brother Daniel Bruegman, and preceded in death by her mother and father, Helen and Norman Bruegman, brothers Michael, and Randy, sister Norma Jean, and sister-in-law Eva.

Kathy was blessed with 14 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

Kathy lived her life doing what she loved, taking care of her family, gardening, and crocheting. Kathy also worked for St. Clement Church & School, in Bowling Green, MO for several years. She loved helping others while working in a local health food store in Montrose, CO. Kathy and Rich were long time members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose, CO.

A wake is scheduled for July 1 @ 7PM at Crippin Funeral Home.

Funeral mass is scheduled for July 2 @ 10AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Live streaming of funeral mass: [www.stmarymontrose.org](http://www.stmarymontrose.org)

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Hope West, 725 S 4th St, Montrose, CO 81401



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

ISSUE 528 June 30, 2025



# ART & SOL

## MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS PRESENTS: *Material Matters: Fiber Art from the Western Slope*

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) invites the public to join us for *Material Matters: Fiber Art from the Western Slope*. The exhibit runs from July 1 through Aug. 30 in the main gallery, Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. There will be two artists talks at 5:30 p.m., July 3 and Aug 14, during the Montrose Art Crawl. The exhibit will complement and enhance the Black Canyon Quilt Show taking place July 11- 13 at the Montrose Pavilion (visit [www.blackcanyonquiltshow.com](http://www.blackcanyonquiltshow.com) for more details).

The human race has had a long love affair and history with the arts of weaving and sewing. Both are some of the oldest crafts in our history, with preserved examples dating back at least 25,000 years. Our ancestors wove branches, grasses, plant fibers and animal sinew to create everything from threads to baskets, clothing to homes. Sewing was an easy step once threads were created. Early humans used bone needles and plant fibers or sinew to stitch together animal hides, creating clothing, shoes, shelters, blankets and more. Both crafts allowed ancient man to adapt more readily to various climates.

Here in America, we've had a long history with the art of quilting. Early settlers could not afford to simply discard cloth of any kind when it wore out, so worn fabrics were cut and combined with other fabrics, or used as filler between other blankets. These were not carefully constructed heirlooms, rather they were functional items for the sole purpose of keeping people warm. Only in later years, when fabrics were being manufactured in America and were more affordable, freeing women from the work of making their own yarns and fabrics, did the more artistic type of quilting become more widespread.

Today there are 9 to 11 million quilters in the U.S. and Canada. While quilting has historically been popular among older, retired women, there is a growing interest among younger people and men, especially since the skill has turned into an art form. Quilts are becoming a medium for personal expression and storytelling, with quilters incorporating symbols and motifs that represent their experiences.

Current trends in quilting include a mix of minimalist and bold designs, a focus on sustainability, and the integration of technology. Modern quilts, often featuring geometric patterns and negative space,

are popular, as are vintage-inspired designs. Hand quilting is also experiencing a revival, adding a unique texture and meditative aspect to projects. Eco-friendly quilts are becoming popular with the use of organic fabrics, natural dyes, and up-cycled materials.

"The MCA is pleased to showcase quilts and other material and fiber arts during the Material Matters show," says MCA Board President Pat Chaloupek. "It is astonishing what our artists are able to do with thread, yarn, cords, and fabric."

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## 2025 BLACK CANYON QUILT SHOW WILL BE JULY 11—13

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Montrose, Colorado's 28<sup>th</sup> annual Black Canyon Quilt Show, to be held July 11 —13, will feature approximately 150 quilts plus a variety of vendors selling quilt related products. One vendor is offering "while you visit the show" scissor sharpening," so bring your scissors and knives to be sharpened.

Guest teacher and quilt artist, Jean Impey, will teach classes on Friday and Saturday. At 2 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, Jean will present an entertaining lecture and trunk show entitled "**Finding Your Passion & Running with It**" which will appeal to show visitors. Lecture cost is \$15 at the door.

In addition, there will be a boutique with handmade quilts and quilt related items for sale to benefit the youth organization Art Partners. Come get a head start on holiday shopping!

Show visitors may want to participate in the raffle of the 93" x 93" "Aspiring Stars" quilt, pattern by Renee Hiatt and Lynn Wheatley, made by Guild members, and quilted by Patrick Whalen. Drawing for the quilt will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 13. One need not be present to win. For close up views of the raffle quilt and to purchase raffle tickets on line, visit the Black Canyon Quilt Show website <https://blackcanyonquiltshow.com>.

By appointment on Friday and Saturday, a limited number of show attendees will have the opportunity to have a special quilt appraised by Certified Appraiser, Cindy Brick. Cindy is knowledgeable about both today's quilts as well as antique ones. Quilt appraisals are useful to establish a replacement value for insurance purposes (think natural disasters and even theft); to determine a value for donation, gift, or estate purposes; or to provide adequate coverage when shipping a quilt; as well as for fascinating historical infor-



**Show visitors may want to participate in the raffle of the 93" x 93" "Aspiring Stars" quilt, pattern by Renee Hiatt and Lynn Wheatley, made by Guild members, and quilted by Patrick Whalen. Drawing for the quilt will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 13. Courtesy photo.**

mation. Cindy is a wealth of information regarding family heirloom quilts. Cost for a detailed written appraisal is \$65 while a more limited verbal appraisal is \$35.

**Schedule appraisal appointments with Pam at 970-209-2105.**

This year Black Canyon Quilt Show is partnering with Montrose Center for Arts where a special exhibit of fiber art projects entitled "Material Matters, Fiber Art from the Western Slope" is on display for

the months of July and August. Visit the Montrose Art Center at 205 E. Main Street in Montrose. Gallery hours are Tuesday—Saturday, 11 a.m.—5 p.m. Art Center admission is free.

The Black Canyon Quilt Show will be held at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Drive, in Montrose, CO. Show hours are 9—5 on Friday and Saturday, as well as 10am—3:30pm on Sunday. Admission is \$5.

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## HEARDING, TAYLOR AND THE ELECTRIC ANGEL FEATURED AT TELLURIDE ARTWALK POETRY JULY 3



**At left, Rico-based teacher and poet Mary Hearing. Above, KOTO's legendary Electric Angel, Suzanne Cheavens. Courtesy photos.**

### *Special to Art & Sol*

TELLURIDE- KOTO's legendary Electric Angel will be performing along with Mary Hearing of Rico and Lee Taylor of Lawson Hill at the second Telluride Artwalk Poetry live series at the Telluride Arts Headquarters July 3 from 6-7 pm.

"As former *Telluride Times* editor who gave Suzanne Cheavens one of her earliest jobs as a journalist, I'm delighted to see her performing her own poetry along with two of our finest regional writers," said Art Goodtimes, the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Director.

As the inimitable Cheavens writes: "I never wanted to be a poet. It was never the answer to, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' Jockey. Archeologist. Rock Star. Actor. Third base for the Baltimore Orioles. Never all the things I became. Mother. Wife. Journalist. Editor. Radio DJ. Actor. (Okay, there's a thread!) I write and always have. My very first poem, carefully scribed in thick pencil on the lined paper they use to teach little ones good penmanship skills, was a minor work called, 'Super Duper.' That's all I can remember. It may still be in a trunk in my mother's house, by now crumbling and faded, and open to interpretation, like all the best

memories. Save for yearning, Joni Mitchell-style song lyrics scrawled in a series of Big Chief tablets, or acid-fueled excursions into some kind of fractalized wonder, poetry was forgotten in my callow youth. Since retiring in May of 2025, I have been learning to fall back in love with writing after years of lending my words to newspapers, magazines, governments and the occasional ad campaign. It's time to get real. The vintage Olivetti typewriter that just found me has already unspooled new magic, letter by letter."

A Rico-based teacher and poet, Hearing earned her BA in English Literature from the University of Delaware. In 2016, she moved out to Telluride, where she taught English and History while earning her master's in Hispanic-American Literature. To-day, Mary integrates her Spanish skills, teaching background, and commitment to equity in education via her business, Karma Tutors, and its sister nonprofit, the Karma Tutors Impact Fund. She instills a love of poetry in her students and celebrates poetry by sharing it with her community in Rico.

Lee Taylor may be a brilliant entrepreneur but remains a very shy writer, playwright and poet. This event may be a very

important "coming out" opportunity before he runs off to the prestigious Fishtrap Gathering of Writers the day afterwards to study with, among others, our own Amy Irvine in Wallowa, Oregon.

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program has teamed up with Telluride Arts to offer live poetry on Artwalk Thursdays in Telluride for the summer and fall. Performances began June 5 at the Telluride Arts Headquarters on 135 W. Pacific St. with Scot Rasor of Placerville, Elle Metrick and Art Goodtimes of Wright's Mesa, and will continue on first Thursdays through October. Featured guests will give a 15-20 min. presentation each from 6-7 pm.

Telluride Artwalk Poetry is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of Telluride Arts, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer and Cantor poetry contests.

Both the Fischer and Cantor contests are currently open for submissions.

For more information on poetry contests and the many Talking Gourds programs, visit the website [www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds). For questions about the event, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at [art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org)





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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## RIDGWAY RESERVOIR SMALLMOUTH BASS CLASSIC RETURNS JULY 5 THROUGH AUG. 10

### *Special to Art & Soul*

RIDGWAY— Prize money has doubled for the return of the smallmouth bass harvest incentive tournament this year at Ridgway State Park's reservoir.

The 2025 Ridgway Reservoir Smallmouth Bass Classic will open at 7 a.m. July 5 and continue until 6 p.m. Aug. 10. This is the 10th edition of the tournament.

In 2024, the tournament moved from being conducted annually to an every-other-year format. That has allowed Colorado Parks and Wildlife to raise the available prize money for each tournament.

"This is a great opportunity for anglers to not only win cash prizes for smallmouth bass fishing, but it allows them to play an integral role in helping us achieve management goals and suppress the population of these invasive fish," said CPW aquatic biologist Eric Gardunio. "We are hopeful that the larger prize purse will increase participation to help us with those goals."

The total prize purse for this year's tournament will be \$20,000. The angler who harvests the most smallmouth bass will earn \$10,000. Second place will receive \$5,000, and third place will take home \$1,000.

There will also be three tagged smallmouth bass that are worth \$1,000 for any angler who turns in those fish.

Each smallmouth bass turned in will also count as an entry into a raffle to be held at the end of the tournament. The grand prize is \$500 with five additional raffle prizes of \$100 each. The anglers who win first, second or third place for most fish caught will be exempt from the raffle drawing.

"This allows any angler who turns even one fish in during the tournament window to be eligible for a cash prize," Gardunio said.

The tournament has been effective at helping CPW reduce the population of smallmouth bass in the reservoir in an effort to protect native fish and water

users downstream of the reservoir. The total tournament record was set during the 2022 tournament, when 5,500 fish were harvested.

Smallmouth bass, introduced illegally to Ridgway Reservoir, are predatory fish that can survive in western Colorado rivers, including the Uncompahgre River which flows from the reservoir. There is a risk of smallmouth

bass escaping from the reservoir into the river where they could reproduce and consume native fish species that are found nowhere else in the world. Smallmouth bass have escaped other impoundments in western Colorado and are adversely affecting populations of native fish in several rivers.

There are no bag or possession limits on smallmouth bass at Ridgway Reservoir, and there are no daily time restrictions on angling within the official tournament period.

All smallmouth bass must be turned in at the Fish Drop Box located next to the fish cleaning station at the Ridgway Reservoir boat ramp. It will be open from noon July 5 to 6 p.m. Aug. 10.

This is a smallmouth bass only tournament. Anglers may possess other species as allowed by Colorado Fishing Regulations, but they may not be entered in the tournament.

CPW will accept either an entire bass carcass or just the head if anglers wish to keep the meat. Carcasses turned in for the tournament will be considered a donation to CPW and will be utilized for research purposes. Anglers who choose to turn in heads only should prepare the edible portions of their bass for human consumption



**A smallmouth bass caught at Ridgway Reservoir. Courtesy photo.**

per CPW angling regulations.

Participating anglers must turn smallmouth bass carcasses or heads into the drop box and are responsible for following the rules of the drop box for fish to be counted in the tournament. The drop box will include instructions for use, bags for fish carcasses and fish registration cards. The fish registration cards must be filled out in their entirety, signed and placed into the carcass bag each time fish are turned into the drop box in order to be counted in the tournament.

Participants more than 16 years old will need a valid Colorado fishing license as well as a valid Colorado State Parks pass to enter Ridgway State Park.

Ridgway State Park, located about 20 miles south of Montrose in southwest Colorado, is one of the state's most beautiful parks. Camping, playgrounds, hiking trails, picnic areas, a swim beach, boating and river fishing are available.

Boaters are reminded that their craft must be cleaned, drained and dry before entering the reservoir at Ridgway State Park. All boats are subject to inspection for aquatic nuisance species. For more information about the park and to make camping reservations, go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/state-parks/ridgway-state-park>



# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

## WEEKLY CARTOON

### SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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tired? The  
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🌐 [laurenhallruddell.com](http://laurenhallruddell.com)

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

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

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## KNOXVILLE (TN) POET LAUREATE BLACK ATTICUS TO BE FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ON JULY 1



**Joseph "Black Atticus" Woods will be the featured guest for first Tuesday Bardic Trails zoom reading on July 1 at 7 p.m. Courtesy photos.**

### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE- Joseph "Black Atticus" Woods is a celebrated figure in Southern hip-hop and spoken word. Renowned for his rhythmic storytelling and lyrical depth, Woods draws inspiration from his Gullah Geechee heritage to craft narratives that reflect the complexities of life, identity and community.

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds is delighted to welcome him as our featured guest for our first Tuesday Bardic Trails zoom reading on July 1 at 7 p.m.

"Thanks to our friend Zoey Benally for recommending Black Atticus," said Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director.

As Knoxville Poet Laureate, Woods aims to foster healing and unity through the power of words, believing that art should serve as a bridge between mind and spirit. His work continues to inspire and uplift, marking him as a pivotal voice in Knoxville's artistic community.

In addition to creating music, Woods is deeply committed to cultural preservation and education. In 2022, he participated in the University of Tennessee's "Boundless: Artists in the Archives" program, where he explored the Dr. C.S. Boyd Photograph Collection. This experience culminated in the creation of his original piece "Seed 2 Sun," which delves into the rich history of African Americans in early 20th-century Knoxville.

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

Next month's featured poet will be Colorado Poet Laureate Emeritus David Mason and his wife, photographer/poet Christine Mason.

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

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

Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library. For more information, visit the Telluride Institute website.



# HOME FOR SALE

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

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Montrose, CO 81401  
**MLS# 821454**



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# The Satisfied Woman

## WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO BE FREE? A CONVERSATION FOR WOMEN LIVING IN THE ILLUSION OF LIBERTY



By Gia Pirelli.  
Courtesy photo.

In America, we are constantly sold a narrative of freedom—wrapped in Stars and Stripes, hashtagged on social media, and printed on t-shirts we buy from Amazon. But if you peel back the shiny labels, it begs the question: are we truly free, or are we just consuming the

illusion of it?

Especially as women, we're told we're lucky—we can vote, we can work, we can own property. But when we step outside the slogans and step into real life, it doesn't always feel like freedom. It often feels more like a beautifully curated prison. How far have we really come and are we all just circling back to servitude? Did it ever actually change? (I think maybe, briefly.)

Don't get me wrong here. I'm proud to be an American and I love this great country. I thank God every day that I wasn't born in a developing nation. But there are certain standards and cultural norms in this country that present an ever growing challenge, and an ever widening chasm. Here in the United States, we are marketed to 24 hours a day and encouraged to mindlessly consume, using credit cards at 28% interest, with car loans at 11% and home loans at 7.5-10%. We are imprisoned by an ideal that encourages us to chase our own suffering, while perpetuating a system that created such a spectacular imbalance that roughly 5% of the population controls 95% of the world's wealth. We did that.

Our version of freedom has been twisted into an economic game that very few win. We're "free" to buy whatever we want—but usually with money we don't have. We swipe credit cards to purchase things that bring temporary validation, then chain ourselves to jobs to pay the revolving, and often expanding bill. I think I understand how Chase Bank got its name.

We are "free" to work—but many of us are just working to survive, not to thrive. Work becomes a life sentence of renting our time for just enough to make ends meet. Is that really liberty? Or is it economic servitude?

And for some, marrying for financial security becomes the only viable exit ramp—trading autonomy for stability, because the system didn't offer any other way. Let's be clear: marrying a man for money is not freedom. It's a contract of dependency.

In developing nations, women are visibly and brutally oppressed—seen as less than men, even less than the family dog. They lack access to education, legal rights, or personal agency. That is undeniable, explicit suppression.

But here in the "free world," the oppression is dressed differently. It's buried beneath beauty standards, impossible expectations, and financial traps. We may have the right to speak, but we're drowned out by marketing that tells us our worth is in our waistline and our wardrobe. We may have the right to work, but that often feels hollow and unsustainable..

One is violence, out in the open. The other is quiet, well-lit, and available on Prime.

Back in 1966, Sylvester Petro testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee during the debates on the Civil Rights Act. He said, "A man is free precisely to the extent that his property rights are intact, because the condition of freedom and the condition of slavery are distinguished on the basis of the right of private property. A freeman owns himself and whatever he comes by lawfully. A slave owns nothing...Ownership, however, means more than the possession of formal legal title to things. It means control. Control means authority over use, and over disposition as well. It means the condition in which one has the authority to follow his own preferences." Ominous words when we look at [today's](#) standard of freedom.

Most of us, even the wealthy, struggle to

maintain or even experience such authority. And isn't that what so many of us are missing? The internal authority to say no, to walk away, to design a life that actually fits who we are, not who we've been told to be. To live according to our passion and inspiration, to engage in meaningful pursuits rather than drudge through daily routine in order to maintain a mountain of debt.

Freedom is not the new truck on tv that can tow a nuclear payload, up hill, through a ring of fire. It's not the "some day" tropical vacation, or the perfect left hand diamond. It's not found in the hustle culture or toxic positivity. It's not found in the "girl boss" aesthetics that simply replicate patriarchal systems with a pink filter. True freedom is living your life on your own terms. It's being able to say yes to what aligns with you—and no to what doesn't—without fear of collapse. It's having the time, space, and mental bandwidth to be curious, to create, to rest. It's the ability to make decisions and engage in what lights you up without the looming threat of debt, abandonment, or judgment.

So what now?

Maybe we start by unplugging from the matrix. Maybe we stop buying things to prove our own worth, or to stuff a deep hole inside ourselves, brought on by lack of purpose.

Maybe we stop outsourcing our power to systems that were never built for us. Maybe we redefine success as peace, not productivity.

Maybe we acquaint ourselves with the concept of satisfaction. Maybe we teach our daughters that true independence isn't about having it all — it's about choosing what matters.

Freedom isn't a finish line. It's a daily choice. It's a quiet revolution that starts in your own life, in your own body, in your own behavior. And it is rooted in the realization that you are enough. You have enough. You don't need permission to be free. You just need to remember you are blessed and lucky to have been born that way. Make the most of it.



LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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

This beautifully updated 3-bed, 1.5-bath home in Garnet Mesa is a must-see! Nearly everything is new, including the kitchen (cabinets & appliances), bathrooms, doors, floors, blinds, and fresh paint inside and out.

The smart layout features upstairs laundry, and an enclosed front porch ideal as a mudroom or summer sleeping area.

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



**\$347,000.00**

**3 BR**

**1.5 bathrooms**

**CONTACT: LESLIE GORE**

📞 19702753195

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

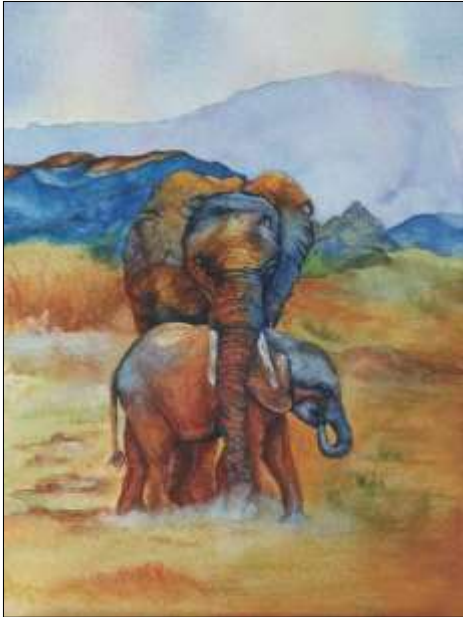
🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>





# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## TREASURES WORTH PROTECTING: Public Lands and Endangered Species *Summer Art Show in Ridgway features 2 Local Artists*



*Van Gogh Elephants. Stephanie Rody.*



*Distant Sunrise. H.C. Pemberton*

### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-The Ridgway Public Library has announced its summer "Art at the Library" show featuring local artists Stephanie Rody and H.C. Pemberton. The show opens on Saturday, July 12 with a reception from 4pm to 7pm and runs until Friday, Sept. 13. Admission is free. Stephanie Rody says she loves the contrast of lights and darks, especially when the strength of the contrast draws the viewer's eyes into the painting and helps them to create their own story. She says it is important to design works of art that are statement pieces whether the subjects are live or inanimate; they all have a message. Helen Pemberton's landscape oil paintings express her absolute love of the public lands on the Western Slope. In this show, she brings bright images of special places near Ridgway, Montrose and Gunnison like Owl Creek Pass, Dallas Divide and Black Canyon. **ART AT THE LIBRARY** opens on Saturday, July 12. The show will run until Friday, September 13. The Ridgway Library is located at 300 Charles Street on the north side of Ridgway City Park. They are open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.





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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, [don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-<br/>
  don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

**Worship Service Times:** Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021  
[www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com](http://www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com)

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

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

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

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970-249-0530

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

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

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

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

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of  
 God.

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose

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

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

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

**United Church of Christ (UCC)**

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

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

**Phone:** 970-765-7070

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service:** Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-  
 thentically.

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

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation

**Address Office hours** N/A

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

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

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene

**Address:** 705 South 12th Street

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

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

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian

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

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

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

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

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

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ

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

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

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

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

on life's journey.

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

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

## MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Orthodox

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

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist

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

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

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

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

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

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

*matter what stage of life they are in.*

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

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

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

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

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

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.  
 Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).  
 Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?





# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## ELYANA POLLARD OF MONTROSE NAMED TO SPRING DEANS' LIST AT NEBRASKA

### *Special to Art & Sol*

LINCOLN, NE Elyana Pollard of Montrose has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the spring semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

Pollard, a junior majoring in fisheries and wildlife, was named to the Dean's List for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

More than 6,700 students at Nebraska were named to the Deans' List for the spring semester.

Qualification for the Deans' List varies among the eight undergraduate colleges and the Explore Center. Listed below are the minimum requirements for each entity and the name of its respective dean or director. All qualifying grade-point averages are based on a four-point scale and a minimum number of graded semester hours. Students can be on the Deans' List for more than one college.

-College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, 3.75; Interim Dean Thomas Burkey.

-College of Architecture, 3.75; Dean Kevin G. Van Den Wymelenberg.

-College of Arts and Sciences, 3.7; Acting Dean Patrick Dussault.

-College of Business, 3.6; Dean Kathy Farrell.

-College of Education and Human Sciences, 3.75; Interim Dean Nicholas J. Pace.

-College of Engineering, 3.5; Dean Lance C. Perez.

-College of Journalism and Mass Communications, 3.7; Dean Shari Veil.

-Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, 3.7; Dean Andy Belser.

-Explore Center for undeclared, pre-engineering, pre-health and pre-law students, 3.6; Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Undergraduate Education Amy Goodburn.

For the full Deans' List, visit <https://go.unl.edu/deanslist-spring25>.

## MARGIE PETTY TO BE FEATURED STORYTELLER AT WEST END STORIES & POEMS JULY 10 AT 6 PM

### *Special to the Mirror*

NATURITA -The Naturita Public Library and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program are proud to collaborate on an evening of storytelling by Margie Petty July 10 at 6 pm.

"While poetry is a discipline that requires more than just a passing fancy," explained Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director, "all of us tell stories. As Margie Petty demonstrated at our first West End Stories & Poems last month, she is a master storyteller with a long history in the West End."

The event is free to all and attendees are encouraged to bring stories or poems of their own to share when we do the passing of the gourd after the featured presenter.

West End Stories & Poems happens on the second Thursday of each month. Our featured guest will give a 30-40 min. presentation, followed by a short question and answer period after the presentation. Then there's a passing of the gourd, where community members in attendance are encouraged to share stories or poems.

For those who like to write to prompts for stories or poems, this month's prompt is: "Uranium."

West End Stories & Poems is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the library, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer and Cantor poetry contests.

Both the Fischer and Cantor contests are currently open for submissions.

For more information on poetry contests and Talking Gourds programs, visit the website [www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds). For questions about the event, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at [art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org)



*Margie Petty Courtesy photo.*

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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

**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 2**-On Wednesday, July 2 at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm, Montrose County Historical Society presents an updated video on the progress of renovation of the 1923 county courthouse and the opening of the time capsule placed there. The public is welcome to attend this free program. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.

**July 4**-Happy Independence Day 2025! Montrose 4th of July Parade 10am. Fireworks after dark.

**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.

**Aug. 10**-ISRAEL AT WAR & WHAT IT MEANS FOR AMERICA. Speaker, Hanoch Young, Sunday, August 10 at 3 PM at Covenant Hebraic Fellowship, 62701 Jig Road, Montrose. For more info, call 970-250-9322.

**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)

## HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

*From the parade on Main to the fireworks display...here's to the USA!! File photos from City of Montrose 2024 fireworks show.*



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