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ASSOCIATION



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MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO INCLUDE BALLOT QUESTION AMENDING CHARTER IN NOV. 4 GENERAL ELECTION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—On Monday, June 30, the City of Montrose convened for a special meeting, and on Tuesday, July 1 the City of Montrose convened for a regular meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

The June 30 special meeting was an executive session, "to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a); for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e); and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: development plans for historic City Hall."

REGULAR MEETING

On July 1, Montrose Mayor David Frank called the regular meeting to order and asked all present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

All City Councilors were in attendance with the exception of Doug Glaspell, who



Montrose City Council issued a Proclamation honoring Veterans and First Responders at the meeting of July 1. Meeting Screenshot.

[Continued pg 33](#)

"CONTACT US TO SPONSOR A CLINIC OR SPONSOR A CAT" An Interview with Chauncey Edwards of Colorado KAT Coalition



Kittens rescued by the Colorado KAT Coalition. Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—The NextDoor platform is an online space to find information and community connections, even a place to locate lost pets. Here in Montrose, one local NextDoor user recently posted a photo of a frightened cat in a cage, with a terse note informing the owners and everyone else that the cat would be taken to animal control if not claimed, citing the City of Montrose Ordinance about pets running at large.

Unfortunately, the photo was posted on a day that the animal shelter was not open.

That's when the Colorado KAT Coalition (KAT stands for Kitty Allies and TNR) stepped in to assist, helping to return the fearful, escaped, indoor cat to its worried owners.

Because advocating for cats who cannot speak for themselves is part of the non-profit organization's mission.

"Cats are very soulful animals—the frequency of their purrs is very healing. They are very smart and they have great intuition," says Chauncey

[Continued pg 23](#)

[Montrose County Names Julie Andress County Attorney!](#)

[A Legacy Built with Lumber: By Historian Bob Cox!](#)

[Neighbors Oppose Rogers Mesa Wedding Venue: By Thomas Wills, Hotchkiss Merchant Herald!](#)

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

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror



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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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Community Art Swap

Community Art Swap
Saturday, July 12
10 AM—3 PM
Library Meeting Room



Come exchange art materials during the Community Art Swap! Donations of unopened or gently used art and crafting supplies will be accepted prior to the event. Everyone will be welcome to browse and take home new-to-you supplies to fuel your creativity!
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Wed July 16th at 6pm Montrose County Neighborhood Watch meets in the Conference Room at the Sheriff's Office, 1200 N Grand Ave, Montrose. Monthly meetings~ 3rd Wednesdays. Have questions, call 970-252-4499.

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MONTROSE COUNTY NAMES LONGTIME DEPUTY AS NEW COUNTY ATTORNEY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County is pleased to announce the appointment of Julie Andress as County Attorney, following a vote by the Board of County Commissioners. A dedicated member of the Montrose County Attorney's Office since 2014, Andress brings over a decade of experience and deep institutional knowledge to the role.

Having served as Deputy County Attorney since 2020 and previously as Assistant County Attorney, Andress has a proven track record of providing sound legal counsel on high-stakes matters ranging from civil litigation to complex policy issues, including the transfer of the county hospital, gravel mine permitting, and airport regulatory hearings.

"Julie has demonstrated exceptional legal skill, a collaborative spirit, and a clear

commitment to public service," said Commissioner Sue Hansen. "Her leadership has helped us navigate challenging legal matters with confidence and integrity. We are proud to promote from within and are excited for the continued excellence she will bring in her new role."

Throughout her tenure, Andress has worked closely with elected officials, county departments, and community members to draft policies and ordinances, resolve litigation, and implement proactive legal strategies. She has also mentored legal staff and led training efforts for elected officials and employees on legislative updates and risk management. Commissioner Sean Pond said, "Julie Andress brings experience, discipline, and a deep understanding of Montrose County's legal landscape. I'm confident she will serve with integrity and stand firm in pro-

tecting the county's interests, its people, and our way of life."

Reflecting on her appointment, Andress said, "It's an honor to continue serving Montrose County in this new capacity. I look forward to working with the Board and all departments to meet the challenges ahead with thoughtful, proactive legal guidance. Together, we can build a resilient, forward-thinking legal framework that supports the county's growth and values."

Andress holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and Bachelor degrees from University of Memphis and Union University. She is admitted to the Colorado Bar and has a strong background in child welfare law, civil litigation, and government counsel. To learn more about Montrose County, please visit www.montrosecounty.net.

SAVE THE DATE

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

STAGE-1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS BEGIN IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The unincorporated area of Montrose County has implemented Stage-1 Fire Restrictions. Extreme fire danger, high temperatures, and worsening dry conditions were the deciding factors in this decision. Restrictions went into effect at 12:01 am on Wednesday, July 2.

Under Stage-1 Fire Restrictions, open burning of any kind, including agricultural burning, open campfires, and fireworks, is prohibited. Smoking cigarettes outdoors is not allowed, unless in an enclosed vehicle or building, or a developed recreation site. Campfires in a pre-approved campground or enclosed fire pits are permitted.

As a reminder, fireworks on publicly managed lands are prohibited.

Please be advised that penalties for violating the fire ban include: Class-2 petty offense with fines ranging from \$100 to \$500, depending on the number of offenses. If a fire causes damage to another individual's property, additional criminal charges may apply.

These fire restrictions will remain in effect until further notice.

For more fire-related information on Colorado's Western Slope, please visit:

<http://www.westslopefireinfo.com/>



Museum of the Mountain West Job Announcement: OFFICE ASSISTANT

Are you looking for part time work with a dedicated group of volunteers whose mission is to educate the public in the history of the Western US? You would be greeting people from around the world as they arrive for a tour of the Museum of the Mountain West as well as support the Director with management of the giftshop. (3 days summer, 2 days winter per week.)

Experience:

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Qualities:

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- ✓ Supports Volunteers & Docents with scheduling and appreciating
- ✓ Supports Office Manager in ordering supplies
- ✓ Self-motivated to use time effectively including cleaning as needed
- ✓ Shows initiative & offers suggestions for improvement in museum operations & tours
- ✓ Flexible in working with visitors from around the world, including all ages
- ✓ Team Player with understanding that this is a mainly volunteer run museum

Desirable:

- ✓ Love of history and museums
- ✓ Proficient with Social Media

Interested? Apply immediately by contacting the MMW for a complete job description: 970.240.3400. Email resume to staffmotmw@gmail.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INC. NOTICE OF DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS

Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc., a Colorado community nonprofit corporation, is now accepting applications to fill available positions on its Board of Directors.

Application packets are available for download at www.montrosehealth.com, by email request to BODapplications@montrosehealth.com, or pick up at the Montrose Regional Health Administration office, located at 800 South 3rd Street, Montrose, Colorado, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The deadline for return of completed applications is **Friday, August 15th** at 5:00 p.m. at the MRH Administration office.

Elections will be held by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in October.



Michael Brezinsky [Jul 1, 2025 22:04 GMT-12]

Dr. Michael Brezinsky, Chairperson
Nominating Committee
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR UP TO \$10,000 IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ASPIRING EDUCATORS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Colorado Department of Education will begin accepting applications today for the 2025-26 Educator Recruitment and Retention (ERR) program, which offers up to \$10,000 in financial assistance to help aspiring educators cover the cost of educator preparation program fees.

The ERR program supports individuals pursuing teaching careers in shortage areas and who commit to serving in those positions for at least three years. Applicants must be a teacher or a paraprofessional and in a state-approved educator preparation program.

Applications opened today and will close on Sept. 30, 2025.

Applicants should coordinate with their educator preparation programs when applying.

"This program helps ease the financial burden for aspiring educators and opens the door for more people to bring their talent into Colorado classrooms," said Education Commissioner Susana Córdova. "More than 2,000 future teachers have already benefited from this support, and we look forward to reaching even more in the year ahead."

Created through Senate Bill 21-185, the Educator Recruitment and Retention program provides critical support to help address the state's ongoing educator shortage areas, which include special education, early childhood education, secondary math and science, and rural communities, among others.

Chief Talent Officer Dr. Margarita Tovar emphasized the urgency: "Like many states, Colorado is facing teacher shortages, especially in our rural communities. Programs like ERR show what's possible when we invest in people and their potential. Every student deserves a great teacher, and every aspiring educator deserves a pathway that supports their journey. These kinds of efforts don't just fill classrooms. They help strengthen the future of our communities."

The department has received promising feedback from ERR grant recipients: 88% of recipients remain in Colorado public school classrooms a year or more after receiving assistance, nearly half say they would not have become teachers without it, and 94% report that financial support positively impacted their careers.

Last year, demand for the program was nearly double the available funding. Applications for the 2025-26 school year will open on July 1 and are expected to fill up quickly. Eligibility details and application materials are available on the department's website, and interested applicants can contact educator_recruitment@cde.state.co.us for more information.

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Still living with chronic pain? It's time for a multidisciplinary approach. The Spine & Pain Center at Montrose Regional Health features an innovative team of experts ready to help you feel better and get back to life.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

Editor:

Friday, we celebrated Independence Day, a moment when our forefathers boldly severed ties with King George III, declaring their resolve to govern themselves and escape the chains of true oppression and tyranny.

This was not the petty grievances or hyperbolic cries of "fascism" we hear today, often wielded by those who don't even understand the term. Real tyranny was British soldiers seizing homes, displacing families, looting possessions, and killing those who dared resist. That was the fight for independence, a fight for self-determination against a distant, overbearing crown.

Contrast this with the modern left's portrayal of tyranny: President Trump's blunt rhetoric, his unapologetic tweets, or his belief that America should prioritize its own strength and security. They decry his call for secure borders as xenophobic and recoil at "America First", misinterpreting it

as isolationism rather than a push for excellence. This obsession defies logic, especially when his core message has remained consistent for nearly four decades. Consider this: in the 1980s, figures like Oprah Winfrey and Robert DeNiro praised Trump yet his views on trade, national pride, and economic fairness were no secret then. So, what changed? In 2015, Trump dared to insert an "R" next to his name, and overnight, he became the left's archenemy. Far from being a radical right-winger, Trump is a centrist, perhaps the most pragmatic President in a century, balancing priorities with broad appeal to working-class Americans.

Again I ask: What are you fighting against? Are you opposed to:

- Cleaning up government waste, fraud, and abuse?
- Securing our border?
- Deporting those who crossed our border illegally?
- Reduced taxes for all Americans?

-Leveling the playing field with other countries' lopsided trade deals?

-Eliminating censorship?

-Ending endless wars?

Trump has not threatened Social Security or Medicaid for Citizens. He is not raising taxes or polluting our air and water. Instead, he focuses on modernizing critical infrastructure, like the power grid and cybersecurity, to protect our future. So, again: What are you fighting against? Are you simply caught in a partisan trap, opposing a man for the letter next to his name?

Start looking with clear-eyed commitment to liberty, security, and prosperity for all Americans. True tyranny is not a tweet or a policy disagreement; it is the surrender of our sovereignty and values. Let's celebrate what unites us: the courage to govern ourselves, free from oppression, real or imagined.

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



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**COLORADO STATE PARKS
HAVE ALREADY SEEN
APPROXIMATELY 8 MILLION
VISITORS IN 2025**

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - Governor Polis and Colorado Parks and Wildlife are highlighting the strong visitorship Colorado State Parks experience every year, and the endless outdoor recreation opportunities available for people to enjoy.

In 2024, more than 18 million people visited Colorado state parks, driving \$147 million in revenue. So far in 2025, state parks have hosted approximately eight million visitors and the number is only expected to grow as summer continues. Fourth of July weekend is one of the busiest of the summer, so Coloradans should plan ahead if heading out to enjoy the state's parks.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife set a goal to raise \$36 million annually from pass sales. The first \$32.5 million goes to state park maintenance and development; the next \$2.5 million goes to local search and rescue teams, and \$1 million goes to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC). Any revenue exceeding that amount will be allocated to wildlife projects and outdoor educational programs.

The Keep Colorado Wild Pass offers car, bike, and foot entry into all Colorado state parks.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RECALL LAUNCHED ON SCOTT MIJARES

Editor:

As confirmed by David White my prediction of last Monday of a recall on Scott Mijares was on target. Just before July 4 holiday a recall on Mijares was filed with the Secretary of State by an individual easily manipulated in liberal causes with a history of changing political affiliations depending on which way the wind is blowing.

More details will certainly become available within the next 7 to 10 days. Montrose voters should be vigilant because skullduggery is afoot and it certainly seems to have originated from one BOCC member.

Dee Laird, Montrose

LET'S SHAPE THE FUTURE OF
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AND BEYOND — TOGETHER.



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River Valley Family Health Centers and Delta Health are teaming up to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment Survey — and we need **YOUR** input!

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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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Female Hormone Panel	\$125

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MontroseHealth.com/HealthFair



Photos by CB Williams

MONTROSE-Area veterans from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans; Olathe Jr. ROTC Color Guard and the Montrose High School Marching Band ready for the Fourth of July parade down Main Street in Montrose on Friday morning.

NEIGHBORS OPPOSE ROGERS MESA WEDDING VENUE BUT DELTA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

1870s Barn From Indiana Comes to Hotchkiss

By Thomas Wills,
[Hotchkiss Merchant Herald](#)

"We've never seen so much opposition to (one of our barn restorations)," the father and son team moving a vintage 1870's hay barn from Indiana to Rogers Mesa near Hotchkiss say.

"We are heartbroken," neighbor Melanie Hoshiko said following Delta County Planning Commission's recommended approval of a large wedding and events venue next door to her rural Rogers Mesa home. Hoshiko says that proposed venue will destroy the quiet rural character of her neighborhood with traffic, noise and lights, and most of her neighbors agree. However, the proposal may ultimately be approved since the developer has apparently met every requirement put forth by Delta County to date since the application was first made in November of 2024.

On June 25, the Delta County Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the proposal with staff recommendations and additional added conditions. A hearing before the County Commissioners is pending, currently scheduled for Tuesday July 15, 2025, the second commissioners' meeting of the month.

There is a trend in the rural areas of the North Fork and it is clashing with the narrative of a quiet, bucolic, rural lifestyle that many have come to the Valley to find. The trend is the establishment of higher impact events, music, food, and lodging businesses in areas with rural agricultural zoning, sometimes under the cover of the term "Agritourism." The idea, embedded in the County's land use regulations, is to allow farmers and ranchers to develop alternate income streams that help agricultural lands to stay in active agriculture. But what seemed a win-win on paper is now meeting reality as the definition of "agritourism" expands well beyond wineries with tasting rooms, limited farm stays, and farm to table dinners on actual, established farms. Newcomers are now buying agricultural property with a plan to establish multiple income streams for the land well beyond growing and selling things. Not all neighbors to

rural businesses that are drawing relatively large numbers of people to an event out in the country are happy about living near to such an expanded use or facility.

A current, controversial example is a proposal by the Davis family to develop a wedding venue in a rebuilt vintage barn on their 19-acre Rogers Mesa property on J Road about a mile and a half from Hotchkiss. In November of 2024 the Davises submitted an application to develop a wedding venue on just over three acres of their land while ostensibly keeping the balance in agriculture, it being hayfields at the time. Ken Davis says that will continue with a local rancher maintaining the hay growing and harvest.

The facility, as proposed, would include a large 1870s vintage barn venue along with a parking lot that would accommodate about a hundred vehicles. Davis says that he doubts that that many spaces will be needed often but to avoid problems he has planned for extra.

The Davis family home is the closest residence to the planned barn with Hoshiko located across the road. The parking lot will be on the northwest corner of the property next to the Davis home and across the road from Hoshiko. The property was once part of the Spore Farm with Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Spore running the Gambles hardware store in Hotchkiss for several decades.

Under the recently revised Delta County Land Use Regulations (LDRs) the proposal was reviewed by the Planning Department as "limited use by permit" that would be reviewed by staff and possibly approved with conditions if deemed appropriate. It was then determined by staff that the proposal met the letter of the LDR requirements and the applicants had jumped through all the proper hoops. Generally, when applicants meet the current requirements of a land use code the proposal must be approved, if only with conditions. But...

A limited use by permit within the County's A-20 zoning also required notification of residents within the immediate area and upon receiving notice of what was



Vintage Barn Re-Builders: Property owner Ken Davis (right) with the Indiana father and son team that has disassembled a vintage 1870s hay barn in Indiana and moved it to Hotchkiss where it will be painstakingly reassembled. While the old barn will add a bit of Americana rusticness to east Rogers Mesa, the neighbors are more concerned about what the barn will be used for—a wedding/event venue. The Davis home is behind Ken Davis' head in the photo, and Hoshiko and husband's residence is at the far top right. Hotchkiss Merchant Herald photo by Thomas Wills.

proposed, a seeming majority of the neighbors from the greater area sent letters opposing approval of wedding venue. Only three neighbors reportedly received notice of the proposal but the letter was soon shared broadly in the wider neighborhood. Many didn't care for the idea of a large wedding venue with noise, traffic, and general disruption to the quiet area. They began to flood the County with letters of protest.

The neighbor to the west, on the other side of J-Road, Melanie Hoshiko, took the lead and appeared with others at the December 10, 2024 Delta County Commissioners Meeting during constituent time to verbally spell out their objections to the proposal and demand that the review be moved from a staff review to a full blown Planning Commission review and public hearing with the County Commissioners taking a vote on the project.

Months passed and neighbors reported that construction work was proceeding on the Davis property. A concrete pad was installed and structural beams from the old Indiana barn began to appear on the site.

Finally, on June 25, some seven months

NEIGHBORS OPPOSE ROGERS MESA WEDDING VENUE *From previous pg*

after the application was submitted, and as previously mentioned, a public hearing on the proposal was held before the Delta County Planning Commission.

Apparently after months of neighborhood pushback the Planning Department decided to hand the hot potato off to the Planning Commission and County Commissioners.

Meanwhile there are many other event, lodging, and educational venues large and small across the Valley that have sprung up over the past few years as social media and Internet booking apps have made the marketing of such things much easier. Also, the stunning scenery along with the cachet of the Valley's foodie, wine and

arts scene have made the Valley a bigger visitor draw. But...

Some minor on-farm, rural venues are operating without undergoing a county review and other previously grandfathered pre-2021 businesses have significantly expanded and are in need of a new review to address and mitigate increased impacts to neighbors, safety, and public infrastructure.

Generally, there has also been a trend towards operating under-the-radar non-ag commercial businesses with low to moderate impacts from residential property in the rural county while avoiding commercial property taxes, which are at least four times higher for the same value

than residential.

Some examples of recently developed/expanded event and/or lodging venues out in the rural county include:

Early Dawn Ranch – Lodging and Events – 1,800 acre ranch on upper Leroux Creek.

Fort Austin – Events and lodging facility – northwest of Paonia.

Sage View Ranch – Events and lodging – near Paonia

Zen Zen Gardens – Events venue – live music etc. Near Paonia

– Store, camping, music events venue, Southwest of Paonia on Hwy 133. Significant expansion – CDOT turn lane built.

Wild Cooperative – Crawford area – Educational events.



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STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS MONTROSE COUNTY



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Any fire NOT within a permanently constructed fire pit, ring or grate on public or private land.



Smoking outdoors in an area that is not cleared of all combustible materials.



Welding or operating acetylene or other torches with open flame except in cleared areas of at least 10 ft in diameter and in possession of a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher.



Operating or using any internal combustion engine such as chainsaws, without a spark-arresting device properly installed, maintained, and in effective working order.



Agricultural burning is not allowed.



Target shooting with explosive targets is not permitted.

ALLOWED



Fires in permanent fire pits, fire rings in private residences, or within developed recreational sites such as a campground or picnic area



Fire features, chimineas and tiki torches at private residences supervised by a responsible adult.



Fires contained within liquid fuel or gas fueled stoves, lanterns or heated devices.



Target shooting in a safe manner is permitted.

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Drown campfires in approved fire pits and make sure your campfire is dead out.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHERE'S THE PROOF THAT MONTROSE IS NON-SANCTUARY?

Editor:

Congratulations to the Montrose City Council, you finally made a proclamation honoring the veterans of Montrose. Were you able to put any tangible gifts with the honor like a sizable contribution to the resource center off Hillcrest? No, I didn't think so. Ever hear of "put your money where your mouth is". You can always tell where your heart is by looking at your checkbook. Where have you been spending our taxes? Talk is always cheap and hearsay is not a declaration that can stand up in court. That is why I asked the city

council again last night to sign a declaration or proclamation designating Montrose as non-sanctuary. We know that you did verbally say at a city council meeting that Montrose is a non-sanctuary city. Even the last mayor said that it was in writing but never produced a document. Just being quoted in the Mirror or the Daily Press does not constitute a written statement. You have told me that a proclamation was useless. If you never put anything in writing then it is proof less. If the council agree that Montrose is non-sanctuary then put something to-

gether that shows you are who you say you are. When I go to the bank and I tell them who I am they still ask me for proof. There was an old TV commercial for hamburgers that talked about their competitors hamburgers by saying "Where's the beef?" Where's the proof that Montrose is non-Sanctuary? You can produce a written statement to let everyone know for sure and you could even put teeth into it showing how adamant you believe. Without proof it is nothing more than a clanging in the distance.

John Brown, Montrose

THANK YOU TO THE MONTROSE COMMUNITY BAND

Editor:

On Sunday afternoon June 29 our Montrose Community Band presented "America Awakes" at our Pavilion. They were wonderful and with young vocalist Jewel Acapulco who sang two songs enhanced this great concert.

M. C. Jeff Krebs mentioned to expect a change in the Armed Forces Medley. It came at the end. It was the Space Force song and was the first time I heard this difficult piece.

On the 4th of July I watched the annual celebration from the Nation's Capitol. They did mention our newest military service branch.

I am greatfull Director Toby King, his Board and the volunteer musicians and persons who do the behind the scenes heavy lifting. You all make it possible for me 4 times a year to be in another world.

Bob Hoshide, Montrose



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ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

DEMOCRATS DONATE \$2000 TO MONTROSE LIGHT HOUSE SHELTER



The Montrose Democratic Party in Collaboration with The Gayle Clark Foundation is thrilled to donate \$2000 to The Montrose Light House Shelter to help with the critical work they are doing in our community. The Montrose Lighthouse, Inc. exists to provide emergency shelter for the unhoused community in Montrose, Colorado. It provides safe housing, comfortable beds, two hot meals daily, hot showers and laundry facilities. Additionally, it provides access to, and transportation to medical appointments, mental health counseling, job services, and more.

Pictured are Cathy Williams daughter of Gayle Clarke , Kirsten Atkins Executive Director the Lighthouse Shelter, Terri McDermott Board Member The Lighthouse Shelter.

“CONTACT US TO SPONSOR A CLINIC OR SPONSOR A CAT” From pg 1

Edwards, director of the Colorado KAT Coalition. “They need our voice.”

Colorado KAT Coalition is built around Trap, Neuter, Return, a method of managing free-roaming cat populations by ensuring that the population remains stable and does not grow exponentially.

For those who find themselves feeding stray cats, Edwards helped to explain the TNR philosophy, “If you feed it, fix it. Please call us when you have two cats instead of 20—it’s just being pro-active. We want to prevent the population explosion.”

Two years in, the Colorado KAT Coalition had spayed and neutered 3,000 cats, and the need for their services continues.

“It feeds my soul, but it can be heart-breaking,” Edwards said, recalling a mama cat with babies who was dumped in Escalante Canyon. “Sometimes you can feel like you are out on an island.”

“But how can you turn away when there is so much suffering? There’s options and ways to help these animals.”

The Colorado KAT Coalition has been holding large-scale spay-neuter clinics at the Montrose County Fairgrounds, spaying or neutering as many as 150 cats at one time.

On a monthly basis, the non-profit helps to perform 150 surgeries and works with animal shelters throughout the region. “The Montrose Shelter is wonderful,” Edwards said, adding that Surface Creek Animal Shelter is also excellent. “We have to work with our shelter partners and our vet partners.”

When the mama cat with babies was dumped in Escalante Canyon, it was the Surface Creek Animal Shelter that welcomed the felines, saying, “Bring ‘em in, we want to help.”

Also, “We do more than spay and neuter,” Edwards said. “They all get vaccinated as well—we don’t turn anyone away. And we work with people to take care of cat colonies; the more you control the population, the more cats we can help.

“We did 56 cats in one day in May—we had them lined up,” Edwards said. “It was



“Cats are very soulful animals,” says Chauncey Edwards, director of the Colorado KAT Coalition. “They need our voice.” Courtesy photo.

incredible.”

[According to No Kill Colorado](#), Cats, particularly adult cats, have a lower success rate of leaving shelters and are more likely to be euthanized—leaving Trap, Neuter Return as one of the most successful and humane ways to control the stray cat population.

The work takes both time and money, Edwards said.

It costs \$10K to conduct one of the larger spay-neuter clinics, and \$3,000 for every 35 cats who are fixed.

“Finances are our biggest need right now,” Edwards said. “We are paying vets and paying for medication. We take care of cats with injuries and illnesses, to ensure they’re taken care of. We have built a medical fund—to conduct 150 surgeries a month plus medical care costs \$10K per month; our fundraising goal is \$20K—we need to do more.

“Contact us to sponsor a clinic or sponsor a cat.”

Volunteers are also needed to join the dedicated group that continues to grow.

“You can make a difference,” Edwards said. “It happens slowly, but I can see the change every single day—we need empathy and compassion for animals and people.”

Edwards says she is excited to see where the future will take the Colorado KAT Coalition. “We 100 percent don’t ignore neglect and abuse; we are going to do everything we can.”

While the incident in which the cat was trapped and posted to NextDoor was resolved with the cat returned to its rightful owner, the person who trapped the cat had excused his actions by claiming that cats are killing birds.

Still, even for birds, Trap, Neuter, Return is the answer, Edwards said. “With less cats, less birds are being caught.”

Besides, “Humans have way more impact on the birds than the cats do.”

For more information, to donate, or to volunteer, contact Chauncey Edwards and the Colorado KAT Coalition at coka-tlady@gmail.com; find them on Facebook as Colorado KAT Coalition.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH PAIN CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW LOCATION AND PROVIDER UPDATES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Delta Health Pain Center is announcing several changes to its services ensuring continued excellence in patient care and access to vital services.

The Pain Center has recently relocated to the Delta Health Orthopedics Clinic located at 257 Cottonwood Street in Delta and will continue to offer high-quality services that patients have come to expect from Delta Health.

"We remain committed to providing com-

prehensive, compassionate care for individuals experiencing chronic pain," said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Chief Executive Officer. "As part of these changes, Joe McBeain is no longer with Delta Health; we are grateful for his contributions and wish him the very best in his future endeavors." We are pleased to welcome William "Scott" Timothy, M.D. as a specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with a focus on pain management to the team. He is now scheduling appoint-

ments and will begin seeing patients on Wednesday, July 16 at the Delta Health Orthopedics Clinic. He brings a wealth of experience and a patient-first approach that aligns with our mission and values.

Delta Health is actively working to bring another provider on board to ensure continuity of care and to meet the growing needs of our patients. To schedule a pain appointment, please call Delta Health Orthopedics at 970.399.4200. To learn more, visit <https://deltahealthco.org/>

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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- 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!



MONTROSE
REGIONAL HEALTH

MontroseHealth.com

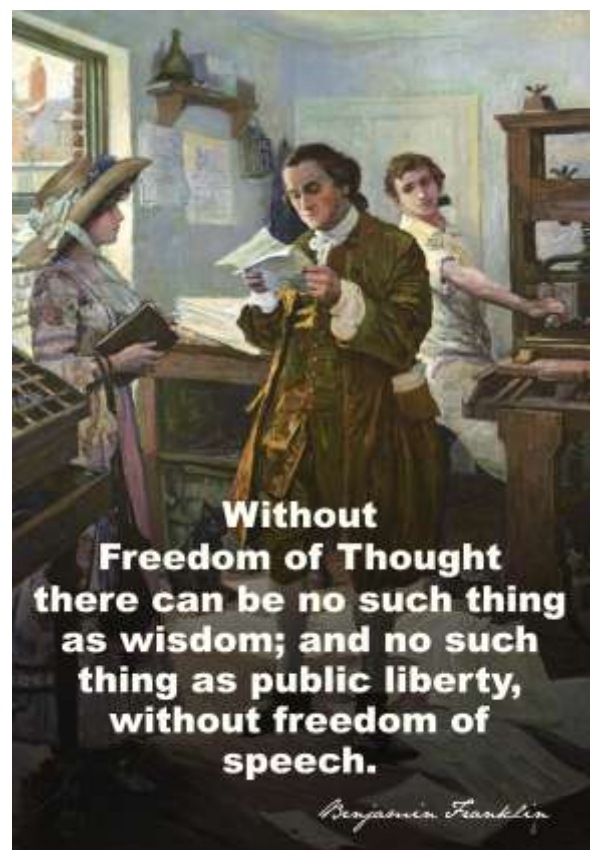
Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— Community leaders from across Western Colorado will gather on July 10 and 11 in Gunnison at the Western Colorado University- Rady School of Science and Engineering to participate in Club 20's Summer Policy Committee Meetings. During these meetings, Club 20 members and guests will discuss many of the critical issues impacting our region.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to have discussions centered around some of the biggest issues impacting our region and have knowledgeable committee chairs and members to help guide our advocacy efforts throughout the state, said Club 20 Executive Director, Brittany Dixon.

Club 20's Policy Committee Meetings are free and open to the public with a small lunch fee of \$10. We request all participants to register for planning purposes at www.club20.org. Interested participants can also join via Zoom by registering for virtual participation.

For more information or to register, please visit www.club20.org or give us a call at (970) 242-3264. We appreciate your coverage of this event.



**Without
Freedom of Thought
there can be no such thing
as wisdom; and no such
thing as public liberty,
without freedom of
speech.**

Benjamin Franklin

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM UNCOMPAGHRE FIELD OFFICE ANNOUNCES STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Stage 1 fire restrictions go into effect July 3 for all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office within the boundaries of Delta, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties, including Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area.

The restrictions align with local orders and guidelines to protect the public's safety during high fire danger.

"With these dry conditions we must prioritize safety and take responsible steps to minimize the risk of wildfire" said **Uncompahgre Field Manager Dan Ben-Horin**. "Entering fire restrictions is a proactive measure aimed at protecting our communities, ecosystems, and natural resources."

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, the following acts are prohibited:

lowing acts are prohibited:

-Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire except within agency-provided fire rings at developed recreation sites. Devices using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel are permitted.

-Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

-Operating a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and working, a chemical fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.

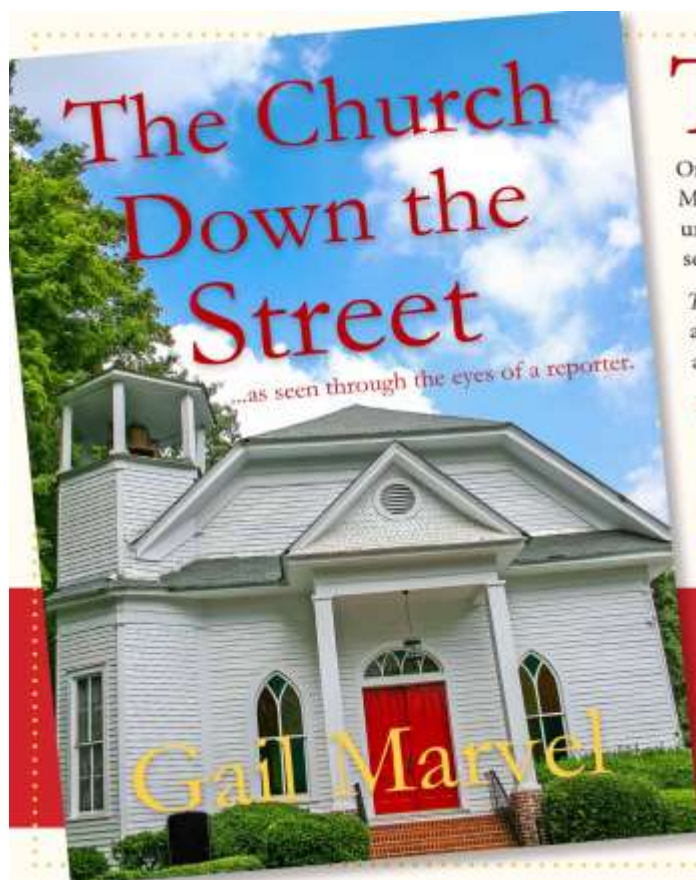
-Using a welder, either arc or gas, or operating acetylene or other torch with open

flame, except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter with a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity.

Using exploding targets/fireworks.

Stage 1 fire restrictions on these lands become effective at 12:01 a.m., MDT, July 3, 2025, and will be in place until further notice. Violation of federal fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both. In addition, those found responsible for starting wildfires will also face restitution costs of suppressing the fire.

Current fire prevention notices for the BLM Southwest District are posted online at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/southwest-district>



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE HEALTH OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN - AND YOUR FAMILY- IS ON THE LINE

Editor:

Do you realize what's at stake? with the Big Beautiful Bill?

If you voted for Trump, or are thinking of supporting Robert Kennedy Jr., please stop and think: the health of America's children - and your family- is on the line.

If your mom or dad or child ever needed Medicaid, their life is at risk. I have worked with people like them every day. I helped people of all backgrounds get care

through Medicaid: your parents, your neighbors, your children. Without it. People will die.

Under leaders like Kennedy we risk going backwards. Hospitals will close. People won't see a Doctor until they're critically ill- if at all. The rich will survive. The poor will not.

Your mother may have survived cancer because she had applied for Medicaid.

The lord helped her because she qualified

for Medicaid.

Will others get the same chance? Will your babies? Grandkids?

This isn't about politics. It's about Human life.

This is wrong. Deeply morally wrong. It goes against everything I believe (everyone is created equal) and if you are a Christian you should be against it too.

Please think about it.

Lynn Carretta, Montrose

MIRROR IMAGES: WESTERN SKY BALLOON FESTIVAL



Big Green Alien at the 4th of July Western Sky Balloon Festival on Saturday, July 5 in Delta. Photo by B. Slate.

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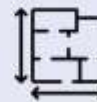
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MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO INCLUDE BALLOT QUESTION *From pg 1*

was absent.

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

PROCLAMATION

"It is really my honor to be able to issue this proclamation," Frank said. "A proclamation honoring our heroes, Veteran Recognition Month." First Responders were also recognized in the proclamation, he said.

Mayor Frank read the [proclamation](#) into the record; joining him to accept the proclamation were US Veterans April Heard and Amy Eifling of the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Frank asked those who wished to speak to line up.

First to speak was John Brown. "Thank you, Mayor and the Council, for finally recognizing our military publicly. I appreciate that. I am a veteran, and I've talked to many veterans, and we've often wondered why the council would never recognize the veterans, when they were recognizing all these other organizations that were representing one, maybe two, sometimes half a percent of the population, when a vast majority of our population is veterans.

"Thank you very much."

Brown went on to ask about a non-Sanctuary City declaration. "...Why hasn't the council put together a proclamation, a declaration in writing that we as the City of Montrose are not a sanctuary city..."

Mayor Frank interrupted Brown to say that a declaration had been published in the *Daily Press* and the *Montrose Mirror*.

Brown said, "It was not a declaration, it was merely stating that the meeting occurred and you made a statement there at the meeting that we were not. There has not, to my knowledge, been a declaration in a written document stating that Montrose is not sanctuary...we have seen that sanctuary cities are receiving various degrees of lack of funding and other things...we need to do it in writing. If it's no big deal for you to say it, then it's no big deal for you to put it in writing, it really should be put in writing, signed by the Council, stating that we are indeed non-

sanctuary."

Next, Cliff Faurer spoke. "...Thank you for the new bike trail that's along where the new public works facility is going to go...it's beautiful, it's really nice, thanks for that...Bill Bell commented in yesterday's work session regarding reducing parking requirements in order to support the comprehensive plan's call to increase high-density housing in the city center." Faurer quoted from the City's comprehensive plan and then said, "it makes sense that being close to where you're going requires less travel. So why is the city providing financial support, to the tune of a couple million dollars, for a developer to build high density housing at the entrance to Cobble Creek?"

"That's not in the city center. That location outside of Cobble Creek along Chipeta Road must be the worst spot in the city for high density housing," Faurer said. "Access along Chipeta is limited to cars and trucks as there is no adequate shoulder to bike, let alone walk, and there's nowhere to go without turning north up to Main or south to 550...what were you thinking when you allowed this land to be zoned for high density, and how do you justify supporting its development with millions of public dollars when it's not close to city services? We do recognize the need for more affordable housing and that means apartments, duplexes, townhouses, and condos. But let's insist that the locations for these types of housing align with the overall goals of the community and don't unduly increase the traffic on our roads.

"...Let's insist that approval and development of more affordable housing in the City of Montrose benefits all of us, and that it does not unduly increase the dependence on exclusively car and truck mobility; mid and high-density housing needs to be adjacent to infrastructure that provides access to city services through walk, bike, and roll mobility..."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the [minutes of the June 17, 2025](#), regular City Council meeting as presented.

BALLOT QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER 2025 COORDINATED ELECTION

Without discussing the actual ballot question, Council voted to notify the Montrose County Clerk regarding the addition of a question on the Nov. 4, 2025 Coordinated Election ballot related to amending the Montrose City Charter.

COLORADO AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION

Also approved was [\\$50,000 in expenditures to purchase right-of-way](#) along Colorado Avenue immediately west of Rio Grande Avenue in support of a future roundabout and roadway reconfiguration at the intersection.

RIO GRANDE AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION

Council approved [\\$52,636 in expenditures to purchase right of way](#) along Rio Grande Avenue at its intersection with East Oak Grove Road in support of a future roundabout at the intersection.

RIO GRANDE DRY UTILITY RELOCATION AND INSTALLATION EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION

Council [approved \\$818,251.41 in expenditures for construction of the Rio Grande Dry Utility Relocation and Installation Project](#). This includes the award of Change Order No. 2 to Williams Construction's Public Works Site Fill Contract in the amount of \$438,251.41, up to \$360,000 in expenditures to Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) for powerline relocation and street lighting, and up to \$20,000 in expenditures to Black Hills Energy for natural gas mainline relocation and extension.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE 1 CHANGE ORDER

The final action item was also approved, [the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Phase 1, Change Order #1](#), for additional design of Return Activated Sludge (RAS) piping improvements for \$104,843, bringing the total authorization for the project to \$1,454,843.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Judy Ann Files discussed the CML Conference that she, Mayor Frank, Councilor Glaspell, and "four or five" staff members attended.

"We participated for four days, and we learned a lot, and we were able to share a

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO INCLUDE BALLOT QUESTION

From previous pg

lot about how it's great in Montrose, and it just worked out really well," Files said.

Mayor Frank said, "I also was honored to be re-elected to the Executive Board of Colorado Municipal League for another two-year term. It was pretty exciting for me."

Frank said that he and his nieces attended a great event at the Montrose Children's Museum.

Files gave an overview of Fourth of July activities, "Enjoy Montrose July the 4th."

Frank said the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans is hosting a pancake breakfast on July 5th. "Look forward to seeing you out there."

With no further business, Frank adjourned the meeting.

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JULIE ANDRESS NAMED COUNTY ATTORNEY, BOCC CONTINUES PUBLIC HEALTH ITEMS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION



Montrose County Public Health Director Mirza Ahmed. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With two commissioners in attendance, Montrose County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Vice Chair Sean Pond called the regular meeting to order on Wednesday, July 2.

Commissioner Sue Hansen was also present; BOCC Chair Scott Mijares was absent.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Preston Gordon of All Saints Anglican Church delivered the Invocation.

"Almighty God and heavenly Father, we come to you and declare your glory, and we see that you show forth your handiwork on the Heaven and the Earth... that we who may do the work you give us to do, may we do it in truth and beauty and for the common good..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond read the rules for public comment.

First to speak was Barbara "Babs" Schmerler. "...I would like to express my support for reestablishing vaccines and family planning in the health Department. When the former Board of County Commissioners decided to remove those two services, I came before you and spoke about how I felt that was not a good idea because those are two very needed services.

"I think now more than ever they're needed, because while people thought that everyone could go to River Valley because it's a federally funded clinic, with

all the confusion and hoopla with the budget, the concern is I don't know how budget cuts are going to be impacting rural health care in Colorado, much less in Montrose County.

"So it will be important that we have a pretty strong public health department and I was very pleased to see that Dr. Ahmed was wanting to put those services back in place. It's not that easy to go get vaccines other places...and certainly there's always been a concern about teenage pregnancy."

Schmerler also expressed confusion about the hiring of the new County Manager. "...It appears that there is only one candidate and I've lived here 39 years and I don't ever remember that happening. I think it would be important for the county commissioners to clarify to the public why it is it appears that we just have one person when in the past we've had several respondents."

Schmerler also commented on traits that make a good leader. "...They act with honesty, fairness, and a strong moral compass. They build trust and credibility, they adjust to changing circumstances, they embrace new ideas, they foster a supportive, inclusive environment, and they focus on relationship building...I feel that things have been very divisive, I think more and more we're going to count on our local government, so it's important that we have a strong local government."

Next to speak was Peter Brandes.

Brandes said he recently retired after 36 years as Chief Operating Officer for Eagle County Paramedic Services and is now with the advocacy organization Montrose-Ouray County Indivisible. He expressed concern about almost \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts proposed in the Republican budget bill. "In Montrose County 29 percent of our residents are enrolled in Medicaid...Montrose nursing homes, health clinics, medical providers and our hospital receive a significant portion of their revenue through Medicaid reimbursements...Medicaid payments go directly into the Montrose Economy. How much are we talking about? \$48 Million dollars in direct payments...cuts contained in the

Republican bill will result in more uninsured residents in our county. It is my experience that when the uninsured become ill, they wait longer before seeking care, and when they do, they will be sicker...because Montrose County may face a significant cut in the \$48 Million in Medicaid payments, we, Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible, ask that Montrose County Board of Commissioners pass a resolution in support of retaining the current level of coverage that Medicaid provides to the 13,100 residents covered in Montrose County."

Brandes asked the BOCC to contact Rep. Jeff Hurd concerning the reconciliation package before the House of representatives, and to urge Hurd to vote No.

Catherine Stroh spoke next. "My comments today are concerning the hiring process for the new County Manager..." She said that she researched the final candidate and is unclear about how he met some of the key qualifications stated in the Montrose County job description.

"...I could use some help understanding, and helping the residents understand, and connect the dots, as to why this person is the top candidate for the job at this time. I think you need to let us in on that decision, how you arrived at that conclusion so that we have trust in your decision, because this is a really important decision...we need someone who's going to stick around and do this job really well and not disappear in six months."

Dennis Olmsted spoke. "...It is time for me to once again become active in County matters. Years ago, I was opposed to the construction of the event center at the County Fairgrounds. It is an excellent facility and loses a ton of money each year. The problem then was the lack of a real business plan and a terrible construction bid process. I plan to once again be active in Montrose County government meetings and business.

"I do my homework."

Next to speak, Holly Speaks said she is one of the group leaders of Montrose and Ouray County Indivisible and has worked in health care for over 28 years. "...I'm here also to support the request for the

Continued next pg

JULIE ANDRESS NAMED COUNTY ATTORNEY *From previous pg*

for the commissioners to pass the resolution supporting the current level of Medicaid in our county...part of your job as County Commissioners is to represent all citizens and to advocate for us at all levels--local, state and national, so we're asking you to do that...in Colorado in Congressional District 3 alone, it's estimated...if it becomes law, almost 35,000 humans in Colorado Congressional District 3 alone will not have health insurance...what if a child needs an inhaler? What kind of stress is this going to put on a single parent? Where will they go?

"...We're talking a lot of people are going to lose coverage...part of what we want in our county is a healthy, thriving community...please consider passing this resolution and contacting Representative Hurd and advocating for the residents of Montrose, because these deep budget cuts can hurt our family members, your family members, your friends, and our neighbors."

Jim Anderson spoke next. "I agree with Dennis on the event center. We looked into that when it was going through, and I also asked for a public investigation into the whole bidding process at that time. We were denied that by two county commissioners. And I can tell you that a lot of our concerns, not only with the bidding process but also the eventual cost of that to the public, and also the level of satisfactory construction all came true...Dennis you were right."

"...In the last 30 years I've seen county managers come and go, hired, fired," Anderson said. "The county commissioners have used every formula known to man I think in hiring...over the last 30 years there isn't any one set formula...yes there was numerous candidates that had applied...if you watched this process in the last 30 years it's been every formula and imaginable method you can think of...what it really comes down to...the selection really comes down to the County Commissioners themselves...I just wanted to qualify some statements...every formula in the book has been used..."

Don Varey spoke. "I agree with a lot of things that have been said here this morning...I'm here as a concerned citizen..." Varey said he was an employee of the

county for eight years, "and during those eight years the county became one of the best employers to work for...I don't want to see that lost. To go to the county manager topic or candidate, I too recognize that the candidate doesn't have local government experience. I would think that, particularly with two new commissioners that don't have local government experience either and it appears aren't taking guidance from a commissioner that does have county leadership experience, we need a county manager who does have local government experience. Not only local government but proven successful local government experience...I hope we find a candidate and not just hire somebody who's a yes man."

Next to speak was Julie Yarnell. "I'm really sorry that Commissioner Mijares isn't here today because my comments apply to him a lot. Commissioners Mijares and Pond, fool me once shame on you. Fool me twice shame on me. Your promised transparency is quite murky, especially with firings and hirings of county personnel, specifically county managers behind closed doors."

"I raised red flags when 16 applicants applied for the County Manager position, and you, Commissioner Mijares and Pond, settled for one candidate during one non-in person interview. You gave no opportunity for county staff to help vet or interact with their potential new boss. You gave no opportunities for the public to interact with the candidate that we will be paying their salary."

"Commissioner Mijares you then had the audacity to tell Commissioner Hansen she was being non-professional for bringing up her concerns to the public on the hiring process of the new county manager during a BOCC meeting."

"How else would we know?" Yarnell said, "Because you made the decision behind closed doors. This is not transparency."

"I remember a comment you made to me, Commissioner Mijares, during Coffee with the Commissioners on May 15. You said, 'The County Manager serves me.' To which I reminded you, you as county commissioner serve the people of Montrose County."

"Commissioners Mijares and Commissioner Pond, you caused a devastating outcome to our county government with closed-door, forced resignations of County Manager Frank Rodriguez, County Attorney Marti Whitmore. This also led to the voluntary resignation of County Manager Emily Sanchez. You've caused significant damage to our county government, and we lost highly skilled and experienced employees, and county employees have been put into a difficult and stressful work environment that has not been repaired. And you've cost the county hundreds of thousands of dollars in severance packages."

"I had hoped that you would take a more careful approach to hiring a new county manager, but now I question your judgment. The public needs to look more into the chosen county manager candidate Brad Mitchell. This is not his first interview for a position with Montrose County, and how much is this going to cost us?"

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve Consent Agenda items, with Resolution No. 35-2025 assigned to Item 15.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, where they voted to approve the renewal of the Pleasant Valley retail liquor store license and the Special Events Alcohol Permit for the Montrose County Fair Board on July 25 - 26.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Commissioners then reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Health, where they voted to approve the first action item for extension of the WIC program for one year, (below).

- "Application for extension of WIC program for one year; The new application will be effective from Oct 2025 to Sec 2026. Federal and State guidelines for this application focusing on partnership building with neighboring counties. For this

JULIE ANDRESS NAMED COUNTY ATTORNEY *From previous pg*

year Montrose County is Public Health is willing to partner with Delta County Public health with the direction of BOCC. We are proposing \$340,000 for one year WIC program which is 38,000 more than previous budget. Montrose county serves 1100 families and receive nutrition counseling, parenting advice, food assistance, referral services. The WIC program also provides education and counseling to pregnant/postpartum women and children up to the age of five."

Commissioners voted to continue the second item (below) to the meeting of Jul 16 so as to add language to the MOU regarding the minimum financial commitment from Delta County.

- "Request for review and agreed upon on an [MOU](#) with Delta County on WIC program. Montrose and Delta counties wish entering into a formal partnership to strengthen local WIC operations through shared leadership, coordinated staffing and services. This agreement reflects our joint commitment to providing consistent, high-quality nutrition services while laying the groundwork for a future comprehensive regional WIC service model. In this arrangement, Montrose County will provide WIC oversight and high-risk nutrition support to improve quality of service, while Delta County will support low-risk counseling and general staffing coverage across both jurisdictions. This partnership is expected with widened with the involvement Gunnison, Ouray and San Miguel counties in future to extend broader collaboration."

Public Health Director Mirza Ahmed argued that the second two public health items were important due to current understaffing and for equity, "...County Public Health requires more and more sup-

port, unfortunately we are very understaffed...we are planning to bring a few more programs within the county...equity is very important..."

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked for additional detail and for further conversations with Ahmed and with public health staff.

"...I know that we need to look at immunizations and reproductive health and bring those services back...I would really like to sit down with your staff, talk about capacity, talk about your plan...the commissioners need to have a better handle on what's going on at public health, who's doing what, how the allocation of labor is going right now...I want to be sure we have a pretty good idea of what the numbers are before we move forward... let's just sit down as a staff and make sure we've got all the bases covered."

BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond concurred, noting he has concerns about where to actually provide the service. Also, "...If we're going to do this, I believe we should have all the answers and roll this out in a manner that can be the most effective it can possibly be.

The Board voted to continue the next two Board of Health items until the meeting of Aug. 6 for further consideration:

-Request for recruitment of a new Registered Nurse (RN). Public Health department requesting BOCC to review and approve to hire a new Registered Nurse(RN) to support WIC, Immunization, Reproductive Health and TB programs. Workload of all the Public Health staff members is high and challenging considering providing service to about 43,000 population. There are about 30-40 customers come across to the public health department daily to receive services. WIC program serves 1200 families which is more than

half from neighboring other four counties. Public Health department will cover the cost of the new staff during this year through existing and new fund request; and

-Request for consideration to introduce Vaccination and Reproductive Health program. Montrose County Public Health requesting BOCC to consider Immunization and Reproductive Health services by the County Public Health department. Both the services will be voluntarily and not hurting the cultural and religious belief of the people. Immunization services includes providing scientific information advantage and disadvantage of vaccine, serving key vaccines to the children and adult (low/free cost), counseling, referral. Reproductive health service focuses on information, providing barrier methods, counseling and referrals. There will be NO abortion counseling or service.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The sole General Business item was approved to applause--Authorization of the Chair's signature on the [employment agreement](#) between Montrose County and the newly appointed County Attorney Julie Andress, as presented.

"I look forward to signing that," Vice Chair Pond said.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners voted to approve the [Coal Creek Estates II - Final Plat \[MA25-010\] Proposal](#) to divide 6.0 acres into four lots at Parcel 376504205003 and 376504205004 based on the findings of fact listed in paragraph 4 of the staff report. With no Executive Session and no further business, commissioners voted to adjourn.



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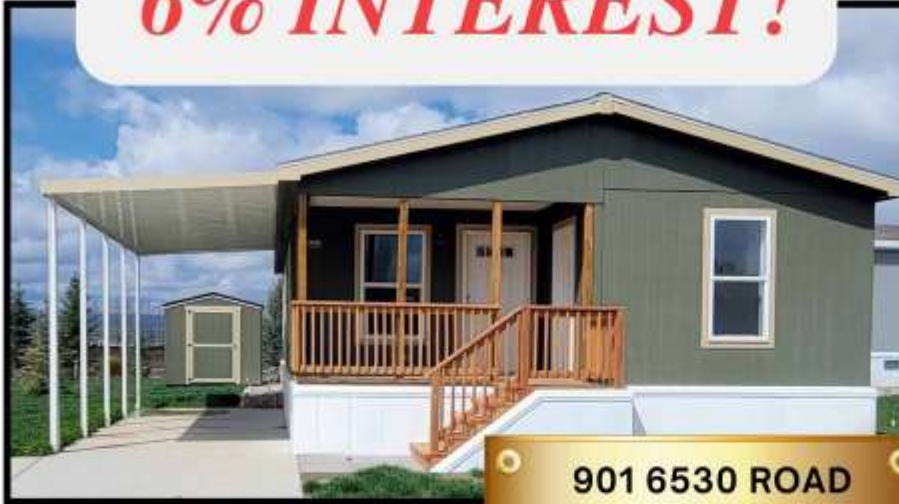
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RESTORING JUDICIAL LIMITS: THE SUPREME COURT'S REBUKE OF NATIONWIDE INJUNCTIONS

Editor:

The political left has increasingly resorted to underhanded tactics and lawfare to achieve its goals, relying on race-baiting, misinformation, and judicial overreach rather than substantive policy arguments. The Supreme Court's decision in *Trump v. CASA, Inc.*, 602 U.S. (2024), which curtailed the scope of nationwide injunctions issued by district courts, exposes the fragility of these tactics and reaffirms the constitutional boundaries of judicial power. Critics on the left have decried this ruling as a "constitutional crisis," but their reaction ignores the historical and legal foundations of the decision.

For over two centuries, the federal judiciary operated without district courts issuing nationwide injunctions. As Justice Clarence Thomas noted in his concurrence in *Trump v. CASA, Inc.*, the judiciary functioned effectively for 200 years without district courts imposing sweeping, nationwide relief. Historical data supports this: prior to 1963, nationwide injunctions were virtually nonexistent at the district court level, and their use remained rare until 2007. (See also Samuel L.

Bray, *Multiple Chancellors: Reforming the Nationwide Injunction*, 131 Harv. L. Rev. 417, 418-20 (2017)). The notion of a single district judge halting the policies of a duly elected president lacks grounding in the statutory or constitutional framework that defines the judiciary's role.

Congress has long established the jurisdiction of district courts, limiting their authority to the parties and issues directly before them (28 U.S.C. § 1331). The Supreme Court, as the only federal court with national jurisdiction, is uniquely em-

powered to issue rulings with nationwide effect, though even this authority is constrained by the separation of powers doctrine. (See *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137 (1803)). The judiciary's role is to assess the constitutionality of laws or actions, not to dictate policy, which remains the purview of the executive and legislative branches (*Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579, 587-89 (1952)). District courts overstep their bounds when they issue injunctions that extend beyond the litigants, effectively usurping the authority of the President and Congress.

On June 27, 2025, the Supreme Court issued a 6-3 ruling in *Trump v. CASA, Inc.*, authored by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, which sharply limited the ability of federal district courts to issue nationwide injunctions. The Court held that **such injunctions "likely exceed the equitable authority that Congress has given to federal courts"** under the Judiciary Act of 1789, emphasizing that relief should be limited to the plaintiffs before the court. This decision addressed challenges to President Trump's executive order on birthright citizenship but focused solely on the scope of injunctive relief, not the order's constitutionality. The ruling partially stayed injunctions issued by three district courts, allowing the executive order to take effect in some regions after a 30-day delay, while leaving open the possibility for class-action lawsuits to seek broader relief.

The left's reliance on lawfare, exemplified by the misuse of nationwide injunctions, reflects a broader strategy of circumventing the processes established by our Constitutional Republic. Unable to secure con-

sistent victories through legislation or public support, they have turned to sympathetic judges to impose sweeping policy changes. The Congressional Research Service noted that **86 nationwide injunctions were issued during President Trump's first term, with 17 issued in the first 100 days of his second term, often from the same five judicial districts.** The *Trump v. CASA, Inc.* decision rightly curtails this practice, reinforcing that district courts lack the authority to issue relief beyond the parties before them. This is not a constitutional crisis but a restoration of the judiciary's proper role as outlined by Congress and the Constitution.

The left's outrage over this ruling reveals their dependence on judicial overreach to advance their agenda. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, dissenting with the Court's three liberal justices, argued that the decision "disregards basic principles of equity" and the history of injunctive relief for nonparties. However, the majority's reasoning, grounded in historical equity practices and statutory limits, underscores that universal injunctions circumvent procedural protections like those in Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which governs class actions.

By decrying the Court's adherence to long-standing legal principles, critics expose the weakness of their position. **A return to constitutional fidelity**, as seen in this decision, ensures that the judiciary remains a check on power, not a tool for political agendas. The nation's legal system, rooted in over 200 years of precedent, demands nothing less.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ARE THE WORKING POOR BEING DENIED EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM?

Editor:

Some recent unpleasant encounters with our legal system opened my eyes to the lack of equity in our legal system. If you are charged with a criminal offense and cannot afford an attorney one will be appointed for your defense.

However, most court appointed attorneys want to dispose of the case as soon as possible. If you are lucky your first meeting with them will be the day before the first hearing. But all too often the first meeting with your court appointed attorney will be just minutes before the first hearing. The main topic of the next meeting with the court appointed attorney will center around a plea bargain. Sometimes without them even asking as to whether you are guilty or not. Like I previously said they want this settled as soon as possible so they can move on to a more profitable client. Pleading guilty to any crime can have serious and long-lasting consequences. But all too often the time, financial commitment, and uncertainty as to the outcome of fighting a criminal complaint that can be pleaded down to a deferred judgment is the lesser of two evils. But no one knows what the future holds. During the term of that deferred judgment something else could arise and the two together could result in serious Jail time.

When someone is arrested, they face the issues of finding competent representation as well as posting bail. And both can be extremely expensive.

For people with limited resources this process can be frustrating and demeaning to have to ask friends and relatives for help. Or if bail is set exceedingly high then they may have to ask for someone to put their house at risk for the bail. And attorneys are not interested in your hard luck story they just want their retainer up

front. And the bail bonds-person just wants his 10% and the assurance that you will show up to court. And it does not end there everyone assumes you get one phone call but there is a catch in most jails in order for an inmate to make a phone call they must have someone deposit money on an account for them to be able make phone calls. And these phone privileges are run by some corporations that charge a substantial amount for all transactions or for just a few minutes of phone use. Same goes for the commissary. There needs to be some extensive research into this as it is a system that is ripe for abuse and profiteering at the expense of people who can least afford it.

And then there is civil court where you will not get a court appointed attorney. Even though in civil court you are not in danger of being locked up you can still face some dire consequences. Such as the loss of constitutional rights in a protection order. Or the loss of custody of your children. A lawsuit judgment can lead to financial ruin, or you could wind up homeless. And no one other than an attorney is allowed to help you. You can defend yourself, but no family member or close friend may help you in any way while in the court room. The lawyers made sure that non attorneys would not invade their turf. Despite professing equal justice, systemic barriers leave the working poor without effective counsel.

Last year while attending a custody hearing where my grandson was trying to get custody of his son from his ex-wife and abusive boyfriend. I observed how lopsided civil court could be when one person had an attorney and the other did not. My grandson had an attorney and prevailed. His ex-wife had her boyfriend at the table with her, but he was not allowed to help even though he tried and was promptly

scolded by the judge. Even though I wanted my grandson to win it was still very painful to watch his ex not even be able form any intelligent questions or arguments in her defense.

And in another court hearing that took place prior to the case I was involved in. An indigent man who obviously could not afford an attorney permanently lost his second amendment rights with the stroke of a pen.

The ACLU is happy to help if you are of the protected class with a high-profile case. But right now, they are busy with transgender issues and attacking Trump for deporting people in our country illegally. But if you are not of the upper or protected class and are of modest or low income our current legal system can be a very unfriendly place.

Even though we call our legal system the justice system you will very seldom find justice in a court room what you will find is the law. In all its imperfections it is still the best most equitable system on earth. But there is always room for improvement. I would like to see civil courts allow non attorneys such as family members to aid litigants.

Our legal system is supposed to be for the benefit of all citizens not just for the affluent. My daughter and her husband sued an insurance company pro se (represented themselves) because their attorney refused to represent them in the matter. They won and received a 1.2-million-dollar settlement. My daughter has no formal training in legal issues. Her degree is as a respiratory therapist. Attorneys have priced themselves out of reach of the average citizen and something needs to change, or our prisons are going to be full of people who are there simply because they could not afford an attorney
RAY LANGSTON, MONTROSE

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE ANNOUNCES STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Stage 1 fire restrictions go into effect July 3 for all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison Field Office within the boundaries of Gunnison, Hinsdale, Saguache, San Juan, Ouray, and Montrose counties. The restrictions align with local orders and guidelines to protect the public's safety during high fire danger.

"Current and expected weather conditions indicate heightened risk of wildfire" said **Gunnison Field Manager Jon Kaminsky**. "Implementing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions is a resource management tool to help protect our communities, ecosystems, and natural resources through increased awareness and restrictions on certain activities."

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, the following acts are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire except within agency-provided fire grates at developed recreation sites. Devices using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel are permitted.
- Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- Operating a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and working, a chemical fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.
- Using a welder, either arc or gas, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter with a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity.
- Using exploding targets/fireworks.

Stage 1 fire restrictions on these lands become effective at 12:01 a.m., MDT, July 3, 2025, and will be in place until further notice. Violation of federal fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both. In addition, those found responsible for starting wildfires will also face restitution costs of suppressing the fire.

Current fire prevention notices for the BLM Southwest District are posted online at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/southwest-district>





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 of Montrose, CO
 Accountable to
 "We the People"**

Check us out on

**"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:
 RE: "Payment for City Championship"
 Why not hold this at Black Canyon (owned by the City)?

Hmmmmmmmm \$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 \$26,980.00 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.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!!

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Versatile Barndominium in Coal Creek Valley

— Equestrian Potential & Endless Space

Welcome to your dream setup in the heart of Colorado's beautiful Coal Creek Valley, in Montrose, CO. This unique barndominium offers over 2,000 sq ft of heated space and the flexibility to create a truly customized home. 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.

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

9.18 acres



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19702753195

lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com

<https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE IMPLEMENTS STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

DOLORES— Stage 1 fire restrictions begin Tuesday, July 1 for all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office within the boundaries of Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan, San Miguel, and the of Canyon of the Ancients National Monument. The restrictions align with local orders and guidelines to protect the public's safety during high fire danger.

"The fire danger indices within the Tres Rios Field Office are at very high to extreme" said **Southwest District Fire Management Officer Rusty Stark**. "These restrictions are being put in place due to the persistent drought and weather conditions."

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions:

-Campfires are only allowed within an agency provided fire grate at developed recreation sites. Devices using gas, petroleum jelly, or pressurized liquid fuel are permitted. Fire pans and rock campfire rings are not acceptable.

-No fires of any type, including charcoal, outside of developed areas.

-No smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or in a barren area free of vegetation

-No use of explosive materials, including explosive targets.

-No welding or operation of an acetylene or other similar torch with open flame except an area that has been cleared of vegetation.

-No operation of any internal combustion engine without a spark-arresting device

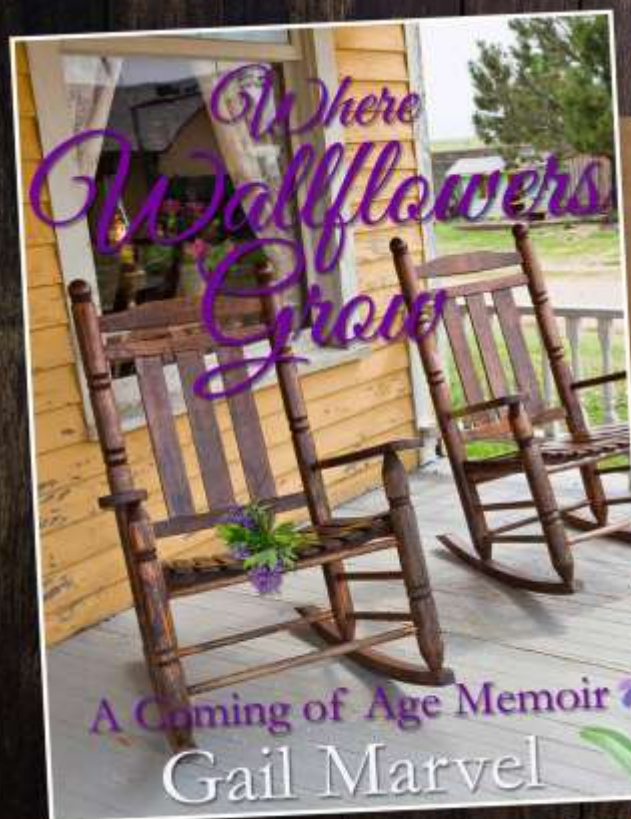
properly installed and in working order.

Stage 1 fire restrictions on these lands will become effective at 12:01 a.m., MDT, July 1, 2025, and will be in place until rescinded. Violation of federal fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both. In addition, those found responsible for starting wildfires will also face restitution costs of suppressing the fire.

These fire restrictions are in addition to the year-round wildfire prevention restrictions on BLM-administered public lands in Colorado. These include prohibitions on:

-Leaving a fire unattended or unextinguished.

-Possession, discharge or use of any fire-works.



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**.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BODY FOUND ALONG HIGHWAY 50 NEAR STARR NELSON ROAD

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY- At approximately 5:06 a.m. Sunday morning, the Colorado State Patrol responded to a report of a body found on the side of Highway 50 near Starr Nelson Road. The initial call came from a driver who contacted Mesa County Dispatching, stating they believed they may have struck someone.

Further investigation revealed that the pedestrian was struck in the middle of the left lane on Highway 50 and had been hit by multiple vehicles. Two drivers have come forward and are cooperating with investigators. Based on evidence collected at the scene, an additional suspect vehicle may be involved.

The Colorado State Patrol Vehicular Crimes Unit is leading the investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the crash is asked to call the Colorado State Patrol Dispatch Center at 970-249-4392 and reference case number 5C250787. Please be prepared to leave your contact information for a return call from the assigned crash investigator.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS MATTER

Editor:

School board elections matter. These dedicated, unpaid volunteers oversee one of the largest budgets in our community—and more importantly, they shape the future of our children. The decisions made by the school board impact students, families, and the wider community. Their responsibilities include hiring and evaluating the superintendent, managing fiscal decisions, setting policy, and listening to the public. That's why it's vital we elect candidates who are committed to serving the community—not pushing personal agendas or diverting precious resources.

More than 85% of adults in our country have benefited from public education. Yet today, hot-button topics like “parental rights” and “school choice” dominate conversations. Let's be clear: parental rights have always existed. You can—and should—exercise them by getting involved in your child's school. As for school choice, Montrose already offers great options. But constantly demanding more reminds

me of kids asking for different dinners—lasagna, hamburgers, and ice cream. We can't give everyone everything. We must set smart, sustainable parameters.

Just because we've all been students doesn't mean we fully understand education—any more than having surgery makes someone a surgeon. That's why we need school board members willing to do the hard work, ask tough questions, and serve with humility. We must elect individuals who care about public education—not those chasing political headlines.

I know both Republicans and Democrats who are in book clubs and oppose banning books. I know families across the political spectrum who have LGBTQ+ children and want them treated with dignity. I know graduates of Montrose High School—small business owners, tradespeople, healthcare workers—who give back to our community every day. Using misinformation and fear about transgender students or mythical “litter boxes” in classrooms only distracts from

real challenges: crumbling buildings, outdated textbooks, exhausted educators, and the wellbeing of ALL children.

As a teacher, I see former students working at Montrose Memorial Hospital, running local businesses, and returning to the community to raise their own children. I've taught kids who went to college, entered the trades, or followed their own meaningful paths. Their contributions to our community didn't end at graduation.

There's a saying: “The one who plants trees knowing they will never sit in their shade understands the meaning of life.”

If you have the heart to serve, consider stepping up. Reach out to a current school board member—Neisha Balleck, Steve Bush, Sarah Fishering, Jody Hovde, Alice Murphy, Ted Vallerio, or Tom West. Talk to teachers. Attend a meeting. Encourage a friend or coworker to run. Public education needs all of us.

Thank you for being engaged in our schools and community.

Ellen Angeles, Lifelong Educator



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BANS REINFORCE CULTIVATED MEAT'S POTENTIAL

Editor:

As an animal activist, I'm a vocal proponent of cultivated meat. For those who don't know, the new protein is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. I view developing the nascent field of cellular agriculture as the most promising means of reducing nonhuman slaughter and premature death. It offers a number of potential public health and environmental benefits as well.

Still, I occasionally wonder if all the hope I've invested in this technology is misplaced. After all, I'm not a scientist. I have to take the word of experts who say mass producing cultivated meat at a price competitive with — if not lower than — slaughtered meat is eventually feasible. Similarly, I've never tasted the new protein, early iterations of which are only available in limited locations.

I can't say how close cultivated meat is now to the taste of slaughtered options. From what I understand, various qualities, like texture, remain a work in progress. It would represent an immense failure, in my mind, were the new protein only ever to become an improved offering for existing vegans and vegetarians. My deep wish is a mature cellular agriculture will be transformative.

Amidst these doubts, a number of states, most recently Texas, have preemptively

banned the sale of cultivated meat. This is undoubtedly a bad development. I don't really want to try to spin it otherwise. That said, in an odd way, it's also been somewhat reassuring to me, reinforcing my belief that cellular agriculture is a threat to animal agriculture, and my activism is on the right track.

There's a risk here of assuming the livestock industry, which frequently backs such bans, is completely rational. I don't think that's the case. Just because a campaign, or in this case, a technology, is the focus of government repression, doesn't mean it's the most effective vehicle for change. Still, I'd be a little worried if the livestock industry was totally unconcerned by cultivated meat.

I also do my best to remember it's not an all or nothing proposition. I certainly hope cultivated meat will some day relegate slaughterhouses to the trash heap of history, but even if this doesn't come to pass, the field has the potential to do an immense amount of good. Very low rates of cultivated-meat adoption among existing omnivores could save billions of animals a year.

So I plan to continue picketing my elected officials, calling on them to support public funding for cellular-agriculture research. This isn't an unprecedented demand. Such funding has been allocated at both

the state and federal level before. For instance, in 2024, the Massachusetts government invested a little over \$2 million in the Tufts University Center for Cellular Agriculture.

I'm unaware of other forms of animal activism which have anything close to the promise of accelerating cultivated-meat development. As an example, campaigns against vivisection, fur farming, and zoos face industries where the total number of yearly animal victims is counted in millions. Given the ubiquity of nonhuman exploitation, I believe some degree of triage is necessary.

Cultivated-meat bans are reprehensible and should be fought, and yet they are very much to be expected. If cellular agriculture has anything like the potential we hope it does, cultivated meat represents a threat to the livestock industry. Maybe it's only a threat to one percent of the existing meat market. But this preemptive legislation suggests it's a threat the industry takes seriously.

By Jon Hochschartner

Jon Hochschartner lives in Connecticut. He is the author of a number of books, including *The Animals' Freedom Fighter: A Biography of Ronnie Lee, Founder of the Animal Liberation Front.*



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CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

NEW OIL AND GAS DISCOVERIES. WOLF BREEDING HABITAT. LAND CLOSURES. HERE'S WHAT IT REALLY MEANS.

By Sean M. Pond

Montrose County Commissioner, District 3

The Gunnison Outdoor Resource Protection Act, or GORP, is being pushed by Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet with support from Congressman Jeff Hurd. They claim it's about protecting public land. But the truth is, GORP is a massive federal land lockup that threatens the economy, culture, and future of Western Colorado.

GORP places over 730,000 acres of land in western Colorado under federal control. Of that, more than 612,000 acres will fall under the most extreme restrictions, eliminating timber harvest, choking out grazing, blocking oil and gas exploration, closing roads, banning motorized access, and severely limiting recreation.

Here's what that looks like in real numbers:

Wilderness Areas – 122,902 acres

Wildlife Conservation Areas – 223,865 acres

Special Management Areas – 214,650 acres

Protection Areas – 20,542 acres

Recreation Management Areas – 18,247 acres

Scientific Research Areas – 12,250 acres

These are not just words on paper. These designations carry real consequences. Once the land is locked up, it doesn't come back. The public is pushed out. Local industries are shut down. The federal government takes control. And over time, the freedoms we rely on, access, use, management are gone.

Let's break it down.

Timber.

Montrose Forest Products is the largest sawmill in the state. It supports over 200 direct jobs, pays \$34.5 million in wages, and contributes over \$850,000 in property taxes. They've testified that if GORP passes, they will have no access to harvestable land and will be forced to shut down. That's not a theory. That's their own words. If this mill closes, it takes families, paychecks, and a massive part of our local economy with it. Grazing and Ranching.

GORP doesn't ban grazing outright, but it makes it nearly impossible. Permits become bureaucratic nightmares. Access to fences, water improvements, and grazing lands is cut off. Hauling cattle in or out becomes logistically impossible. Ranchers won't survive the long game of red tape and restriction. And once they're gone, they don't come back.

Oil and Gas.

Delta County alone will lose over 74,000 acres of energy lease potential under GORP. But the big news is what just happened this week. The U.S. Geological Survey confirmed one of the largest natural gas deposits in the world lies beneath western Colorado. This isn't speculation, it's real. The deposit stretches across Rio Blanco, Garfield, Mesa, and Delta Counties, with portions extending into Montrose. And it's located primarily on federal land.

We are talking about potentially hundreds of billions of dollars in energy value, natural gas that could power communities, strengthen energy independence, create thousands of jobs, and inject new revenue into struggling rural counties. But GORP would shut the door before any of it is developed. No new leases. No surface access. No pipelines. No infrastructure. Just another example of Washington locking away resources that belong to the people.

This isn't just about what's lost. It's about what's deliberately buried and blocked. GORP would seal off one of the most valuable energy reserves in the world, and not one of the sponsors has addressed it publicly. They want to pretend it doesn't exist. But it does. And we should be shouting it from the rooftops.

Fire Mitigation.

Wilderness and conservation designations prohibit mechanical thinning, fuel reduction, or road access. That means we lose our ability to manage wildfires before they start. When the fires come, and they will, we'll be watching them from a distance with no tools, no access, and no chance of stopping them.

Water Infrastructure.

GORP will cut off roads and trails used to maintain ditches, culverts, headgates, and diversion structures in remote headwaters. Once access is gone, maintaining that infrastructure becomes impossible. That doesn't just hurt public land. It hurts every downstream water user, municipalities, agriculture, and families that depend on clean, reliable water.

Outdoor Recreation.

Motorized access, side by sides, ATVs, Jeeps, snowmobiles, will be banned in wilderness areas and heavily restricted in conservation areas. Mountain biking is banned in most zones. Trail expansions are frozen. Hunters and anglers will still be allowed, but with road closures and vehicle bans,

getting in and out of backcountry becomes a nightmare. Try packing out an elk five miles uphill on foot. That's not freedom. That's forced surrender.

Predator Expansion.

Every Colorado Parks and Wildlife meeting I've attended has repeated the same thing, if you want to keep wolves away, you need human interaction. Honk. Shout. Bang pots and pans. You can't shoot them, even if they're killing your dog in front of you. So the only legal defense we have is human presence. But now look at what GORP creates over 600,000 acres of land cut off from people, vehicles, and active use. That's prime breeding habitat for wolves. They'll settle deep in these wilderness zones and emerge to attack cattle, sheep, pets, and eventually the edges of our towns. GORP creates sanctuaries for predators and strips away the tools people need to protect what's theirs.

The Economic Fallout.

Montrose County stands to lose \$20 to \$30 million a year. Delta County will lose \$15 to \$25 million. Add in Gunnison, Ouray, Hinsdale, Saguache, and Pitkin, and we're talking about a regional hit of \$80 to \$110 million annually. That includes lost payroll, tax revenue, tourism, energy development, outfitting, gear sales, guide services, and more.

This isn't about conservation. This is about control.

GORP removes people from the land. It removes management. It removes the economic backbone of rural Colorado.

And worst of all, it removes the freedom that makes this part of the country what it is.

We've seen it before. Bears Ears. Grand Staircase. Every time the government promises protection, it ends in closure. They claim you'll still be allowed to hike, hunt, graze, and recreate. But then they gate the roads, pull the permits, cancel the access, and walk away.

If we let GORP pass, we won't be preserving our land. We'll be surrendering it.

The future of Western Colorado is on the line. If we care about timber jobs, grazing rights, energy independence, fire safety, water infrastructure, outdoor access, and local control, then GORP is not the path forward.

It's a dead end.

And it's time we call it what it is.

A land grab, plain and simple



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SUBTERRA INSIGHTS RESPONDS TO RECENT LETTER

To the Editor:

We appreciated seeing a letter from someone who attended our recent presentation in Montrose. It takes time and effort to show up for a community event, and we agree wholeheartedly with her closing statement: we should all care about public education, and we should all pay attention to what our school boards are doing. On that, we are aligned. But some of the conclusions drawn in her letter deserve a thoughtful response, because public conversation is most valuable when it's rooted in shared facts. The event she attended was presented by Subterra Insights, the organization we co-founded. We are open about our mission: we equip communities to make better decisions using data, compassion, and systems thinking. We're proud of that work and it's not partisan. What we are **not** is neutral on the future of public education. Public schools are essential civic infrastructure, and we believe they should serve the entire public. That's not a hidden agenda. That's a guiding principle.

Regarding the idea that we are "targeting" school board elections: that's simply not accurate. We don't target communities. We're invited. Subterra Insights doesn't recruit candidates or fund campaigns. What we do is share research, when asked, on two well-documented movements that are actively working to erode public education as a shared civic institution. That was the case in Montrose. A local leader invited us to speak. We accepted.

Our goal wasn't to manipulate the conversation, but to contribute to it, openly and with evidence.

The videos we showed, clips of Betsy DeVos, Dick DeVos, and Lance Wallnau, were not selective edits. They were direct, verifiable public statements outlining their efforts to dismantle public education nationally. We used the term Christian nationalism not as a slur, but as a descriptive label of a movement, one that scholars, journalists, and even movement leaders

themselves use to define efforts to merge a particular brand of religious ideology with public governance. At no point did we claim that all conservatives are Christian nationalists, nor did we imply it. That would be both unfair and untrue. If anyone came away with that impression, it wasn't because it was said, but it's still worth clarifying. Our concern is with a specific political movement that uses religion to undermine pluralism, not with conservatism itself.

It's also worth noting that the letter omitted nearly half of our presentation. A significant portion of the evening focused on direct feedback from civic-minded voters about school board elections. Why they feel disconnected, what information they wish they had, and what gets in the way of meaningful participation. We shared real data from the most recent Montrose school board election, including turnout patterns and undervotes that could have changed outcomes. We talked about why public engagement matters, what community members can do to get more informed, and how school board candidates can support that process. At no point in that entire conversation did we even mention conservatives. Because that wasn't the point. This presentation wasn't about labeling people. It was about understanding systems, clarifying stakes, and helping communities show up with intention.

If anyone would like to decide for themselves, the full presentation is available here: <https://youtu.be/ysRlcfZqjc4> Regarding charter schools, what we said was that charter schools are publicly funded schools governed by independent boards, operating autonomously under contracts with public authorizers, which is accurate by law. That structure allows wide variation in accountability and transparency, depending on how a specific charter is managed. We did not say all charter schools are elitist or exclusionary.

We said that the structure allows for those outcomes, and in many places,

they've occurred. That's not an attack. It's a structural observation, and one supported by ample evidence. As for civics education, it's true that some charter schools offer strong civics programs. It's also true that many traditional public schools do as well, especially when communities advocate for it. Our point wasn't to diminish one model, but to remind the audience that well-funded, inclusive public schools remain one of the best tools we have to sustain a functional democracy.

Finally, yes, we do believe fear is being used politically, by some actors, to manipulate school board elections. That belief is based on documented patterns of messaging, strategic disinformation, and national funding pipelines. But if you are a Montrose resident who believes in facts, transparency, and educational excellence, and you are not using fear to win votes, then we are not talking about you. And we welcome you in this conversation. It's also true that, until recently, Montrose hasn't faced the kinds of high-conflict school board takeovers or ideological disruptions seen in other parts of Colorado and the country. And we sincerely hope it stays that way. But it would be naive to assume it can't happen there. The same national narratives and funding pipelines that have targeted other communities often show up quietly at first. If our presentation helped even a few people in Montrose recognize the early signs, or ask better questions about who's shaping their schools, then we believe it was time well spent.

This moment in our communities, and our country, is not just about curriculum or budgets. It's about what kind of public we want our public schools to serve. That's not a partisan question. It's a civic one.

Thank you for reading. And for showing up.

Sincerely,

*Rob Rogers & Melissa Hendrix,
Subterra Insights*



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LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS WOULD RATHER KEEP THE WORLD ON THE EDGE OF DESTRUCTION THAN HAVE TRUMP LOOK GOOD

Editor:

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe Independence Day celebration. In my reading this week, I realized that there are two distinct 4th of July observations. Republicans tend to rejoice and celebrate, while Democrats tend to be angry and concentrate on denouncing our nation as horrible. Like a majority of the country, I remember celebrating with barbecues, awesome fireworks, and family fun. The increasingly unhinged Left holds protests filled with jarring anger rather than any appreciation of the great things this country has done for its citizens and the world.

The lunatics running the “no kings” protests urged people to shelter in place and stay quiet during the nation's biggest bash because America is, according to them, “a country that doesn't love you back.” Gallup released a poll last week asking those surveyed if they were proud to be Americans. In 2001, 87% of Democrats said they were proud to be an American, while 90% of Republicans also said yes. Today, just 36% of Democrats said they were proud to be an American, a 51-point drop, while 92% of Republicans said yes, a 2-point increase. A current star of the Democrat party, Ilhan Omar, exclaimed that the U.S. was turning into “one of the worst countries” on the planet. This is the same person that escaped the failed state of Somalia to come to the U.S.

It's no secret that Democrats have no plausible opponents to Donald Trump, and no policies other than to “resist, resist, resist.” Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer admitted as much when he stated that the Democrat party's “job” is to weaken the current president. No mention of advocating for their constituency or passing legislation that makes Americans' lives better. The new face of the Democrat party, Jasmine Crockett's statements have also made it clear she thinks it is a higher priority to resist Trump than to pass legislation. Democrats show how much they care about the common American citizen by resisting deporting illegal criminals, an action 97% of Americans favor. These are the same people that cheered Biden adding 85,000 IRS agents to hound taxpayers, but now compare Trump to Hitler for adding 10,000 ICE employees to protect Ameri-

cans. The Trump administration is doing all it can to cut waste, be good stewards over taxpayers' money, and save our entitlement programs by cutting fraud. Democrats resist all that. Democrats show how much they care about women's issues by resisting protecting women's sports. Democrats show how much they love America by resisting everything Trump does, regardless of the merits of Trump's actions. With each passing moment of his presidency, Trump is changing the political landscape of the Middle East for the better. The terrorism sponsoring rogue nation of Iran has been isolated and the prospect of peace between Israel and its less hostile neighbors is now much improved. Democrats would rather keep the world on the edge of destruction than have Trump look good. They would rather be consistently wrong than help Trump, even if that means destroying themselves in the process.

The Democrat playbook is no big secret. For decades, they have used the same scare tactic: Any Republican proposal is met with screams that any changes will literally kill people. If you believe their rhetoric, Republicans have supposedly been killing millions every year, whether by letting states set their own abortion laws, passing tax cuts, shutting down the border invasion, confirming a conservative Supreme Court justice, or whatever. Because the hysteria is now so predictable, their scare tactics are just being laughed at. A prime example is Republican efforts to turn Medicaid back to what it was intended: a program to provide health insurance to low-income children, elderly people with little financial means, and people with disabilities who cannot work. Today, it has expanded far beyond those groups to include illegal aliens and able-bodied, working age adults who have access to private insurance. In reality, exactly the people Medicaid was created to help – the ones who can't survive without the help -- are the ones who suffer when the program is stretched to cover millions of people it was never designed to serve. The system is so inefficient and overextended that it is already failing the people it was designed to help. It is not compassion to pretend the program is sustainable. Real compassion is not measured by how many people you

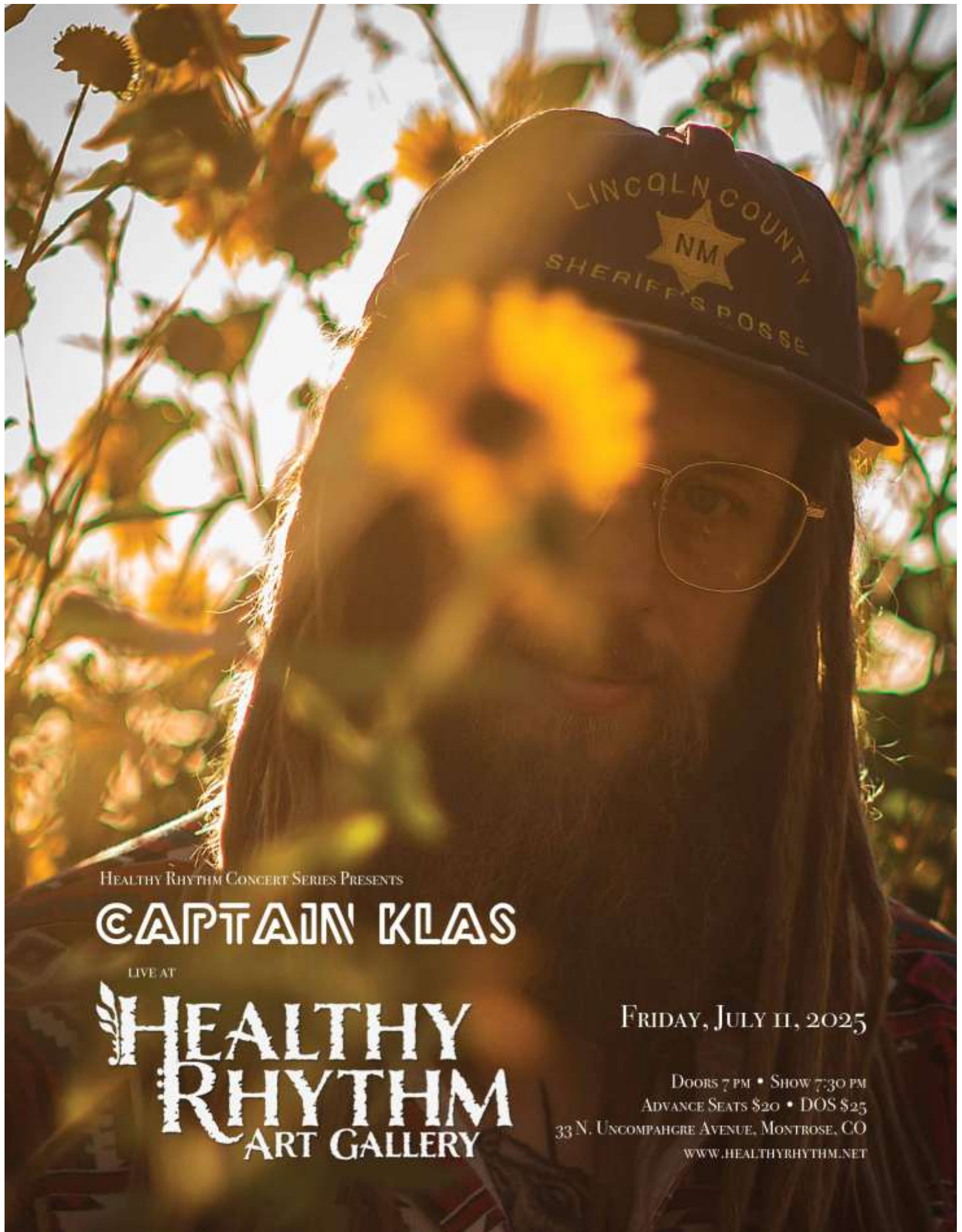
can cram into a failing program. It's measured by whether the people who truly need help are actually getting it.

DOGE exposed to the public a small portion of the vast corruption in our federal agencies. The most disturbing revelation has not been the abysmal waste, but Democrats' insistence that it must continue. Speaking of Medicaid, the DOJ just charged 324 people for health care fraud amounting to \$14.6 billion. These are the people Democrats are protecting to allow them to keep ripping off Americans' benefits. Medicaid will be cut, but only for able-bodied people and illegals who are taking advantage of the system, not kids in wheelchairs.

Democrats also won't talk about the sorry state of Medicare and Social Security. Medicare is on the brink of a financial crisis. The Medicare Trustees' latest report warns that the trust fund that pays for Medicare hospital stays could be depleted in as little as three to five years. The insolvency dates for the rest of Medicare and Social Security are also coming up rapidly. So, Democrats are on top of this critical issue and are leading a bi-partisan effort to reform these programs, right? On the contrary, they are doing everything possible to prevent any discussion, much less reform. They continually use their playbook to demonize any Republican brave enough to suggest changes to these programs. Gutless Republicans are now too wimpy to bring up the subject, so nothing gets done – another Democrat success story in resisting anything remotely beneficial to the American people. “Oh, look! The One Big Beautiful Bill just became law and millions of innocent people are going to die! And innocent Americans are disappearing into Alligator Alcatraz!”

No chuckle this week --- just a sad story further revealing how far Democrats have strayed from normal Americans. Michelle Obama just called giving birth the “least significant” thing a woman can do. So sad. Democrats try to erase women's sports, claim they don't know what a woman is, and now want to demean women who take great pride and joy in their role as mothers – bearing children and raising them to become good adult citizens.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LENORE STRAUSS

January 29, 1955 — June 27, 2025



LENORE STRAUSS, 70, of Montrose Colorado, passed away peacefully on June 27, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on January 29, 1955, in New York, Lenore's life was a journey marked by resilience, transformation, and enduring love. She spent her early years on the East Coast before moving west, living in California and Nevada, and eventually settling in Colorado to be closer to her children and grandchildren.

Though Lenore faced many hardships throughout her life, she met them with quiet strength and a deep inner fortitude. She overcame adversity in her own way and found joy later in life through her relationships with her grandchildren. She was a proud grandmother to twelve grandchildren, whose laughter, milestones, and presence brought her a profound sense of love and peace.

Lenore is survived by her four children: Anthony Billings, Siccily Burrows, Paula Trickle, and Lea Trickle. She is also survived by her twelve beloved grandchildren, one great grandchild and countless memories shared among those who knew her.

Her life was not defined by perfection, but by perseverance, growth, and the connections she worked to build later in life. Her family takes comfort in knowing that she is at peace and will be remembered for the love she gave and the legacy she leaves behind.

A private family gathering will be held to honor Lenore's life. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you hold your loved ones close, offer grace to one another, and remember that healing is always possible.

WAYNE MAURICE QUADE

March 22, 1941- July 4, 2025

WAYNE QUADE was born to Francis and Virginia Quade in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on March 22, 1941, and grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin. He was a life long member of the Christian Science Church. He passed away on July 4, 2025.

Early in his youth he became passionate about Boy Scouts, becoming an Eagle Scout in 1958, and later an Explorer Scout. Wayne graduated from Leelanau Boarding School in Glen Arbor, Michigan, and attended the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, graduating with a B.S. degree.

After graduation, he served in the U.S. Airforce for four years, working as a technician on Air Force bombers at a U.S. base. He then attended the University of Montana and graduated with a M.S. Degree in Natural Resource Management.

He started his 37 years of service with the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska, Montana,

and Colorado. After retirement, he continued to advocate for natural resources locally with the Parks and Recreation Districts and traveled to Washington, D.C., on several occasions to lobby Congress on their behalf.

He was a passionate outdoors adventurer and natural resource advisor, and leader in Boy Scouts of America. He recently received a 70-years of Service to Scouting Award. He attended four World Jamborees, four National Jamborees and was a dedicated educator at Philmont Camp.

He was decorated with the rarely awarded, Daniel Carter Beard Medal in 2016, and is only the eleventh person to receive the award in Colorado. This award was created to honor Masons committed to bringing the ideals of scouting to young men. He was a 32nd Degree Mason, member of the Scottish Rites, and the Eastern Stars.

He was co-founder of the Montrose Citizen's Climate Lobby and a board member of the Friends of the Himalayas, and strong supporter of the Ute Indian Museum along with several conservation groups.

Wayne is survived by his sister, Marilyn Siems, of Georgia, and his brother, David Quade of Massachusetts; nieces and nephews, Christine, Charles, Allison and Jonathan; four great nieces and five great nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, July 12th, at 11:00 am, at the following address: 648 S. First Street, Montrose. (Event Center across from Methodist Church).



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DAVID R. WELCOM

September 16, 1971 — June 28, 2025



With heavy hearts in my family, we want to acknowledge the sudden passing of David on Saturday morning the 28th.

Dave was 53 years young. He is survived by his wife Jennifer, daughter Isabella, 22 and son Jack, 18, older Brother Kenneth Welcom (Georgia) and younger sister Maria Bougie (David). He was loved and looked up to by all his nieces, nephews and cousins. He is proceeded in death by his parents, Kenneth R. Welcom, Sr., Kathleen Hassett Welcom, Eugene Hassett his maternal Uncle and his sister-in-law Geor-

gia Welcom.

Dave served in the US Army as a Medical Specialist from 1989-1993. His tours of duty included South Korea WRAMC and 2nd Infantry and Walter Reed Medical Center.

Dave then finished getting his BA from Excelsior University while working full time at Winthrop Hospital in Long Island, New York. He moved with his wife and family to Castle Rock, Colorado in 2011 where he worked in various roles at Sky Ridge Medical Center starting as a Registered Nurse in the ICU and ended his time there as director of Cardiac Services. During his time at Sky Ridge Dave also received two Master's Degrees from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. He loved all the letters after his name.

In 2024, Dave accepted a position as Director of Cardiovascular Services at Montrose Regional Medical Center in Montrose, CO. In May, he accepted a promotion as VP of Clinical Operations.

David married the love of his life in 1998, Jennifer Wilcox, in Middle Island New York and just celebrated 27 years of marriage. He adores his family and would constantly send pictures, and rightfully so, brag of all their accomplishments.

If you knew Dave you know he loved GOD, his family, his country, golf and THE

YANKEES.

He also loved all the friends he met in Colorado who have grown to be his family and who are our biggest support through this horrible time.

Dave had a great sense of humor and most of the time it was at your expense, and that was because he loved you and he wanted you to see the joy you brought to his life.

The Welcom Family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the family, friends and coworkers who helped in some way, with food donations, support, guidance and keeping us in your prayers. We are forever grateful for the impact that you have had on us during this terrible time in our lives. David, I know is so honored and feels so loved.

David is so loved he will be having two services:

Saturday July 5th, 2025
10am

Grace Community Church
16731 Woodgate Rd
Montrose, Co 81401

Friday July 18th, 2025
2pm

Living Way Fellowship
345 E Wildcat Reserve Pkwy.
Littleton, Co 80126



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

FRANKLIN PHILBRICK *March 1, 1930 — June 29, 2025*

FRANKLIN PHILBRICK, 95 of Montrose, CO went to meet his maker and was freed from this earth on June 29, 2025.

Born to Benjamin and Amelia Stille Philbrick in Longmont, CO, March 1, 1930. The family settled in Ord, Nebraska through Frank's childhood and into adulthood. The Philbrick family lived on a big farm in Valley County, Neb., where Frank grew up around many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Frank wanted to serve his country as his brother Pvt Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt Philbrick served in World War 11. Teddy died July 6, 1944 in battle at Normandy, France in the 313th Infantry, 79th division.

After high school Frank joined the Navy on September 14, 1948. He spent 3 years, 11 months on the USS Midway stationed out of Norfolk, Virginia. The ship spent most of the time in the Mediterranean before the Korean War. He was honorably discharged on July 31, 1952. He then returned to Ord and drove a gravel truck until moving to Montrose, CO in the 60's.

Franklin partnered with his brother-in-law Archie Hopkins to run Blair's Truck-stop until he went to work for the City of Montrose.

Frank married Ruby Floy Burdick on January 24, 1970. Ruby had four children from a previous marriage. They were later blessed with a son, Ben Philbrick.



After 25 years with the City of Montrose, Frank retired to enjoy many years of fishing, car hobbies, meals at Starvin Arvin's, and yard sales. If you needed it, he would find it. We do not have the room to list all the vehicles that Frank has traded in his day.

Frank and his sister Viola made many trips back to Nebraska to visit their large family and hosted them here in Colorado too. This was always a highlight of summer. You could always find Frank in a good card game.

Frank was a kind generous person always showing up at family gatherings with food, beverages and treats to share. His good dog Tiny was a constant companion.

Frank's two grandsons, August and Ashton Philbrick were the highlight of his later years.

Preceding Franklin in death are his parents, Ben and Amelia Philbrick, brother Theodore Philbrick, wife Ruby Philbrick,



sister Viola Hopkins Pinney and Archie Hopkins, brother Harold Philbrick, and Tamara Lynn Lujan.

He is survived by his son, Ben and Heather Philbrick, grandsons August and Ashton of Montrose, Tori Burdick of Stockton, CA, Wayne Hugh Burdick and J. and Brenda Burdick of Elko, NV, granddaughters, Samantha Labrum, and Victoria Bernazzani, nephew Charles Hopkins, Camas, Washington, Dalla Hopkins-Ross of Texas, great nieces and nephews of Montrose, Denver, and Texas.

Services will be held to honor Franklin on Sunday, July 6, at 3 p.m., Montrose Event Center, 648 S. 1st street. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) or Hope West Montrose.

Franklin was loved by many and will be missed!

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 529 July 7, 2025

ART & SOL

A LEGACY BUILT WITH LUMBER



The large "teepee" drying furnace near Paradox, once associated with the Proctor sawmill, is one of the few remaining examples of the popular lumber drying furnaces. Photo by Bob Cox

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE—On January 19, 1906, the *Delta County Laborer*, printed a short blurb in the editor's column. It read as follows:

Judging from the amount of lumber being hauled away from the yards in Delta there is going to be considerable building boom in this section in the near future.

For more than two years the *Laborer* had been opining that the loss in population during the decade leading up to the turn of the century was merely a flash in the pan, and that the current figures were proving their point. Both Montrose and Delta Counties lost around ten percent of their population between 1890 and 1900, but the 12th census in 1910 showed a remarkable increase. Montrose County gained a staggering 106 percent in the first decade of the 20th century.

With new families and new businesses springing up like weeds, one commodity that was needed as much or more than any other was lumber. The next two decades were especially beneficial to the lumber industry. Much like mining, the lumber speculators came and went, depending on their abilities to deliver the wood needed to keep the boom going. Each house needed about 20,000 board feet of lumber, and stores, hotels and other buildings needed even more. Mines needed timber for supporting underground activities and the railroads needed ties.

Logging camps became homes to many families who spent several months at a time felling trees and taking them to the closest sawmills. Often, the sawmills were part of the operation, but sawmills were expensive to establish and required a significant labor pool.

The Gutshalls operated a logging and

milling operation on the Uncompahgre Plateau. Their need for employees was evident in the fact that they ran a year-long series of ads in the *Montrose Daily Press* and the *Delta Independent*. The ad read as follows:

WANTED—*Teams to haul lumber from Gutshall mill to Leonard Spur. \$3.25 per 1,000 feet; good pasture free; all you can haul until winter. Address Gutshall Estate for further particulars, or come. Can take care of families; no rent.*

The logging and milling industry depended heavily on the railroad. Many of the operations on the Uncompahgre Plateau suffered an expensive setback in May of 1912. According to the records of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, a train, which was headed to Placerville and points beyond, encountered a washout about three miles north of Placerville, near the Leonard Spur. The engineer elected to reverse the engine and back up the Dallas Divide. The following was taken from the RGS records and was also printed in the *San Miguel Examiner*:

As the train was backing up hill the parlor car left the track and the train was stopped dead still, and after it was still the rails sunk under one side and every car on the train turned over on its side, leaving the engine standing upright.

While most of the logging was hampered during winter months, the mills often cranked on. By 1913, things were looking

Continued next pg

A LEGACY BUILT WITH LUMBER *From previous pg*

good for the lumber industry in Montrose County. The operations were often noted in the local papers. On February 5, 1913, the *Montrose Daily Press* noted that Robert Galyen had two teams hauling hay and lumber; the lumber being hauled to both the Sams and Leonard spurs.

One of the most recognized lumber operations was one headed by the Herman Darling family. They were recognized by the *Montrose Enterprise* on July 14, 1913 by an announcement that they had hauled their first load of lumber of the season to the Independent Lumber yard in Montrose. One month later the same paper ran a short story describing the activities of the Dick McKeever teams. They hauled their first load of lumber from their yard in Norwood to Redvale for the building of the new school building.

By 1920 there were some significant changes in the way the lumber was being handled. While many of the operations depended on the use of horses, mules, and oxen to pull wagons of logs or lumber, there were a few who began using motorized trucks. Once again, the Darling enterprise was leading the change. An article in the *Montrose Daily Press* on August 21, 1920 highlighted the modernization with an article headlined, "TRUCKS HAUL LUMBER FROM SAW MILL EIGHT TIMES FASTER THAN HORSES CAN" The

article names H. C. Kukendall and J. F. Hays as the drivers of the White, Dodge and Duplex trucks, making an 800 percent increase possible in the hauling of lumber from the Darling mill on Horsefly to Montrose and Delta.

The Darling mill earned a reputation of being the first company each year to begin delivering lumber to Montrose, but while the trucks were increasing the number of board feet being delivered, the old wagons and teams were still a part of the big picture. In July of 1923, Darling announced that they had contracted to engage a big International brand truck to haul loads of nearly 5,500 board feet of green lumber, weighing nearly six tons. The problem was that the big truck could only get to a point just over three miles from the mill. Wagon teams had to be used to relay the lumber to the truck.

In August of 1923 Darling announced that the sawmill at the Spring Creek camp was being dismantled. They advertised that they would be selling all the wood from the buildings, along with other short pieces. The ad in the *Montrose Daily Press* informed potential buyers to bring hammers, wrecking bars and cash to the site.

On May 1, 1924, Herman Darling announced that he acquired a state-of-the-art gang saw and was installing it in Montrose. The saw was capable of cutting 26

boards at the same time. By increasing production at a lower cost and having dependable access to the railroad in Montrose, Darling was recognized as being one of the most modern sawmills to be found anywhere. At about the same time, the lumber being produced near the Dolores River was also being greatly expanded. The McPhee & McGinnity Lumber Company, headquartered in Denver, were successful bidders for the harvest of 400 million board feet in that district.

As the harvest and sawing operations increased, more and more methods of drying the lumber became popular. At one time, the huge drying furnaces, often called "teepee" furnaces, became a common site in many areas. The furnaces used the sawdust and other waste from the operations. The waste material was placed in the bottom of the huge structures and set on fire. For many years these teepees were a dominant site just north of Montrose. Those hardworking lumber men truly were the catalyst beneath the building of the area. The lumber business is still alive and well; the methods have changed and become more efficient, but the roads that led to that efficiency can be followed because of the efforts of people like the Proctors, Darlings, McKeever, Galyen and many others.

Montrose People
Identifying Montrose
Problems
And
Recommending
Montrose solutions



CHINLE: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AND MISSION



Grace Fellowship Community Church entrance off Highway 191 just north of Chinle, Ariz. Courtesy photo.

By CB Williams

MONTROSE—Since 2008 Sue Sharman of Montrose has been on a mission.

Sharman travels several times a year—nearly monthly—to Grace Fellowship Community Church in Chinle, Ariz. Located on the Navajo Nation 3.5 miles north of Chinle Basha's, the church is led by Pastor Geri Begay and is a hub for community gatherings.

Gail Marlowe serves the church along with her husband David, and she leads the sewing group.

Sharman's mission at Grace Fellowship is to help Navajo women and children improve their sewing skills.

Over the last 17 years she has been on this mission, she has delivered dozens of donated sewing machines, hundreds of yards of donated fabric and a multitude of notions. She works with the women most frequently, and helps out with a children's sewing camp in the summer.

On a trip last Monday and Tuesday, June 24-25, she worked with the women as they sewed up and stuffed animal patterns. The chihuahua puppy kits were cut out by longtime Chinle volunteer/missionary Sandy Longmore of Montrose.

After finishing the stuffed animals Monday night, Sharman helped the women cut

out and assemble cross-back aprons.

"Well, the bottom line is I love to go and be with the ladies, spend fellowship time with them, and share what I know," Sharman said, "and I have a heart for their community."

Although the approximately six hours of sewing are intense, there is time for coffee, laughter, and, of course, good food.

This year might be Sharman's last making the 5–6-hour treks to Chinle. But she is confident the sewing group will continue, perhaps through Grace or Chinle Planting Hope, a local non-profit whose stated mission is to work together to bring hope and empowerment to families and communities on the Navajo Nation.

"Even if I retire this year and the sewing group closes here at the church, Chinle Planting Hope at <https://www.chinleplantinghope.com/> will take fabric, sewing machines (standalone, not in the cabinet), notions, etc.," she said, and she is hopeful they continue the sewing group there. If Sharman does retire, she will not be forgotten. The impact she has made on these women and children is immeasurable. And Chinle, home of the national park Canyon de Chelly <https://www.nps.gov/cach/index.htm>, and the



Sharman helps with pinning the tricky pattern. A few of the women traveled from the Farmington, N.M., area to join in the sewing group. Photo by CB Williams



Navajo women hold some of their sewing creations. Pastor Geri Begay is at far left, sewing leader Gail Marlowe is fourth from right, and Sue Sharman is third from right. Photo by CB Williams



Laura Woody, center at right, had a surprise visit from her daughter-in-law and granddaughters during sewing time. Her eldest daughter hopes to join in the youth sewing camp hosted by the church in July. Photo by CB Williams

people of the Navajo Nation, will forever be in her heart.

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

✉️ lesliegorealtor@gmail.com

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>





Scan QR Code For
Property Video

PROPERTY ON THE UNCOMPAGHGRE RIVER
18406 Highway 50, Delta, CO 81416
MLS #820240

for SALE



3 BED



2 BATH



3,000 SQ. FT



1 CARPORT



\$1,250,000

- ½ Mile of Uncompahgre River
- Spring Fed Pond
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CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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🌐 laurenhallruddell.com

✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY ENTERS STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS EFFECTIVE JULY 3

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Due to high temperatures, low humidity levels, low fuel moisture levels, low availability of fire suppression resources, and potential for human caused fires which could severely impact resources and impact public safety; Delta County Undersheriff Quinn Archibeque, acting as the Sheriff's Designee, issued a Sheriff's Order enacting Stage 1 Fire Restrictions for Delta County, effective July 3, 2025, at 12:01 AM.

The decision to enter Stage 1 restrictions was made after consulting with Emergency Management, local fire protection districts, state and federal land and wildfire management professionals who determined Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are necessary and prudent to reduce the risk of human caused wildfires to protect residents and personal property within Delta County and neighboring jurisdictions. Stage 1 fire restrictions are also being implemented by neighboring counties and federal land management agencies and residents are encouraged to review local fire restrictions that are in effect if traveling for recreation this 4th of July holiday weekend.

Delta County Stage 1 Fire Restrictions apply to all areas of unincorporated Delta County, including State lands. If you live in City/Town limits, please check with your local police department or Town Hall to confirm if they have adopted County restrictions or have their own fire restrictions. For restrictions on the U.S. Forest Service-Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests, National Park Service lands and Bureau of Land Management lands, please refer to the [West Slope Fire Info website](#).

For full details on what is and is not allowed per the Delta County Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, please visit the [Burning Regulations page](#) of the Delta County website and download the [Fire Restriction graphic](#) and [Fire Restriction Order](#).

SUMMER CELEBRATIONS AND IMPAIRED DRIVING: TROOPERS NAME JULY AS THE TOP MONTH FOR INJURY AND FATAL IMPAIRED DRIVING CRASHES

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—Over a four-year period, from 2021 through 2024, Colorado State Patrol troopers have investigated more than 2,450 fatal and injury crashes determined to be caused by impaired drivers. Year after year, the number of impairment-related crashes expands during the warmer months, with the peak month for impaired crashes being July.

"Last July troopers investigated 12 impaired driving fatal crashes that resulted in the loss of 13 people. An additional 32 people were left with serious injuries during this month from impaired drivers. We are imploring people who have risked taking substances and driving in the past to change their behavior," stated Chief Matthew C. Packard, Colorado State Patrol. "Driving intoxicated is literally rolling the dice with your license, your freedom and your life."

The Fourth of July remains a significant holiday for these violent crashes. In 2024, Independence Day tied for the most common holiday that Colorado State Troopers responded to investigate a crash (property, injury or fatal) involving an impaired driver.

-New Year's and Fourth of July (22 each)

-Halloween (17)

-Labor Day and Christmas (16 each)

"You have the freedom to choose your sober driver," explained Col. Packard. "When you fail to do your part, and your driving behavior concerns an officer to pull you over, the consequences will be life-changing. A DUI conviction leads to a criminal record and generally is not eligible to be expunged."

In addition, DUIs become a matter of public record, meaning information is accessible to the public. A DUI conviction also impacts your driving record. Therefore, DUI convictions can impact many aspects of your life when a background check or driving record is required.



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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.

Bear Creek
1312 Five Mile Creek
Montrose, CO 81401
MLS# 821454



CENTURY 21

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The Satisfied Woman

REINVENTING AFTER 50—IS IT TOO LATE TO START OVER?



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

At 50 and beyond, many women find themselves standing at a crossroads—looking ahead, unsure of the road forward, and behind at decades filled with parenting, careers, relationships, and self-sacrifice.

With the kids grown, careers plateauing or shifting,

and the body changing in ways we didn't quite expect, it's easy to wonder: Is it too late to start over?

The answer, in short? Absolutely not.

But that doesn't mean reinvention in midlife is without challenges. In fact, this season of life often arrives with a unique set of hurdles that demand deep introspection, courage, and a willingness to embrace the unknown.

One big, fat hurdle littering that midlife terrain is hormonal upheaval and body image. Let's start with the obvious: your body is not the same. Hormonal fluctuations can bring weight gain, hot flashes, insomnia, anxiety, and even a crisis of confidence. Body image becomes a battleground where we wrestle with the feeling of invisible, undesirable, or just "not ourselves." It's not just vanity—this is about identity, about reconciling how we feel inside with how the world sees us.

Added to that are the new physical limitations. You may not bounce back the way you used to, and energy may be harder to summon. There's grief in letting go of what your body used to do effortlessly. For example, I used to do extreme obstacle races in my 30's (like Tough Mudder etc) and I was an Ironman triathlete in my 40's. I've done 7 Half Ironmans and about 40 Olympic triathlons. I stood on the box a time or two. And yesterday I got winded

and slightly nauseous riding a fat tire mountain bike, on concrete, FOUR miles up to the top of Sunset Mesa. Wow. Humbling moment for sure. But reinvention isn't about pretending you're 30 again—it's about discovering what this version of you can do beautifully and powerfully, often with far more grace and wisdom.

I gave up endurance training and extreme athletics, in favor of pilates and yoga. I now meditate instead of stress over training plans, strategic diets and economic drill sequences. But I know that I toed the line, and that means something to me. It's ok that I can't do that now. (Mostly)

In addition to the physical identity challenges, often deeper psychological challenges present themselves around our personal and professional identity. When children leave home, or when retirement or career change looms, a once-solid sense of purpose often painfully dissolves. This can also threaten our very sense of security. You might ask yourself, "Who am I if I'm not needed in the same way anymore?" Or "Who am I if I don't have this job, or this career etc?" It's a terrifying but pivotal question.

These roles—mother, manager, caregiver, partner, business owner—have shaped your identity for decades. Letting them go can feel like a loss. But here's the truth: identity isn't static. And what's lost can make space for something new, something more authentic, and fully yours.

It's easy to think that reinvention is for the young. But consider this: by midlife, you've likely faced heartbreak, loss, success, failure, resilience, caregiving, burnout, joy, and everything in between. That's not baggage—that's wisdom. And it's your most powerful tool. I wouldn't go back to my 20's, 30's or even 40's if given the chance. I'd rather be who I am, where I am, even though I currently face a few crises of my own with regard to identity. (Who doesn't?) But I know that every-

thing I've done, everywhere I've been, every single experience has prepared me for an even greater future. All I have to do is let go of the past and the small story that surrounds me like a box. A safe, cozy place with bars but it's comfortable and familiar. Hinduism views the world as illusion and that from this perspective, the individual self is a type of confinement, or box, if you will. Their mythology tells a story of how the rules for living this life are on the outside of the box and many people never even open the lid. Not that I'm Hindu, but I've always found that concept fascinating. What if we think we have all the answers by putting ourselves in a box? But we are so much bigger than that and the only way we will ever know is by opening the box.

Taking risks in midlife isn't reckless—it's strategic. You now know what matters, what doesn't, and what lights your soul on fire. You don't have time for pretending, and that clarity is gold. You're not starting over. You're starting from experience.

Whether it's launching a business, going back to school, traveling solo, writing a book, rediscovering your sexuality, or simply choosing peace over perfection—reinvention is about choosing you. And the return on that investment? Purpose. Joy. Fulfillment.

Steps Toward the New You:

1. Grieve first, then grow. It's ok to mourn the past—just don't get stuck there.

Acknowledge the losses and then shift your attention to the path ahead, which deserves just as much attention.

2. Tune out the noise. Culture tells women over 50 to shrink, retreat, and accept invisibility. Bullshit. This is your prime—mentally, spiritually, emotionally. Claim it.

3. Reconnect with curiosity. What excites you now? What did you love before the world told you what you should do? Follow the feathers, as my friend says. Let them lead you, and don't expect a full

REINVENTING AFTER 50—IS IT TOO LATE TO START OVER?

From previous pg

road map.

4. Lean into community. You're not alone. Midlife reinvention is happening all around you.

Find the women doing bold, brave things—and then join them.

5. Make peace with fear. Fear doesn't mean stop. It means you're doing something meaningful. Let fear ride along, but don't let it drive.

Your best life is not behind you. The idea that life slows down or becomes less meaningful after 50 is one of the greatest lies any of us have ever been told—both men and women. The truth? You're just getting started.

You have the wisdom to see clearly, the experience to make wiser choices, and the freedom to pursue what you want. Reinvention isn't about abandoning who

you were—it's about integrating every version of yourself to create a life that feels richer, truer, and more aligned than ever before.

You've raised others. You've built careers. You've held things together. Now it's time to hold yourself together—and soar.

Because after 50, it's not too late. In fact, it might just be the perfect time.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

AN EVENING OF HEALING & HOPE: *RESCUED HEARTS* SCREENING IN TELLURIDE Hosted by Grace Reins Equine Therapy & Wild Horse Rescue

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE—Join Grace Reins Equine Therapy & Wild Horse Rescue for an unforgettable evening at the historic Sheridan Opera House on Aug. 5th as they present *Rescued Hearts*, a powerful and deeply human documentary about the bond between horses and people.

Inspired by the real-life story of a seven-year-old boy diagnosed with autism who spoke his first words after connecting with a horse, *Rescued Hearts* explores the transformative, soul-level connection we share with these magnificent animals. Filmmakers Dana Croschere and Krisanna Sexton guide us through personal stories, expert insights, and scientific research that reveal a healing journey for both human and horse alike.

This special event will include a pre-film reception, a full screening of the film, and a post-film Q&A with the filmmakers themselves.

Event Details:

Sheridan Opera House, Telluride, CO

Doors open at 5:30 PM | Reception with drinks + connection

Film begins at 6:30 PM (runtime: 2 hrs)

Q&A with the filmmakers at 8:45 PM

Tickets: \$25 with donation options available

More than just a film screening, this is a community celebration of healing, hope, and the wild-hearted spirit of Telluride. All proceeds go toward Grace Reins' ongoing equine therapy and wild horse rescue efforts.

Help us celebrate 5 years of Grace Reins and raise \$50,000 for healing programs.

Tickets: <https://gracereins.org/rescued-hearts-screening>



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THE MIRROR,

COULD YOU ASK FOR IT TO GET ANY BETTER?



Montrose County Sheriff's Office

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Crime Prevention through neighborhood cohesion and collaboration

A Neighborhood Watch program is a group of people living in the same area who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together, and in conjunction with local law enforcement, to reduce crime and improve their quality of life.

Monthly Meetings

Neighborhood Watch meetings are held on the **third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM** in the large conference room at the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, located at **1200 N Grand Ave, Montrose.**

These meetings focus on personal safety, crime prevention, and community concerns affecting your family, your home, and your neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch is homeland security at the most local level. Stay informed, Stay connected, Stay up-to-date.

Questions or how to get started? Call 970-252-4003, or leave a message at 970-252-4499, or visit our website: www.montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com

Self-register for the Neighborhood Watch program by scanning this QR code. Your information will be uploaded and securely stored within the Montrose County Sheriff's Office – ReadyOp database.



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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

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

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

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

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



ANONYMOUS

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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

MIRROR IMAGES: INDEPENDENCE DAY!

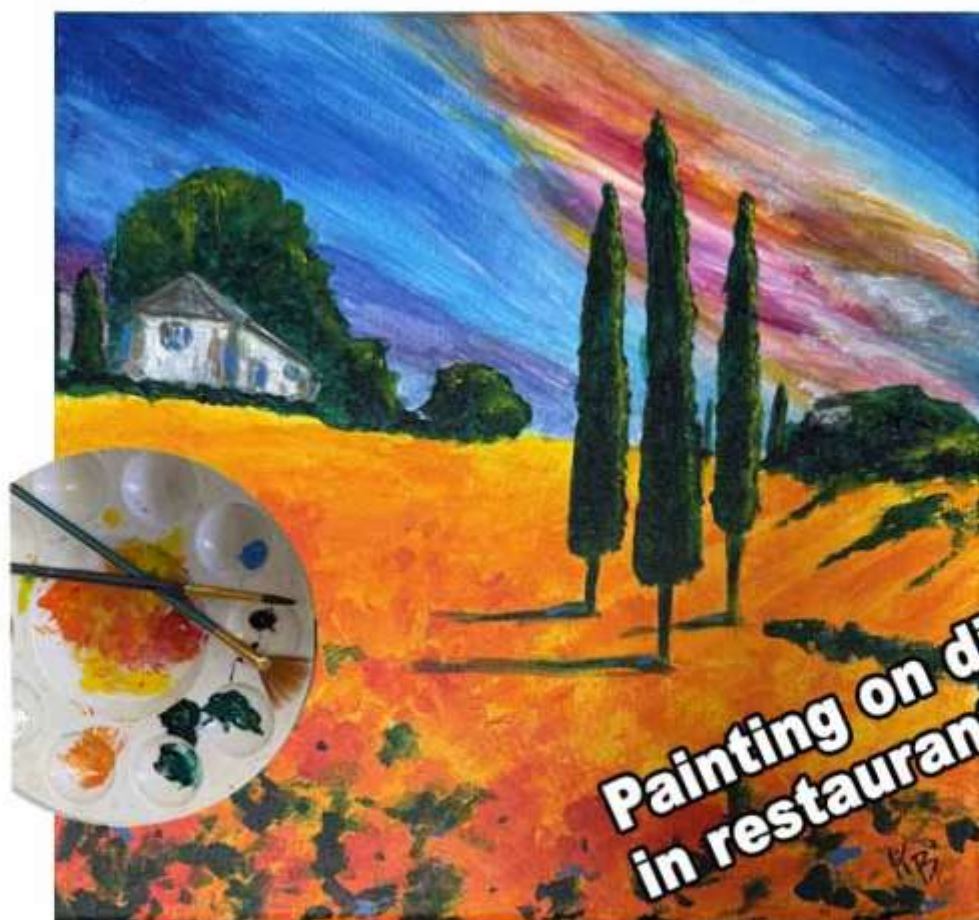


*Photos from Parade, Concert in the Park by B. Switzer.
Fireworks photos Mirror staff photos.*



Paint A Tuscan Sunset at Endless Pastabilities

1544 Oxbow Dr., Montrose. With Kate Burke
6-8 pm, Thursday, July 17th



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in restaurant lobby**

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Dee Holman.....970-209-0032	Gary Cooper.....970-209-7710
David Kienholz.....970-209-1430	Aaron Tobler.....970-275-0780
Chris Cooper.....970-270-3284	Steve Zahnhiser.....970-765-1719
Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Britany Butler.....970-209-4388
Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

COLUMBINE QUILTERS meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. 1st Saturday except for July at 9 am.

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO-Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm the Healing Collective of Western Colorado meets at 220 N Stough Ave. It is open to all wellness providers in the area who would like to collaborate with and learn from other local practitioners.

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

FREE THINKERS meet 1st Sunday of the month for information call 970 417-4183

BOSOM BUDDIES BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Montrose Events Center, 1036 No 7th Street 7 pm (970) 249-2085 www.montrosehistory.org

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: Al Head 970-209-0981 or aheadaviation@outlook.com

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

MONTHLY

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.

July 16-On Wed July 16th at 6pm Montrose County Neighborhood Watch meets in the Conference Room at the Sheriff's Office, 1200 N Grand Ave, Montrose. Monthly meetings~ 3rd Wednesdays. Have questions, call 970-252-4499.

July 21-26-Montrose County Fair & Rodeo-Montrose County Fairgrounds.

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 or 970-964-2479 or visit www.tributetoaviation.com

MIRROR IMAGES: WESTERN SKY BALLOON FESTIVAL



Hot air balloons at the 4th of July Western Sky Balloon Festival on Saturday, July 5 in Delta. Photo by B. Slate.

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