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ASSOCIATION



**FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE!**

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## FEDERAL FIRE SUPPORT TEAM TYPE 3 ASSEMBLES AT JOHNSON ELEMENTARY *'The level of cooperation is pretty remarkable'*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-At 8 p.m. on July 12, the Federal Fire Support Team Type 3 assembled at Johnson Elementary School in Montrose for debriefing and planning. The meeting was not open to the public; however, Public Information Officer (PIO) Lorena Williams spoke briefly to the *Mirror*.

There were approximately 70 people in attendance. Williams said, "Every day we have meetings, plan ops for the day, and have a debriefing, but this is a Team meeting." When asked about the work schedule for firefighters Williams said, "They work 14 days, but that can be extended to 21 days."

For the South Rim Fire, it's an all-hands-on-deck approach. Williams said, "Montrose

**Continued pg 27**



At 8 p.m. on July 12, the Federal Fire Support Team Type 3 of approximately 70 people assembled at Montrose Johnson Elementary School for debriefing and planning. The meeting was not open to the public. Photo by Gail Marvel.

## COME AND GET YOUR FAIR SHARE OF FUN!



As family and friends watch from the grandstands, Young fair Participants show their goats to judges during the 2024 Montrose County Fair. Mirror File photo

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-From bull riding and the rodeo, to 4H exhibits and projects, to open class displays and the art show, the annual Montrose County Fair & Rodeo is always a family-friendly event that brings people together to celebrate agriculture in the Uncompahgre Valley.

Presented by Flower Motor Company, this year's fair will take place from July 18 to July 26.

Said Montrose County Fair Board President Molli Yorchak, "We are really excited about this year's county fair. We have been working really hard to bring some new things to the community to help celebrate this long-standing community event! Promoting livestock and agriculture in our community is our focus and celebrating how hard these kids have worked to get there.

"A Fair Share of Fun is our

**Continued pg 6**

[Your Brain on Nature: Super Agers:](#)  
[By Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.](#)

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

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# UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**Dear Readers:**

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

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

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

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

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

*Thank you,*  
*Caitlin Switzer,*  
*Montrose Mirror Editor*

the  
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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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## Art Trivia at The Association

Thursday, July 31, 6-8pm

The Association

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Test your knowledge of the art world! Gather your team and meet at The Association for a fun night of curated competition. Registration is required, and teams of 5 are suggested. Drink tickets will be provided, and prizes for the top three teams will be given. Email Sara Rinne [srinne@montroselibrary.org](mailto:srinne@montroselibrary.org) for more information.

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# COUNTY MANAGER SEARCH RESUMES



*The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for special meetings on July 8, and again on July 9, above. Meeting screenshot.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) held two special meetings last week, sending them back to the drawing board in their ongoing search for a new county manager.

## **SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 8**

On Tuesday, July 8, with all commissioners present, the BOCC gathered for a special meeting following a morning work session. BOCC Chair Scott Mijares announced that Human Resources Director Leslie Quon had submitted her resignation from the role of Interim County manager, therefore there would be no changes to the meeting agenda.

County Attorney Julie Andress suggested modifications to the scope of the Executive Session.

## **Executive Session**

Commissioners entered into a recorded Executive Session for a discussion of the finalist for the County Manager position and of general operations within County Administration as those apply to the County Manager and Interim County Manager.

## **General Business & Administrative Items:**

Human Resources Director Leslie Quon spoke, "...As the Human Resources Director I wanted to let everyone know, the members of the public know, that we no longer have a finalist for the county manager position. I did work with Brad Mitchell on an offer, but during that process two board members let me know individually that they no longer thought it was a good fit. So, we do wish Brad nothing but success in his future endeavors."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said that he was very disappointed. Mijares read a letter from Mitchell and Mitchell's resume into the record. "I just wanted the public to know, and I wanted that to be on the record." Mijares said that he would distribute the letter to local media as well.

"To what purpose?" Hansen said.

Mijares said, "To inform them...you want transparency, I'm giving you transparency."

Hansen said, "So we have two board members who voted against him, but now we read his resume and his letter into the record, and now you're going to advocate for him? I find that highly..."

Mijares responded. "All I'm saying is we

missed a tremendous opportunity, I don't know what you had against him, his track record and his experience speaks for itself. If you want to give us an explanation as to why you didn't vote for him as county manager I'd be glad to hear it."

Hansen said, "I think it's a personnel issue. I am not interested in doing that."

Hansen then moved to adjourn; Pond seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **SPECIAL MEETING JULY 9**

The Montrose Board of County Commissioners gathered for [another special meeting](#) on Wednesday, July 9, with all commissioners present.

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. All commissioners were present.

## **Changes to the Agenda**

Montrose County Attorney Julie Andress had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## **Executive Session**

The BOCC entered into Executive Session, "...to meet with the Human Resources Director and the County Attorney in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-(4)(b), (e) and (f) for discussion regarding the appointment of an Interim County Manager."

## **General Business and Administrative items**

Following Executive Session, the BOCC unanimously passed Commissioner Sue Hansen's motion to "approve the timeline and to initiate a search for the County Manager position, in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(3.5) of the Colorado Sunshine Law." Recruitment was opened on July 9, 2025 and will close on August 1, 2025. The second and final item General Business item was not approved, "Discussion and possible appointment of Interim County Manager." Instead, commissioners opted to self-regulate with the assistance of administrative staff while continuing the search for a new County Manager.

The special meeting was adjourned.

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# COME AND GET YOUR FAIR SHARE OF FUN! From pg 1

2025 theme and really encompasses the idea there is something for everyone at the fair. Everyone is welcome and invited. We are giving out a free meal on community night, first come first served. We would not be able to put this huge event on without the generosity of Montrose County and all of our individual sponsors!"

On Monday, July 21, the Fair opens to the public. Monday is also the deadline for Open Show Flower and Food Entry Drop Off.

Mark your calendars for Community Night, which will begin at 5pm on Tuesday, July 22, sponsored by Vectra Bank.

Mutton Bustin' and Mini Broncs will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday, after the Goat Roping event that takes place in the outdoor arena track. The Participants' Dance, open to all youth Fair participants, will take place on Tuesday, from 8:30 to 10pm.

Royalty Modeling and the Fashion Review will be on Wednesday, July 23, followed by the Kiddie Tractor Pull from 4 to 6pm.

On Thursday, July 24, the Junior Beef Show at 4pm will be followed by Barrel Racing, which takes place from 6 to 9pm in the Outdoor Arena.

Friday highlights will include the Right Around Roofing Bull Riding event in the Outdoor Arena at 7pm; admission is \$15 for adults and \$8 for kids age 12 or under.

On Saturday, the Junior Livestock Auction takes place at 1pm in the Indoor Arena, with Mutton Busting in the Outdoor Arena at 6pm. Fair Royalty will be crowned in the Outdoor Arena at 6:30pm, and the Turner Chevrolet GMC CPRA rodeo will begin at 7pm in the Outdoor Arena.

For the full 2025 Montrose County Fair Schedule of Events, visit the web site, [www.MontroseCountyFairandRodeo.com](http://www.MontroseCountyFairandRodeo.com). Montrose County Commissioner Sue Han-

sen, a veteran of numerous Montrose County Fairs as well as the Fair Board, looks forward to taking part in the fair once again.

"This year's fair is shaping up to be one of the best yet, and I couldn't be more excited," Hansen said. "It's been a true joy to serve on the fair board and watch this event come to life. The fair is such a special time when our whole community comes together to celebrate local traditions, showcase amazing talent, and enjoy great food, fun, and fellowship. Agriculture is at the heart of our fair—it's a chance to honor our farmers, support our 4-H and FFA youth, and highlight the vital role ag plays in our way of life. There really is something for everyone, and I'm proud to be part of a team that puts on an event that reflects the heart and spirit of our county."

*See you at the Fair!*

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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

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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](http://www.montrosehealth.com), by email request to [BODapplications@montrosehealth.com](mailto:BODapplications@montrosehealth.com), or pick up at the Montrose Regional Health Administration office, located at 800 South 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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]

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# KOONS KUSTOMS BRINGS HIGH QUALITY RESTORATIONS TO LOWER MONTROSE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Business Owner Erik Koons doesn't have a fancy office or garage. Formerly located on East Main Street, his business--Koons Kustoms--now operates from a quiet location on West South Fourth Street.

Still, Koons has big goals. "We're trying to bring this industry from its knees to its feet," he said.

Koons Kustoms works on all things interior--cars, boats, planes, and commercial upholstery.

Since opening a year and a half ago, the company has earned its clientele entirely through word of mouth.

"We're booked out a couple of months, consistently," Koons told the *Mirror*. "We



**Koons Kustoms works on all things interior—cars, boats, planes, and commercial upholstery.**

have not even advertised."

His favorite project so far has been a res-to-mod on a 1956 F100 truck with a coyote motor.

His favorite thing about the business is, "Being able to build something with people I enjoy being around."



**Business Owner Erik Koons has big goals.**

Originally from Boulder, Koons studied in Wyoming at WyoTech before moving to Montrose with his family.

"I like the community," he said, "There seem to be a lot of really good people here."

Also, "We're growing fast in a small town, trying to do the best we can on every job, and keep up the quality."

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## **MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS — WORKING FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY**

Crime Stoppers is a community-based program designed to encourage the public to report criminal activity anonymously. By encouraging partnerships among law enforcement, the media, and the community, the program plays a vital role in solving crimes and deterring future offenses. Through Crime Stoppers, individuals can share information about criminal activity or the identity of suspects without revealing their own identity. If the tip leads to an arrest or the recovery of stolen property, the tipster may be eligible for a cash reward.

The program is operated by non-profit organizations in alliance with the Montrose-area law enforcement agencies and local media partners. Media outlets are instrumental in raising public awareness by publicizing unsolved crimes and encouraging community engagement.

Crime Stoppers not only helps solve crimes but also promotes a sense of shared responsibility for public safety. It encourages citizens to take an active role in crime prevention while maintaining complete anonymity.

Anyone with information about a posted crime, suspect, or any other criminal activity is encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers anonymously in one of the following ways:

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Submit a tip online at [P3Tips.com](https://P3Tips.com)

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For more information, please visit our Facebook page at Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers.

Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers would also like to remind the public that all individuals featured in our alerts, whether by photo or other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## BLACK CANYON SURGICAL CENTER RECOGNIZED BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT AS TOP FACILITY FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY, ORTHOPEDICS, AND SPINE CARE *Facility honored for second consecutive year as top performing center*

### Health Fair & early blood draws

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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 appointments ensure faster service.

#### Blood Screenings

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Female Hormone Panel .....	\$125

12-hour fast recommended, but please drink plenty of water. Take medications as usual. Payment accepted: cash, credit, debit, HSA, FLEX

MontroseHealth.com/HealthFair



#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— For the second year in a row, Black Canyon Surgical Center has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best ambulatory surgery centers in the nation. The center was specifically recognized for excellence in ophthalmology, orthopedics, and spine care.

Ambulatory surgical centers are independent health care facilities that focus on performing surgical and diagnostic procedures that do not require an overnight stay. Black Canyon Surgical Center offers these services to patients who do not need full hospital-based surgical procedures, allowing for faster recovery and return to daily life.

“We are deeply honored to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top ambulatory surgery centers in the nation,” said Dan Soderlind, administrator for Black Canyon Surgical Center. “This recognition reflects the unwavering commitment of our entire team to provide exceptional care, ensure patient safety, and deliver the highest quality outcomes. It’s a privilege to serve our communities, and this acknowledgment inspires us to continue raising the standard of outpatient surgical care.”

There are currently 5,828 Medicare-certified ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) in the United States. The rankings from U.S. News & World Report are based on outcome data, including how well facilities avoid complications, emergency room visits, unplanned hospitalizations and other negative outcomes. Of the 5,828 ASCs nationwide, 147 are in Colorado. Black Canyon Surgical Center was one of only two facilities in the state recognized for outstanding ophthalmology care and one of six recognized for excellence in orthopedics and spine care.

Montrose Regional Health partners with independent providers in the community to deliver high-quality care, including its collaboration with Black Canyon Surgical Center. The center is a multi-specialty ambulatory surgery facility in Montrose, providing orthopedic, endoscopic, ophthalmic, general surgery, ENT, podiatric, dental, urologic and pain management services to patients across a five-county region.

To learn more about Black Canyon Surgical Center, contact Dan Soderlind at [dsoderlind@cobcsc.com](mailto:dsoderlind@cobcsc.com) or 970-249-6971.



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## BECKER'S NAMES JEFF MENGENHAUSEN TO 2025 LIST OF 118 RURAL HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM PRESIDENTS AND CEOS TO KNOW

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health (MRH) CEO Jeff Mengenhausen was recently named to Becker's 2025 list of 118 Rural Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs to Know. Becker's Hospital Review editors researched and accepted nominations for the annual compilation. Mengenhausen has appeared on the list each year since 2022.

"I am deeply honored to be named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 118 Rural Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs to Know," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. "This recognition reflects the dedication and expertise of all our caregivers at MRH. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together and excited to build on this momentum as we continue serving our rural communities."

Rural hospitals and health systems are lifelines for communities that might otherwise go without essential healthcare services. The CEOs highlighted on this list are responsible for expanding service lines, recruiting top-tier caregivers, and enhancing care environments through renovations and new construction. These dedicated leaders juggle a wide range of tasks and are deeply invested in the well-being of their communities. Their vision and commitment are at the heart of their hospitals' success and sustainability.

To view the full 2025 list of Rural Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs to Know, visit <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-management-administration/118-rural-hospital-and-health-system-presidents-and-ceos-to-know-2025/>.



Montrose Regional Health (MRH)  
CEO Jeff Mengenhausen.

## Montrose People Identifying Montrose Problems And Recommending Montrose Solutions

### Our Mission Statement

Unify Montrose is dedicated to advocating for solutions to our communities' issues through open-minded collaboration and inclusive decision-making.

Come and make your voice heard:



### Our Values

Presume positive intent  
Respect Curiosity  
Check our biases  
Open-mindedness  
Non-partisan  
Willingness to Learn  
Bluecorn Cafe July 21, 6-8 PM

## **MCSO EXECUTES SEARCH WARRANT, WORKS WITH COLORADO DEPT OF AGRICULTURE ON SEIZURE OF 79 HORSES, SEVERAL DOGS**

*By Caitlin Switzer*

MONTROSE-At 0606 hours on July 3, Montrose County Sheriff's Officers executed a search warrant at 12484 5875 Road, resulting in the seizure of 79 horses and several dogs from the property.

Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard said that the Search Warrant was first served on the property owner on June 19, and that the Montrose County Sheriff's Office is the charging agent in the matter. The MCSO wrote the search warrant and has been working in conjunction with agents from the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Prior to the seizure, the MCSO's animal services officer had conducted an investigation following citizen complaints of animal abuse. The complaints alleged that the horses were injured, starving, and in dire need of hoof trimming. Probable cause was found to serve the warrant.

"It's an ongoing investigation," Lillard said, noting that 79 horses and three or four dogs were seized in the operation and trailered to Salida, where they are now being held. "No charges have been filed against the owner of the horses, and they are innocent until proven guilty," Lillard said.

Chuck Distel, who lives just down the road from the location of the raid, said that it was a long time in coming.

"Unfortunately, it took years," Distel said. "Those horses were abused for a long time, and a lot of people turned 'em in for a long time. The state interviewed the neighbors. I'm so grateful something finally happened."



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# STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS MONTROSE COUNTY



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All personal fireworks are prohibited.



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.

## WILDFIRE PREVENTION TIPS

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

Don't throw cigarette butts out the car window.

Keep vehicles off dry grass.



 **Fire Restriction Info**  
[westslopefireinfo.com](http://westslopefireinfo.com)



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**Montrose County Sheriff's Office**  
[montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com](http://montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com)

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB WILL BE THURSDAY, AUG. 14

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Women's Giving Club of Montrose has supported local non-profit organizations in the amount of over \$415,000 since 2017.

The latest recipient from the meeting in May was The West End Family Link Center who received a check for \$13,000.

The Center provides a myriad of support for west end residents in the form of food, utilities, emergency funds, education and

more. The money is expected to aid all these programs.

It is truly an extraordinary and delightful sight to watch The Women's Giving Club come together.

They bring \$100 each, listen to short presentations by the 3 organizations drawn, then vote to make a big financial difference to one deserving presenter. It's that simple!

All women are invited and encouraged to

attend. It makes for an energetic and captivating evening as we gather to become a power for support of our community.

There is a \$10 hospitality fee for a drink, appetizers and room charges.

The next meeting of the Women's Giving Club will be Thursday, Aug. 14, 5:30 at The Bridges.

For more information, please contact Phoebe Benziger at 970-209-9598 or [phoebeneziger@gmail.com](mailto:phoebeneziger@gmail.com)

## COLORADO STATE PATROL KICKS OFF AUTO THEFT PREVENTION EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

#### *Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO - Your vehicle is more to you than four wheels, and we want to help you keep it safe. The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA), a business unit of the Colorado State Patrol, is thrilled to announce its Summer Auto Theft Prevention and Education campaign. This campaign is now running throughout July, during National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month and beyond, as we drive home the message: if you love it, lock it, or risk losing it.

Auto theft remains a serious threat to safety across the State. A stolen vehicle is often the first step in a series of crimes, and preventing vehicle theft can also stop the facilitation of reckless driving, burgla-

ry, or even more serious crimes against people. The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority aims to provide you with accurate information and tools to help keep your vehicle safe. It all starts with the basics: take the proper steps to safeguard your car by locking it every time you leave, and never leave a key in an unattended vehicle or leave an unattended vehicle running – this is where you begin to keep your car safe. However, in many instances, you can and should take additional steps to prevent vehicle theft. This can be anything from making your car safer with a free steering wheel lock from the Colorado State Patrol, enrolling in local owner tracking initiatives like [Denver Track](#) or [Metro Track](#), making environ-

mental changes like parking in a garage, or long-term investments in your car by adding aftermarket immobilization technology.

The world of auto theft prevention is vast and complex, but don't worry, we are here to help you navigate it. With tips and tricks on how to keep your car safe, [lockdownyourcar.org](http://lockdownyourcar.org) is a one-stop shop for everything auto theft prevention.

As we help make Colorado safer, one locked car at a time, we look forward to finding you in new places! Listen to us during your morning commute on the radio or find us online. We look forward to seeing you in your community as we provide focus and support to local community events across the state.





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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DELTA HEALTH URGENT CARE TO RELOCATE TO DELTA HEALTH FAMILY MEDICINE LOCATION



*The Delta Health Family Medicine building, located at 296 Stafford Lane, Suite A. Courtesy photo.*

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.

### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Delta Health is pleased to announce the relocation of the Delta Health Urgent Care Clinic to Building A, the Delta Health Family Medicine building, located at 296 Stafford Lane, Suite A. This move is effective Monday, July 21, 2025.

“We are excited to move the Delta Health Urgent Care Clinic to a new location and to provide additional staff to serve patients,” said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, and Chief Executive Officer for Delta Health. “Whether it’s a minor injury, illness, or the unexpected, we’re here to provide quality care when it’s needed most.”

To better accommodate the community’s urgent care needs, the Clinic is adding an additional provider to the team. This ensures patients are seen in a timely manner. The Delta Health Urgent Care Clinic provides care for acute injury and illness needs and treats non-life-threatening illness and injuries for times when primary care physicians are not available. Walk-in services are available and appointments are not needed.

For more information, visit <https://deltahealthco.org/delta-health-urgent-care/> or for questions please call 970.546.4038.

## A Walk Thru Time Lincoln Reagan Dinner & Auction Montrose County Republicans Event

Join us for a historic evening, as we take a look at the journey of Montrose County.

Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025  
Montrose Pavilion

- Doors open @ 5:30pm
- Dinner @ 6:30pm

Individual Tickets \$85

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Deb Lillard 970.901.2546

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY NIGHT!

### *Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**-Montrose County Fair & Rodeo - Community Night, Tuesday, July 22, 5 – 8 pm *Montrose County Fairgrounds*

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office will participate in Montrose County Community Night on Tuesday, July 22, from 5 to 8 pm during the Montrose County Fair & Rodeo, which runs from Friday, July 18, through Sunday, July 27, at the Montrose County Fairgrounds.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office will be on full display during Community Night, showcasing a wide range of personnel, equipment, and specialized units.

The highlight of the Sheriff's Office's involvement in this event will be the opportunity to meet and greet the dedicated men and women in uniform, along with the support staff and volunteers of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, who proudly serve you and this Community. Attendees can expect to see:

- Marked sheriff's vehicles
- K-9 demonstrations
- Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) unit
- Animal Control
- Dive Team display
- MCSO Posse presence and equipment
- Neighborhood Watch information
- Montrose Fire Department
- WestCO 911 Dispatch
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- Drone demonstrations
- Citizen Academy information
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- Employment and recruitment information



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State Health Insurance Assistance Program**



Whether you're brand new to Medicare, reviewing your plan options, or have questions about coverage and upcoming changes, this session is for you.

**Dates:** (choose one)

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

**Location:**

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

Light refreshments served. Everyone is welcome!



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# FEDERAL FIRE SUPPORT TEAM TYPE 3 ASSEMBLES AT JOHNSON ELEMENTARY *From pg 1*

County and the City of Montrose are supported by adjoining counties and cities. The level of cooperation is pretty remarkable. All sectors of government, State and Federal, are participating. Montrose County is handling evacuations. I don't have the number of evacuations, but we estimate about 50 homes. The Red Cross is here now working on housing."

Multiple government agencies (National Park Service, Forest Service, State of Colorado, and local County and City law enforcement) are sending out press releases, alerts, photos, and videos. The [Montrose Mirror Facebook](#) site is reposting some of the alerts and updates, not only those that affect Montrose County, but from neighboring counties as well — Mesa, San Miguel, Delta, and Gunnison.

**Reporter's note**-The Mirror has since spoken with residents of the evacuated areas who are not heeding the evacuation order. Some have chosen to rely on themselves and their neighbors to keep watch and determine when/if they should evacuate.



Above, The Federal Fire Support Team Type 3 meeting was held at 8 p.m. at Montrose Johnson Elementary on July 12. Public Information Officer (PIO) for the South Rim Fire Lorena Williams spoke briefly to the Mirror. Williams said, "Montrose County and the City of Montrose are supported by adjoining counties and cities. The level of cooperation is pretty remarkable. All sectors of government, State and Federal, are participating." Photo by Gail Marvel.

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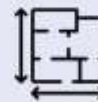
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# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SUPER AGERS



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD

Greetings Mirrorites! And welcome to article 100 in the *Your Brain on Nature* Series. OLATHE-This past week I heard an article on Colorado Public Radio concerning 'super agers'. It was interesting but seemed to attribute longevity in good health to all of the usual suspects. The influence of genes was downplayed after genetic assessment of these super seniors showed no significant or remarkable differences between themselves and people even in their own families who died early deaths from one of the Big Four... heart disease, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases (like Alzheimer's), and Type 2 diabetes. Diet, exercise, and social connection all got top billing in the researcher's book, [Super Agers](#). I have not read the book, and the reviews are mixed. One glaring omission concerns the effects of connection to nature that keeps the brain young and healthy.

Studying human connection to nature is not as sexy as the role of Generative AI or new preventive vaccines, such as those described and advocated by the author. It is therefore not as well funded, and the sample sizes are usually smaller. I was, therefore, pleased to find a 2023 study that examined the effects of nature exposure on brains over 60. More on that below.

Deaths from heart attacks have decreased by 90% in the US since the 1970s. But Alzheimer's has skyrocketed. But it doesn't have to be this way. The study of nearly [62 million Medicare beneficiaries](#) discovered that older adults who lived in areas with more green space had a lower



An ideally restorative setting for two senior ramblers. Photo courtesy of B. MacDonald.

rate of hospitalization related to Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Parkinson's, and related dementias (such as Lewy body dementia and vascular dementia). That's a darned good sample size! The effects were more dramatic for Parkinson's and noticeable but not statistically significant for advanced AD. However, a [2024 Canadian study](#) found strong evidence that exercise in nature was more effective in reducing symptoms of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) than for seniors performing the same exercise routine indoors. It may be that time in nature is most effective when engaged in sooner rather than later.

While researching this article, I stumbled upon a Scientific American blurb about a Goldilocks sort of nature immersion that intrigued me. They claimed that there can be too much nature, which can result in an increased risk of AD! Stuff and Nonsense, I cried. Then I read further. They were referring not to individuals who enjoy local parks and trails extremely regularly, but rather denizens of deeply rural areas where people might have difficulty accessing medical services or struggle with social isolation. OK now that I can buy. Their skimpy advice for seniors was to live in a space with plenty of social opportunities that were pretty green overall.

Alright, with that said, back to the 2023 study. These researchers examined whether classic Attention Restoration Theory, which involves fascination, a sense of being away, extent, and compatibility, was as restorative to the aging brain as it is to the younger but equally depleted brain. They found that all of the dimensions of ART still held benefit for cognitive functioning for seniors, but that one di-

mension faded a bit and another took greater precedence. For younger brains, a sense of soft fascination begins the process of attention restoration. Our voluntary attention to life's business is just like a muscle that can become fatigued. In order to replenish that resource, our brains need a mini-vacay into the world of the default mode network, where we can relax and daydream for a bit. This rests neural processes involved in voluntary attention and allows its restoration to full functionality, hence the name of the theory. Once soft fascination with nature has captured involuntary attention, the rest of the formula is ready to go if the environment is truly restorative in every way. It must provide a sense of being away (like from your computer screen), visual extent involving wide open spaces and distant horizons, and compatibility, the feeling that one might actually be comfortable in that given natural environment. The aging brain wants to add another dimension to the last parameter.

Compatibility was found to be more important than fascination in one way... safety. Attention Restoration does not stress the importance of safety on the restorative experience mainly because it was first described in a population of urban youth under 18 and then further tested among college students. Their brains are up for a bit of risk and challenge that does not detract from the experience and may even enhance it. For people over 60, the clear and unequivocal absence of threat is critical to the completion of a restorative experience. In 2021, a team of Chinese researchers found evidence that if natural spaces felt unsafe to participants, perhaps because of high-density vegetation, feelings of enclosure, insufficient light, or too much foot traffic, this seemed to increase stress and mental fatigue for the older adults in their study. A balance between fascinating elements is still crucial to the older population. Although fascination was still judged as important, moderation was preferred. Overstimulation, feelings of unsafety, and physical discomfort, such as extremely uneven terrain, can have a negative effect on the restoration processes of older adults. This exposure can cause a stress

## ***YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SUPER AGERS From previous pg***

response, one that kicks the walker out of their restorative experience and into anxiety and hard fascination with their surroundings, that is not cognitively helpful or healing.

Therefore, for senior citizens desirous of keeping 'zee little gray cells' (I do love Poirot) hopping for as long as possible, the right amount of contact with the right kind of restorative environment is recom-

mended. No need to buy a cabin in Tincup and not see another living soul for weeks on end to keep one's wits. In fact, for seniors, just the opposite may be true. The right amount of social contact combined with the right amount of immersion in the right kind of nature appears to be a winning combination for a very large number of Super Agers.

Don't be like me and persist in an other-

wise restorative experience ruined by time in mosquitoes in my garden, which is anything but restorative right now, but choose an appropriate time and place for your attention restoration so you can just feel that neuroplasticity kicking in and keeping you sharp as a tack for decades. Hoping your 4<sup>th</sup> of July was fun-filled and hilarious, even if not entirely restorative, *The Mindful Naturalist*

**They're not after Scott,  
They're after you,  
Scott is just standing in the way.**





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# DRIVE FOR SUCCESS FUELS PREMIUM AUTO SOLUTIONS



*Above, one of Premium Auto Solutions' Mobile Detailing Vans. At right, the Premium Auto Solutions team: Avery, Kaden, Emily, and Diego.*



*By Caitlin Switzer*

MONTROSE—Premium Auto Solutions has been in its current location on West South 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Montrose for a year and a half, and the shop has already established a dedicated clientele. Business is good, owner Avery Bustin said, “The company has grown, and we have expanded our services.”

Although Bustin is still in his early 20’s, he is a seasoned entrepreneur. He started out with an online business prior to launching Premium Auto Solutions but had a change of heart. “I decided I wanted to be outside,” Bustin said. So, in April of 2023 armed with an old Ford Ranger and \$400 worth of supplies, he launched his new company.

Today, Premium Auto Solutions has a staff of four—Avery, Diego, Kaden, and Emily.

Diego Avila, who has previously worked in other shops, has plans to join Bustin as a partner in 2026.

Said Avila, “We provide high quality service, and we do our best to make our customers happy.”

Services include paint-protection film, window tint, ceramic coatings, graphic installs, as well as in-house and mobile detailing.

With an emphasis on convenience, value to others, and providing superior customer service with honesty and transparency, the customer base is expanding. “We guarantee all our work,” Bustin said. “Our main focus now is to offer good value, and to build our team to serve Montrose and the surrounding area. We want to be a good place of employment for people right out of high school.”

“My goal is to turn this into a turn-key business.”

Bustin’s strategy appears to be working, as Premium Auto Solutions is the highest rated detail shop within 60 miles of Montrose, with more than 300 five-star reviews.

One recent customer even gave the company six stars. Reza Askari’s review reads, “Diego and Avery did a great job tinting my Tacoma! My wife brought the truck to them and was extremely impressed by their professionalism and attitudes. They even shuttled her to her doctor appointment and back. Zero complaints, will be referring them out to all my buddies. 6 stars!”

Premium Auto Solutions can be found at 204 West South 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Montrose. The phone number is 970-840-0248. The website is <https://www.premiumautosolution.com/contact-us/>.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE POLICE HOSTING 2025 SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE UNTIL AUG. 11

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— In order to help prepare local Montrose County School District students for success in the upcoming school year, the Montrose Police Department is hosting its 2025 School Supply Drive until Monday, Aug. 11.

Throughout the summer, officers will be collecting school supplies to help our local students and teachers get back to school with everything they need to have a great year.

Anyone interested in helping can drop off supplies inside the Montrose Police Department lobby located at 434 South First Street in downtown Montrose, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., through Aug. 11.

Useful items include crayons, dry-erase markers, pencils, tissues, glue sticks, composition books, headphones, earbuds, highlighters, pocket folders, backpacks, colored pencils, loose-leaf paper, and erasers.

Don't have time to shop? Let police department staff do the shopping for you. Drop off gift cards to reception inside the Police Department lobby at 434 South First Street.

This year, the Police Department has made it even easier to donate items by partnering with local organizations that have agreed to act as additional drop-off points.

### **These drop-off locations include:**

- **The Coffee Trader: 211 S 5th St, and 845 E Main St**
- **The Association: 39 W Main St**
- **Timberline Bank: 1561 Oxbow Dr**
- **Our Town Matters Office: 501 E Main St**
- **Phelps Real Estate Group: 501 S Townsend Rd**
- **Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA): 11925 6300 Rd**
- **Montrose Regional Library: 320 S 2nd St**

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said officers plan to gather all the collected items inside the lobby of the Police Department for members of the school district to receive after the drive has concluded in August.

"The Montrose Police Department is very excited to coordinate a school supply drive with our donation partners this year and in partnership with the Montrose County School District," Hall said. "We hope having additional drop-off locations will make the supply drive an even greater success this year."

Hall said he is proud to know that throughout the school year, teachers can distribute these supplies to kids who are in need. The Police Department has worked to make the school supply drive an annual event to help support local school children, according to Hall.

"Thank you so much to all of our citizens who donate," Hall said.

For information about the Montrose Police Department visit [MontrosePD.com](https://montrosepd.com).

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





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## EVERY SINGLE POST THE MONTROSE DOGE HAS POSTED IS LIES AND MISINFORMATION

*Editor:*

Good morning. Please stop this nonsense. How long are you going to perpetuate David White and the DOGE's lying about me and my family?

It is one thing to disagree with a member of the government's professional decisions, but it is not morally acceptable to enable them to continually attack children and family members and myself regarding things we have not done.

At some point, this craziness has to stop. You and they are tearing apart our community and ruining peoples lives for no reason.

Every single post the Montrose DOGE has posted has been filled with lies and misinformation, including this week's...they apparently don't understand what a payroll deduction is, so they tell the public that the city paid for me and several employees to be part of a corporate mem-

bership at the bridges using tax dollars is just flat out lying and you are spreading that information using your media capabilities, which is just as bad, if not worse than what they are doing.

City employees are real people with families and this type of abuse is uncalled for and needs to stop!

*William E Bell, MPA*

*City Manager*

*Montrose, Colorado*

## RECALL EFFORT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SMOKESCREEN

*Editor:*

I stand with Scott Mijares, won't you join me? Please don't fall for this blue propaganda. Scott is doing a great job for the people of Montrose County. When he took office he discovered that there were many things that had been done in the final days before he took office. This was done by the out going commissioners. Scott brought this to light and wanted to fix what had been done by Rash, Caddy and Hanson. He wanted to bring into the light what had been done and fix it. This recall business is nothing more than a smokescreen to cover up what had been done illegally and without accountability. We should be awarding Scott and Sean instead of this harassment.

*John Brown, Montrose*

*WE THE PEOPLE*

## DON'T SETTLE FOR LIP SERVICE

*Editor,*

PSA - just like last year, the city manager and city gov. has dedicated only ONE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER for the entire city of Montrose.

In my discussion with the city manager last year, (who, by the way, manages and is head of the police department) he indicated that they were going to remedy this problem next year (2025) by augmenting the code enforcement with additional personnel, possible reassigning some officers from other duties.

The city manager is quite aware of the high turn over rate in code enforcement and the topic was discussed, at length, that it needed improvement.

The topic was one of the issues in the city newsletter, they took a survey of top concerns that the citizens of Montrose cared

about and CODE ENFORCEMENT was high on the list.

So, what was the end-result of that survey? NO action, there is still just one new code enforcement officer for the entire city...she started in March of this year.

LAST year, we went without a code enforcement officer for months before they finally found ONE about halfway thru the year. The salary is low and the inconsiderate and obscene stuff that is part of the job is stressful, thus the high turnover rate.

MY suggestion was to raise the base salary so that retention would improve. That suggestion was ignored and not implemented, S-o-o, we AGAIN, have just one sole code officer for the entire city that has grown by leaps and bounds.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE,

the taxes are astronomical and the basic services are not being addressed.

I lived in the mountains at 9,000 ft. in a large rural and poor county. The tax base was low, so minimal services, because the money was not there. THAT is not applicable in this scenario. What is applicable is, the city gov. of Montrose does not respect its citizens and gives good lip service.

**DEMAND BETTER STAFFING FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT.**

Your taxes should afford a reasonable staff level, call, e-mail or go to city council meetings and ask why this issue has not improved, even though their own survey reflects the need.

*3rd generation Coloradan, 10-year resident of Montrose*

*Lynn Stockton*



# CSOC YOUTH ATHLETICS BASEBALL WITH MONTROSE & OURAY COUNTY!



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7:30AM-4PM



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Ages 8-12



Join local law enforcement for a fun day of **baseball** at **Sunset Mesa Sports Complex**! Open to all skill levels, this **free event** is a great way for kids to play ball, learn new skills, and connect with officers in a positive setting.



REGISTRATION AND OTHER INFO: [leagues.bluesombrero.com/csocya](https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/csocya)

For help registering or other questions:

**Camille D'Arcey**

(970) 820-8038 [cdarcey@csoc.org](mailto:cdarcey@csoc.org)

**Robert Branham**

(720) 438-9691 [rbranham@csoc.org](mailto:rbranham@csoc.org)

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## COMMITTED TO RESTORING COMPETENT, ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN MONTROSE COUNTY

*Dear Editor:*

Since March, a bipartisan, diverse group of Montrose County citizens has been meeting regularly to address a crisis in local leadership. None of us planned to spend our spring and summer this way—we had other things in mind: camping trips, backyard BBQs, family reunions. But the destabilization of our county government and reckless spending under Commissioner Scott Mijares left us no choice. That's why, starting July 15, more than 100 volunteers will begin gathering signatures on a petition to recall Scott Mijares, County Commissioner for District 1. This recall is not about party lines. It's about accountability, transparency, and responsible governance.

Commissioner Mijares has:

-Violated Colorado's Open Meetings Law by conspiring with another commissioner to force out the county manager and county attorney—key decisions made outside public view.

-Wasted over half a million taxpayer dollars on severance packages, legal fees, and backfilled positions.

-Interfered with essential county projects like the North Campus facility, risking costly contract penalties and wasting staff time, before backpedaling under public pressure.

-Undermined public health leadership, abruptly demoting and reinstating the Public Health Director, creating confusion and loss of trust.

-Created instability and fear among county employees through erratic decisions and a toxic workplace atmosphere.

Montrose County deserves better. We believe Commissioner Scott Mijares has violated transparency, fiscal responsibility, and public trust. He has destabilized services, misused funds, and silenced citizens. We are committed to restoring competent, ethical leadership in Montrose County.

If you agree it's time for a change, join us.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*James Haugness*

*Ray Langston*

*Phoebe Benziger*

**Montrose County, Colorado**

## LET'S ESTABLISH CELLULAR-AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTERS

*To the editor,*

Any of our political leaders who are concerned about climate change, which ought to be all of them, should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For readers who are unaware, the new protein is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Scientists believe, when the technology is fully developed, cultivated meat will require a fraction of the greenhouse-gas emissions that slaughtered meat does.

Animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of climate change, an inconvenient truth serious environmentalists must reckon with. Cellular agriculture represents a scalable solution to this problem. Ecologically-conscious politicians at the state and federal level should allocate more government money toward cultivated-meat development. Let's establish cellular-agriculture research centers at universities across the country.

*Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT*



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Let's connect and discuss how I can help turn your real estate dreams into reality!

*contact me*



**MICHELLE KLIPPERT**

BROKER ASSOCIATE

CRS, ABR, GRI, SRES, SFR

Mobile: 970.275.3016

Office: 970.249.7653

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MONTROSE CITIZEN DOGE'S RESPONSE TO CITY MANAGER BILL BELL

Editor:

**The following email was received by the MontroseMirror this week concerning recent DOGE & White posts.**

*"Good morning. Please stop this nonsense. How long are you going to perpetuate David White and the DOGE's lying about me and my family? It is one thing to disagree with a member of the government's professional decisions, but it is not morally acceptable to enable them to continually attack children and family members and myself regarding things we have not done. At some point, this craziness has to stop. You and they are tearing apart our community and ruining peoples lives for no reason. Every single post the Montrose DOGE has posted has been filled with lies and misinformation, including this week's...they apparently don't understand what a payroll deduction is, so they tell the public that the city paid for me and several employees to be part of a corporate membership at the bridges using tax dollars is just flat out lying and you are spreading that information using your media capabilities, which is just as bad, if not worse than what they are doing. City employees are real people with families and this type of abuse is uncalled for and needs to stop!*

*William E Bell, MPA, City Manager Montrose, Colorado*

**Montrose Citizen DOGE's Response to City Manager Bill Bell.**

Dear Mr. Bell,

We appreciate your outreach and understand your concerns regarding the reporting by DOGE and its coverage by the Montrose Mirror. However, we must address the inaccuracies in your letter and clarify the issues raised, which are grounded in public records and factual observa-

tions, not misinformation or personal attacks.

Firstly, DOGE has never targeted or mentioned your children in our reporting. The assertion that we have attacked your family is unfounded. Public records show that you invited your children to participate in city-sponsored golf tournaments at The Bridges and Cobble Creek. This was your decision, not an action initiated or highlighted by DOGE. Our focus remains on the use of public resources, not personal family matters.

Regarding the golf memberships, **public records, including the City of Montrose's check registry, indicate that taxpayer funds have been used to facilitate memberships at private golf clubs, The Bridges and Cobble Creek**, through payroll deductions for certain city employees. The issue is not the concept of payroll deductions (we are fully aware how payroll deductions work as our own experience as corporate business leaders has made us fully aware), but the use of public funds to subsidize access to private facilities. The coding of these transactions in the city's check registry lacks transparency, raising legitimate questions about accountability and the appropriateness of using taxpayer dollars for such purposes. **There is no clear justification for why the City of Montrose should front costs for private golf club memberships**, particularly when these benefits are not uniformly available to all employees or taxpayers.

MontroseDOGE, has on more than one occasion, offered, previously Mayor Reed, and later Mayor Frank, along with yourself, the opportunity to refute, in an open public forum, any perceived inaccuracies of David White and DOGE's reporting, yet these offers have been met with silence.

And instead of engaging with us directly you have chosen to attack the publisher of the Montrose Mirror. Despite DOGE providing a direct email address ([info@montroseDOGE.org](mailto:info@montroseDOGE.org)) in every one of our posts, neither you nor any member of the City Council or your staff has reached out to us. The only reasonable conclusion we can draw is that there are no legitimate grounds to dispute the evidence we have presented, which is based on documented public records.

Our mission at MontroseDOGE is to promote transparency and ensure public resources are used responsibly. Our posts are based on the city's own financial records, which are available for public scrutiny.

We have not spread lies or misinformation but have sought to inform the community about how their tax dollars are being spent. If there are errors in our interpretation of payroll deductions or other financial mechanisms, we invite you to provide detailed clarification, including specific documentation, to correct the record. Our email remains open for such dialogue.

We agree that city employees are real people with families, and our intent is not to cause harm but to hold public officials accountable. The community deserves clear answers about why taxpayer funds are being used for private golf club memberships and why these transactions are coded in a way that obscures their purpose. We hope you will address these concerns directly to restore trust and unity in Montrose.

Sincerely,

*Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB", John Brown and the entire Montrose Citizens DOGE Team*





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MIJARES RECALL

*Editor,*

Well, it appears that we have three individuals (and their minions no doubt) that, in all probability, did not vote for Scott Mijares in the general election less than a year ago who think, that now that he has been in office for six months, it is time to start a recall election because they don't agree with decisions he has made. They cite chaos and the resignations of the county manager and county attorney as well as pushing for a brief delay on the construction of the north campus. Then there was the improper appointment of the Public Health Director. They say these actions have created a hostile work environment and cost the county money. But, let's look a little deeper. Exactly who are these three people?

Jim Haugsness – active in the community and on numerous boards, but also ran twice, for a county commissioner seat. The first time was not able to get enough votes at the county assembly to get on the ballot and the second time, got on the ballot and was defeated. He also attempted to secure a seat on the Government Affairs Council (a committee of the original chamber of commerce), there were two applicants for the position and in a secret ballot vote Mr. Haugsness received a single vote. Not exactly the person you want deciding policy for the county.

Ray Langston – Most notably a former chairman of the Montrose County Republican Party. However, Mr. Langston has since been censured by the local party for inappropriate and disruptive behavior. He applied to the state party to have the censure overturned, but was denied. Not exactly the person you want deciding policy for the county.

Phoebe Benziger – currently on the city planning commission, but a long-time Democrat activist. She led an unsuccessful recall effort in 2012 against all three commissioners. Apparently if Ms. Benziger disagrees with you, you should not hold public office. Not exactly the person you want deciding policy for the county. So, let's look at the reality of Montrose County commissioners. The recall team is outraged that the county manager and the county attorney resigned and were

paid a severance package in accordance with their contracts. But, how did this situation happen and who is at fault? Following the November 2024 election, we had an interim county manager who could have remained in the position until the newly elected commissioners took office in January 2025. The prior board decided that they would hire the new manager and not involve the new members in that decision. Scott Mijares requested that the newly elected commissioners be allowed to participate in that selection process. He was initially denied that opportunity, but later allowed to ask a limited number of questions of the applicants that apparently needed to be approved by the county attorney since the applicants were instructed not to answer questions that had not been provided by the attorney. Frank Rodriguez, by all accounts, is a highly qualified individual with service in the military and a distinguished career in law enforcement, but no background in public administration. By selecting Mr. Rodriguez before the new board took office, the departing board, under the chairmanship of Sue Hanson, put Mr. Rodriguez, the new commissioners and the county in a very precarious situation if the new board determined his lack of experience as a public administrator was not a good fit. The current commissioners need a manager they trust will work to carry out their Agenda. By the way, under the prior board of commissioners, headed by Sue Hanson, had two managers either resign or be fired in a short period of time and each received a severance payment in accordance with their contracts. Where was the outrage then?

One issue with the previous county attorney was the legal advice provided on the appointment of the Director of Public Health and the move to change his status to interim director and conduct a new search for a director. The Director of Public Health, by statute, must be appointed by the Board of Health. The commissioners are the Board of Health, but in this case, they had not convened as the Board of Health to make the appointment. The county attorney, apparently, did not con-

sider this a serious breach of the law, but the commissioners disagreed. They convened as the Board of Health, conducted a search and appointed the interim director to fill that position. Should the commissioners be sanctioned for following the law?

Scott Mijares, a successful businessman, expressed doubts about the plan to build the north campus for county offices with the prior board and requested that approval of the project be delayed so the new board could review and determine if the plan was in the best interest of the taxpayers of Montrose County. Obviously, the prior board, under the leadership of Sue Hanson, declined to delay the decision. His request to delay was based on concerns about the cost, the location and the ability to expand, if needed in the future. Considering other large expenditures facing the county, particularly the renovation of the original courthouse, and the possible need to borrow \$10,000,000 to complete the north campus, Mr. Mijares is concerned for the fiscal soundness of the county. As for chaos, the chaos is not being created by the commissioners, but by the activists who seem to think if the commissioners don't do what they want them to do, then they should be removed from office. I would guess that most, if not all, of the individuals supporting this recall did not vote for Scott Mijares in the general election - and they lost.

Now they want to try a new approach to overturn the election results. I often hear that the commissioners are there to represent everyone in Montrose. Actually, I'm not exactly sure how they could do that. If the commissioners sided with the "Three Musketeers," I don't believe they would be representing my interests, and I voted for them. If the new criteria for having a recall is, "If I don't agree with your decisions, then you should be recalled" then there would be a basis to recall every elected official. Then we could add Sue Hanson to the recall effort. Let's grow up, let our commissioners focus on their job and stop this recall effort.

*Ben Alexander*

*Former State Senator  
District 6*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESORTS TO HATRED, VIOLENCE

*Editor:*

Here are some things you won't read about in either the Montrose Press or the GJ Sentinel, both of whom have given up any pretense of being anything more than liberal echo chambers. The Democrat party, once a political home for American Jews, has now become a party that excuses, enables, and actively participates in anti-Semitism. We are all familiar with several Democrat members of Congress who are not only Hamas apologists and anti-Israel, but are openly anti-Semitic. The Hamas terrorism didn't begin with the murder of 1,200 civilians and the taking of 250 innocent hostages on October 7th. Hamas has been lobbing bombs on Israeli civilians for decades and is intent on killing Jews because they are Jews. It's in their charter. The Democrat party is no longer the party of ML King Jr. or JFK, or even Bill Clinton. It is now completely controlled by extremists – as personified by the party's election of Sohran Mamdani to be the Democrat candidate running for the mayor of NYC. Mamdani is not only an economic Marxist, but he does not accept the right of Israel to exist and expresses sympathy for calls to “globalize the intifada.” When asked about Mamdani's anti-Semitic views, DNC Chair Ken Martin made their party's position clear: Democrats won't condemn those who want to kill Jews. They are OK with those who want Jewish genocide to be ushered into their party's “big tent.”

The National Education Association (NEA) approved a number of resolutions in their recent annual convention, including one that provided further evidence that Democrats no longer love Jews. The NEA is the nation's largest union and represents 70% of America's school teachers (including the Montrose school district). It contributed \$22.7 million to candidates in the 2024 election, with over 98% going to Democrats. Given the absurd nature of the resolutions, it is no wonder the NEA tried to keep them secret. The NEA showed they are OK with one type of racism – anti-

Semitism – by resolving to cut all ties to the Anti-Defamation League, an organization founded to fight anti-Semitism. The NEA now appears to be on the forefront of the movement that supports the Muslim terrorists who fanatically shout their desire to annihilate Jews. Is it any wonder that anti-Semitism has become rampant in America's classrooms?

Among the other insane resolutions was the adoption of a “business item” holding that, in all its materials, it will explicitly identify anything Trump does as fascist, and another item that mandates that teachers encourage students to protest against Trump's policies. (Here's a chuckle. The NEA repeatedly misspelled “fascism” in their resolution.) The event also hosted a “Socialism 2025” conference to encourage radicalizing students as early as possible, and passed a business item “to oppose any move to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education.” The Montrose liberal educators who have thus far protected their monopoly by voting down the Montrose Classical Academy, will be proud to hear that the NEA gave an award to a man for fighting against school choice – who is himself a product of private schools. No hypocrisy there folks. Remember this is the same NEA whose Colorado affiliate passed a resolution last year committing the organization to fight capitalism.

The NEA long ago abandoned the U.S. and Western Civilization history and civics lessons that help children know and love their country. They have abandoned any pretense of preparing children to function in the world or qualify for any meaningful employment. Instead, their avowed goal is to use the children trapped in failing public school classrooms to advance their own political goals. These are the people who elected Becky Pringle as the NEA president (annual salary \$481,161.) I have listened to her speeches and I can best describe them as unhinged.

I would like to believe that our little school district is an oasis immune from

everything we see happening elsewhere in our education system and with the NEA, but that would be foolish. Everything I see indicates a real cause for alarm: the Superintendent's comments and actions, Sarah Fishing's bullying tactics with elected school board members, the school board's actions and inactions, the \$200 million high school building fiasco, indications that the administration is grossly overstaffed, the unjustified and unexplained rejection of the Montrose Classical Academy, and much more. Hopefully area conservatives will be able to field some solid school board candidates to help Neisha Balleck and Ted Valerio regain some sanity within our school district.

This week we also saw some insane Democrat reactions to some really bad things. In addition to the usual laughable attempts to blame the deadly Texas floods on Trump, we also saw multiple Democrats indicate that Texas and the people there deserve chaos and death, because the state is largely Republican. (A father deserves the pain of sifting through debris to find the body of his dead child because the Democrat party didn't get their way last November.) After spending years demonizing the police and those sworn to enforce our immigration laws, heavily armed left-wing radicals launched a coordinated attack on unarmed ICE workers in Alvarado, Texas. In McAllen, Texas, Border Patrol Agents were fired upon in another ambush attack. Those attacks followed a far-left extremist killing two innocent Israeli staff members in D.C., the assassination of a healthcare CEO in NYC, and the fire-bombing/murder of elderly Jews peacefully protesting the Hamas hostage situation.

A logical question is: Have everyday Democrats given up winning at the ballot box and peacefully protesting things they disagree with, and are they now OK with the crazies in charge of their party resorting to hatred and violence to achieve their goals?

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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## About The Property :

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

**Offered At:**  
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## Property Features :

- 3 Bedrooms
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA HEALTH SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW FEDERAL PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL STABILITY

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Delta Health has been selected to participate in the first cohort of the Rural Hospital Stabilization Program, a new federal initiative designed to help rural hospitals improve their financial stability by developing or enhancing health care services.

Hospitals participating in the program — which is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and administered by the National Rural Health Resource Center — will work closely with a team of national experts to better understand each facility's financial and operational performance.

With funding support to help grow services and associated facility needs, this

will allow us to improve our financial outlook and meet our community's top health priorities.

These experienced leaders and technical assistance professionals will assist in identifying care gaps and provide education and coaching to help customize our strategy and work together through project implementation.


"This program represents a tremendous opportunity for Delta Health to strengthen our ability to serve our community for generations to come," said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Chief Executive Officer for Delta Health. "By working with national experts to identify and address operational opportunities, we're not just improving our financial foundation — we're ensuring our community has access to the quality

of healthcare that they deserve."

The program is expected to take 18-24 months to complete.

The ultimate goal of the Rural Hospital Stabilization Program — whose first cohort includes eight hospitals from seven states — is to strengthen rural health care delivery nationwide by improving hospital financial stability.

For more information, visit [https://www.ruralcenter.org/resources/articles/eight-hospitals-selected-first-cohort-rural-hospital-stabilization-program?fbclid=IwY2xjawLY4mNleHRuA2FibQIxMABicmlkETf3bFFORTBjV2Vjajk3aHpKAR4qUjBjOEYt4qAmJPD4FOJ-PMMCVscpSWveXapJ-car0QSnafid1zie506lpTjQ\\_aem\\_P\\_yBnOg7bbVKRu2hHKThUA](https://www.ruralcenter.org/resources/articles/eight-hospitals-selected-first-cohort-rural-hospital-stabilization-program?fbclid=IwY2xjawLY4mNleHRuA2FibQIxMABicmlkETf3bFFORTBjV2Vjajk3aHpKAR4qUjBjOEYt4qAmJPD4FOJ-PMMCVscpSWveXapJ-car0QSnafid1zie506lpTjQ_aem_P_yBnOg7bbVKRu2hHKThUA).




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

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S DRESS CODE POLICY UNDERMINES STUDENT GUIDANCE

*Editor:*

The Montrose County School District's dress code policy has sparked concern among parents, educators, and community members, particularly due to a provision that prohibits staff from questioning the appropriateness of a student's attire based on gender. This rule, reportedly enforced in cases such as a male student wearing a sports bra with staff instructed to "stand down," raises serious questions about the role of schools in guiding young people. While the district claims this policy promotes inclusivity, it risks fostering confusion among students at a critical stage in their development, undermining the very purpose of education: to provide clear direction and prepare students for responsible adulthood.

Schools are entrusted with shaping young minds, not only through academic instruction but also by instilling values, discipline, and clarity. The Montrose County School District's dress code, as outlined in its 2023 policy revisions, emphasizes minimizing disruptions while allowing students freedom in their attire, provided their faces remain visible and the clothing adheres to basic safety and modesty standards. However, the specific directive preventing staff from addressing gender-specific clothing choices, as highlighted by the sports bra incident, goes beyond reasonable accommodation. It signals a troubling shift away from providing the guidance children need to navigate complex social and personal identities.

Education is about preparing students for the real world, where boundaries, norms, and expectations exist. Children and teenagers are not yet equipped to make fully informed decisions about their self-expression, especially when it comes to matters as nuanced as gender identity. By allowing unrestricted clothing choices without regard for gender appropriateness, the district risks normalizing confusion rather than fostering clarity. For instance, when a male student wears a sports bra, a garment traditionally associated with female athletes, and staff are barred from addressing it, the policy implicitly endorses a lack of boundaries. This does not empower students; it leaves them without the struc-

tured guidance necessary for their social and emotional development.

The Montrose County School District's Superintendent, Carrie Stephenson, has defended the policy, arguing it reduces classroom disruptions and avoids confrontational situations, such as those involving hats or hoodies worn for personal reasons like covering a bad haircut. The 2023 policy revision, as reported by the Montrose Daily Press, aims to limit the time spent addressing dress code violations, which Stephenson noted can distract from instruction. Yet, this approach sacrifices meaningful mentorship for the sake of expediency. By prioritizing conflict avoidance over constructive dialogue, the district fails to teach students how to navigate societal expectations responsibly.

Critics of strict dress codes, including the American Civil Liberties Union, argue that gender-specific rules can discriminate against transgender or nonbinary students, violating federal laws like Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools. While inclusivity is a worthy goal, the Montrose policy swings too far in the opposite direction. Instead of crafting a balanced, gender-neutral dress code that respects all students while maintaining clear standards, the district has adopted a hands-off approach that leaves educators powerless to guide students appropriately. This is not freedom of expression; it is an abdication of responsibility.

The broader implications of this policy extend beyond the classroom. Schools are a microcosm of society, where young people learn to balance individuality with communal norms. By refusing to address attire that may not align with a student's gender, the district sends a message that societal norms are irrelevant. This is particularly concerning when preparing students for future workplaces, where professional dress codes often reflect clear expectations. The Montrose policy, as it stands, does little to teach students about adapting their self-expression to different contexts, a critical life skill.

Moreover, the policy's vagueness creates inconsistency in enforcement. While the district claims to focus on safety and visibility, the prohibition on questioning gender-

specific attire leaves teachers in a difficult position. They must navigate a fine line between respecting students' choices and maintaining a cohesive learning environment. This lack of clarity can lead to uneven application, where some students face scrutiny for minor infractions, like wearing a hat, while others face no consequences for more significant deviations, like the sports bra case. Such inconsistencies undermine the policy's stated goal of reducing disruptions and erode trust in school leadership.

Parents and community members have a right to expect more from the Montrose County School Board. Education is not just about academic achievement; it is about guiding students toward becoming thoughtful, responsible adults. By allowing policies that prioritize unchecked self-expression over structured guidance, the board is failing in this mission. The sports bra incident is not an isolated issue but a symptom of a broader problem: a reluctance to provide the direction young people need to thrive in a complex world.

To address this, the district should revise its dress code to provide clear guidance not anything goes. A gender-neutral policy that sets clear, reasonable standards for all students, would respect individual expression while maintaining a framework for appropriate attire. For example, requiring clothing that covers the torso and adheres to basic modesty standards, without tying rules to specific genders, would avoid discrimination while providing clarity. Additionally, the district should empower teachers to engage in respectful, educational conversations with students about their clothing choices, rather than mandating silence.

The Montrose County School District has an opportunity to lead by example, showing students that self-expression and societal norms can coexist. By reconsidering its current dress code policy, the district can fulfill its role as a mentor to young people, helping them navigate their identities with confidence and clarity. Until then, the policy as it stands risks confusing the very students it is meant to educate, leaving them ill-prepared for the challenges of adulthood.

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



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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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2 BEDROOMS 2

BATHROOMS

9.18 acres



CONTACT: LESLIE GORE



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lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com

<https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA COUNTY HONORED AMONG 25 COLORADO COUNTIES FOR DISTINGUISHED HUMAN SERVICES PERFORMANCE



"The goals this team has met weren't just difficult—they were nearly impossible," said Koontz. "If it weren't for the individuals in this room today, this community wouldn't be what it is. Incredible things happen not only when we work hard but also when we show the dedication, empathy, and compassion to one another and our citizens, which each of you demonstrates daily."

#### **What This Means for Delta County**

- Faster, more efficient delivery of critical services
- Enhanced safety protocols and client protections
- Measurable improvements in outcomes for vulnerable residents

Delta County is proud of the incredible team behind this achievement. Their passion, accountability, and collaboration continue to set a high standard for public service in Colorado.

CStat is the performance management system used by the Colorado Department of Human Services to track and improve results across essential programs such as:

- Food and energy assistance
- Child Welfare and Adult Protection
- Medicaid enrollment
- Disability services
- Workforce Development
- Child Support Services

By surpassing statewide benchmarks in areas like application processing, safety compliance, and data accuracy, Delta County ensures families and individuals receive vital resources quickly, safely, and reliably.

**To celebrate this achievement, state representatives traveled to Delta County to formally present the award in a ceremony held at the Human Services building. Courtesy photo.**

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) has recognized Delta County as one of only 25 counties statewide to receive the 2024 CStat Distinguished Performance Award, which honors counties for delivering timely, accurate, and safe human services to Colorado residents. This marks the third time Delta County has earned this prestigious award, with the previous recognition in 2021—underscoring the department's ongoing excellence and commitment to continuous improvement. In fact, Delta County improved its overall CStat performance by 7% from 2023 to 2024, reinforcing its status as a top-performing human services provider in the state.

To celebrate this achievement, state rep-

resentatives traveled to Delta County to formally present the award in a ceremony held at the Human Services building. The event was attended by CDHS officials, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Human Services team.

Anne Gallegos, Director of Delta County Human Services, delivered remarks expressing gratitude for her staff's dedication and perseverance in meeting the growing needs of the community with consistency and compassion.

One of those team members, Albert Martinez, was also individually recognized for his exceptional leadership and service contributions throughout the year. Commissioner Wendell Koontz, deeply moved, also addressed the team:



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# UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CHALLENGES UNCONSTITUTIONAL CALIFORNIA LAWS DRIVING UP NATIONAL EGG PRICES

*US Dept. of Justice-Office of Public Affairs*  
WASHINGTON – On July 9, 2025 the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against the State of California, Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and other state officials over California laws that impose burdensome red tape on the production of eggs and poultry products nationally in violation of the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The laws and regulations challenged by the complaint impose costly requirements on farmers that have the effect of raising egg prices for American consumers by prohibiting farmers across the country from using commonly accepted agricultural methods that helped keep eggs afford-

able. These laws stand opposed to the Egg Products inspection Act, which sets standards to ensure eggs and egg products are properly labeled and packaged and preempts state laws that impose additional regulatory hurdles.

"Americans across the country have suffered the consequences of liberal policies causing massive inflation for everyday items like eggs," said Attorney General Pam Bondi. "Under President Trump's leadership, we will use the full extent of federal law to ensure that American families are free from oppressive regulatory burdens and restore American prosperity."

"Bureaucratic red tape and unnecessary

regulations implemented by the State of California have made the cost of everyday goods, like eggs, less affordable for Americans," said Assistant Attorney General Brett Shumate. "This Department of Justice will work to free consumers from this regulatory burden and bring economic prosperity to families."

On his first day in office, President Trump directed federal agencies to work to end the "crushing regulatory burden" Americans were experience with the riding costs of every day items. This lawsuit is the latest of Department of Justice actions seeking to protect American consumers from predatory commercial practices and regulatory burdens.

## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILES STATEMENT OF INTEREST ON SUPPRESSION OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS THROUGH DEPLATFORMING OF RIVAL VIEWPOINTS

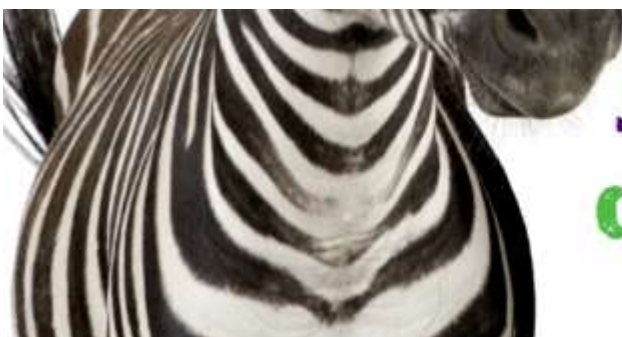
*US Dept. of Justice-Office of Public Affairs*  
UNITED STATES-On July 11, 2025 the Justice Department filed a statement of interest in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in the case of *Children's Health Defense et al. v. Washington Post et al.* The lawsuit — led by plaintiffs allegedly deplatformed for sharing independent news and opinion related to the COVID-19 pandemic — alleges that the Washington Post, BBC, AP, and Reuters colluded with one another and with the large digital platforms to suppress compe-

tition from independent perspectives that rival mainstream media. The statement of interest explains how the antitrust laws protect viewpoint competition in news markets.

"When companies abuse their market power to block out and deplatform independent voices and protect legacy media, they harm competition and threaten the free flow of information on which consumers depend," said Assistant Attorney General Abigail Slater of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. "This Anti-

trust Division will always defend the principle that the antitrust laws protect free markets, including the marketplace of ideas."

The Antitrust Division routinely files statements of interest and amicus briefs in federal court where doing so will help protect competition and consumers, including by encouraging the sound development of the antitrust laws. A collection of these statements of antitrust and amicus filings is publicly available on the Division's website.



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

# WHEN SILENT CAL SPOKE, IT HAD REAL IMPACT

*Editor:*

It's been fashionable over the course of American history for smug, small minded politicians of every era to discount, as outdated, the brilliance of the Founding Fathers as well as the documents, government, and democratic republic that they produced.

On that subject, Silent Cal didn't speak much but when he did, it had real impact. Here's a portion of his speech from 5 July 1926:

"About the Declaration there is a finality that is exceedingly restful. It is often asserted that the world has made a great deal of progress since 1776, that we have had new thoughts and new experiences which have given us a great advance over the people of that day, and that we may therefore very well discard their conclusions for something more modern.

But that reasoning cannot be applied to this great charter. If all men are created equal, that is final. If they are endowed with inalienable rights, that is final. If governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, that is final. No advance, no progress can be made

beyond these propositions. If anyone wishes to deny their truth or their soundness, the only direction in which he can proceed historically is not forward, but backward toward the time when there was no equality, no rights of the individual, no rule of the people. Those who wish to proceed in that direction can not lay claim to progress. They are reactionary. Their ideas are not more modern, but more ancient, than those of the Revolutionary Fathers."

Calvin Coolidge was born on the 4th of July 1872 and was the 30th President of the United States, serving from 1923 to 1929. He gained a reputation as a reticent, introspective, small government conservative with a dry sense of humor that earned him the nickname "Silent Cal".

He was the Republican Party running mate to Senator Warren G. Harding in the 1920 presidential election. They won in a landslide. Coolidge assumed the presidency after Harding's death from a heart attack in 1923.

He restored public confidence in the White House after the Harding Admin-

istration's many scandals.

He signed into law the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, granting U.S. citizenship to all Native Americans, and oversaw a period of rapid and expansive economic growth known as the "Roaring Twenties" leaving office with considerable popularity.

He was known for embodying the "spirit and hopes of the middle class" by correctly interpreting their desires.

He chose not to run again in 1928, remarking that "ten years as president would be longer than any other man has had it—too long!"

He was a stalwart supporter of racial equality and an advocate of smaller government and 'laissez faire' economics. It's no surprise that believers in 'big government' generally view him less favorably. His economic policies are still debated as to the extent they contributed to the Great Depression, which began after he left office.

Ronald Reagan replaced a picture of Thomas Jefferson in the Oval Office with that of Calvin Coolidge whom he believed was a very underrated president.

*Scott Rizzo, Montrose*

## SUBVERTING MONTROSE COUNTY FROM WITHIN

*Editor:*

Yes, they are on the move. The same people backing the RECALL OF COMMISSIONER Scott Mijares in my opinion are the ones with an agenda to take Montrose County over politically within. As many of you with workplace experience counter to the articles printed in the MDP, often times the very people that decry "HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT" and this and that, are the very same people that create the so-called problem in the first place. Counter points seem to be lacking and therefore the truth of the matter never gets before

the public. The county staff might want to be reminded that they are "FUNCTIONARY ONLY" and have not been elected to write legislation or act instead of or in place of any elected county commissioner. Please also be aware of one-sided hit pieces in the press that are obviously agenda driven and written without factual rebuttals from the commissioners and other people with a different perspective. Some might even call it "yellow" journalism. It is right out of the "PLAYBOOK OF SUBVERSION" to tell the same old story, repeat it again, and again, and someone just might believe it.

The recall effort is a power play to nullify your recent vote for Commissioner Scott Mijares because the petitioners of the recall know what is best for you. One only must note who has shown up at BOCC meetings to know what may be described in Montrose and across the nation as the far left. Take your descriptive pick, democrats, progressives, socialist and yes some might even describe as subversive.

Yes, it is happening right here in Montrose.

Just say no, to the RECALL.

*Jim Anderson, Montrose, CO*

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GRAB YOUR HATS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS, AND SADDLE UP FOR THE 120TH DELTA COUNTY FAIR...

**Delta County Fair Brings Free Burgers, CPRA Rodeo & Headliner Lane Smith to the North Fork Valley**



**Saturday, August 2nd, join the town along the main street in Hotchkiss for the annual parade. Courtesy photo.**

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-The 2025 Delta County Fair runs July 26 through August 3 at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss, and this year's lineup includes Community Night with free burgers, the CPRA Rodeo, and a star-studded concert from country artist Lane Smith.

Located just 1½ hours from Grand Junction and under an hour from Montrose, the drive to Hotchkiss is pure Colorado scenic bliss—winding through rugged canyons, lush vineyards, sprawling orchards, and quaint small towns. If you haven't experienced the North Fork Valley yet, this is your moment.



**Join us on Wednesday, July 30, for our beloved Community Night—with free cheeseburgers, chips, and coleslaw. Courtesy photo.**

#### **Lane Smith Concert**

Country sensation Lane Smith will headline the fair's entertainment schedule. With viral hits and a growing national profile, he's an artist your kids and grandkids will know!

#### **Community Night**

Join us on Wednesday, July 30, for our beloved Community Night—with free cheeseburgers, chips, and coleslaw. Burger will be cooked by and provided by the Delta County Commissioners.

The food will be served by fair participants and royalty. There will be a beer garden for all you adults.

It's a laid-back way to reconnect with neighbors and soak in the early-week fair excitement. (While Supplies Last.)



**Country sensation Lane Smith will headline the fair's entertainment schedule. Courtesy photo.**

#### **CPRA Rodeo & Livestock Shows**

Top-tier Colorado Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA Rodeo) action returns all week, along with championships and 4-H livestock competitions—perfect for rodeo fans and family members inspired by rural traditions.

#### **Livestock Shows & Parade**

4-H livestock competitions—perfect for rodeo fans and family members inspired by rural traditions.

Saturday, August 2, join the town along the main street in Hotchkiss for the annual parade.

Make sure to stop in and visit all the local shops and restaurants after!

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## EXPOSING THE PROGRESSIVE TAKEOVER OF MONTROSE COUNTY: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE RECALL AND THE KEY PLAYERS

By Sean M. Pond

Let's stop pretending. The recall petition against Commissioner Scott Mijares has nothing to do with ethics, transparency, or good governance. That's the excuse. The real goal is to take out conservatives, flip our county blue, and replace our values with progressive control. And it's not new.

The people behind this recall have been at it for over a decade. Same names. Same tactics. Same agenda. This is a long term, organized effort to keep Montrose County under progressive influence, by any means necessary.

Let me take you back.

In 2011, progressive activists including Mike Krull and Duke Richardson launched recall efforts against County Commissioners David White, Ron Henderson, and Gary Ellis. Why? Because they couldn't stand that conservatives were running the county. Those recalls failed, but the blueprint was set, if they can't win at the ballot box, they'll try to rip people out of office through intimidation, slander, and manipulation.

Fast forward to now. The recall against Commissioner Mijares is being driven by James Haugsness, Phoebe Benziger, and Ray Langston, a trio with direct ties to progressive campaigns that stand in direct opposition to long held conservative values.

Let's break it down:

James "Jim" Haugsness sits on the Urban Renewal board, but he's also been a lead opponent of the Montrose Classical Academy, a tuition free public charter school designed to give parents more educational choice.

Phoebe Benziger, a former school board member and current planning commissioner, stood right alongside Haugsness, fighting to block that same school.

Now, let me explain exactly what that means, because a lot of folks hear "charter school" or "school of choice" and don't really know what that is.

This charter school isn't private. It's not

exclusive. It's a public school that doesn't charge tuition, and it's funded by the same tax dollars as every other public school. The difference? It's run with parent involvement. It teaches traditional subjects, American history, real civics, math, reading, and no political fads. It gives parents more control over what their kids learn. and it doesn't push radical ideology in the classroom.

The truth is, this school was created in direct response to what's happening across Colorado: school boards have been taken over by progressive interests who push radical curriculum, ignore parents, and teach kids that our country is something to be ashamed of instead of something to be proud of. The charter school was a way for parents to take back control.

That's why conservative families support it.

And that's why James Haugsness and Phoebe Benziger fought to shut it down. Because they don't want choice. They don't want parents involved. They want all kids in one system, learning one message, controlled from the top down.

And it doesn't stop at education.

These same individuals have also supported progressive programming at the Montrose Regional Library, including children's story times with transgender themes, books and programs designed to introduce kids to gender identity topics before they're old enough to understand what any of it means. That's not neutral. That's not inclusive. That's an agenda.

Here's where the coordination gets even clearer: the recall effort is being backed by the Montrose & Ouray Counties Indivisible group, the same people who organized the No Kings rallies in town and flooded social media with posts, photos, and insults targeting patriotic, flag waving families and flipping off American flags at our patriotic flag rallies in Montrose. They run coordinated Facebook and Instagram pages, showing up purposely at rallies, public meetings, and now the recall campaign to

create chaos and blur the narrative.

And if you don't believe me, go look for yourself. Visit their Facebook page. See who's on it. You'll find none other than Governor Jared Polis watching closely, liking posts, and following along. You'll see familiar names, people you thought were neutral, sitting right in the middle of it. If you don't think Montrose County is a target, you're not paying attention.

When you connect the dots, blocking school choice, fighting parent led education, pushing gender politics into public spaces, running ideological protests, and now trying to recall conservative leaders, it paints a pretty clear picture. This is about controlling what your kids learn, what your community hears, and who's allowed to lead.

These people aren't just trying to get rid of one commissioner. They're trying to reverse a political shift that threatens their grip on power.

And while they run the recall on paper, Dennis Anderson and the Montrose Daily Press serve as their echo chamber. From his personal Facebook posts to the front page of his paper, Anderson doesn't report the news, he manufactures political outrage. That's not journalism. That's propaganda. And worse? It's funded in part by your tax dollars.

State law requires counties to use a designated "paper of record" for legal notices. Right now, that's the Montrose Daily Press. That means your tax money is being used to pay the same paper that attacks your values. And if you're one of the people helping fund the Montrose Daily Press, buying subscriptions or contributing, you're helping to bankroll the progressive takeover of Montrose County, whether you mean to or not.

Dennis Anderson falsely claims to be a Christian conservative. But everything he writes, promotes, and publishes proves otherwise. He's another implant, another cog in the progressive machine using the guise of faith and neutrality to lure in readers while pushing a far left agenda.

Continued next pg



## EXPOSING THE PROGRESSIVE TAKEOVER OF MONTROSE COUNTY *From previous pg*

His editorials and his social media make it clear: his loyalties lie with the liberal left. Just look at what his paper covers, and what it doesn't.

Now let's talk about Ray Langston.

So who is Ray Langston, really?

He used to be Chair of the Montrose County Republican Party but don't let the title fool you. Langston wasn't a conservative leader. He was a political opportunist who got in when the party was weak, caused chaos, and was thrown out. Twice. In 2021, when he ran for re-election as GOP Chair, he was humiliated, losing with only 17% of the vote. Why? Because local Republicans had had enough. By that point, Langston had already been accused of misusing party funds, violating bylaws, and turning meetings into personal soap-boxes. He didn't unite the party. He tore it apart.

It got worse. According to direct information from Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard, Langston became so aggressive and threatening that the Montrose County Republican Party filed a restraining order against him. That's not a rumor, that's law enforcement involvement. And it was serious enough that Langston even lost his concealed carry permit for a time.

That's who we're talking about.

And while all that was happening, Langston was still the GOP Chair when Sue Hansen was appointed to the Board of County Commissioners. She later ditched the Republican Party and now votes more like a Democrat than anything else. Langston helped put her there. Whether by design or dysfunction, he helped open the door to the same liberal infiltration we're fighting now.

He's not a conservative. He's not a leader. He's not even stable.

Langston is part of the same toxic crew now pushing this recall, people who pretend to represent Republican values while doing the dirty work of the progressive left. He doesn't deserve your trust, your signature, or your silence.

And the most dangerous part? It's not even them. It's the cowards within the Republican Party who are helping them from the inside.

At the last Montrose County GOP Central Committee meeting, I watched Kay Heinschel (Sue Hansen's husband), his buddy Mario, and a man who had just resigned as a PCP sit together taking two pages of notes, whispering, rolling their eyes, and recording the entire meeting. I overheard one of them say, "Make sure we bring it up at tomorrow's meeting."

These men are district captains and insiders. They don't contribute. They don't support. They don't lead. They just show up to undermine, gossip, and share intel with the same people trying to flip the county. And it's not just them, I believe others are in on it, too. Quiet. Calculated. Complicit.

And I'll say this to the Montrose County Republican Party directly: If you are serious about defending conservative values, then it's time to prove it. It's time to take a vote. Call these people out. Ask them to resign. If someone is actively working against the party's own elected officials, if they're leaking, recording, sabotaging, and colluding with the people trying to recall Scott, then they have no business sitting in any leadership position.

Take your party back. If you sit on the Central Committee or serve as a PCP and do nothing, then you're part of the problem. You don't have to agree with every-

thing Scott or I say. But you sure as hell ought to be standing up for the truth, not sitting silent while the county falls apart from the inside out.

We're holding the line publicly. Now we need real conservatives inside the party to hold it internally. It's past time.

If we lose this fight, it won't be because the left outsmarted us. It'll be because we didn't have the guts to stop it.

You don't have to like me.

And you don't have to like Scott Mijares. He and I don't always agree. In fact, we've had some strong disagreements. We're different in style, different in approach, and sometimes different in how we see a problem. B

ut I'll tell you this, Scott's conservative values are solid. He's deeply rooted in those beliefs, and I've never once questioned where he stands when it comes to protecting liberty, defending rural Colorado, and fighting back against the progressive agenda that's trying to overrun this county.

That's why they want him gone.

So if someone comes to your door asking you to sign that recall, ask yourself this first:

Do you really want to help the same people who fought against school choice, pushed gender politics on children, infiltrated our party, and manipulated the media for years?

Because that's what you're doing when you sign. You're not just signing your name. You're signing away control of this county to the same progressive playbook that already ruined places like Boulder, Telluride, Durango, and Gunnison.

Don't let them win. Not this time. Not here.

Wake up, Montrose. Before it's too late.

# The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.



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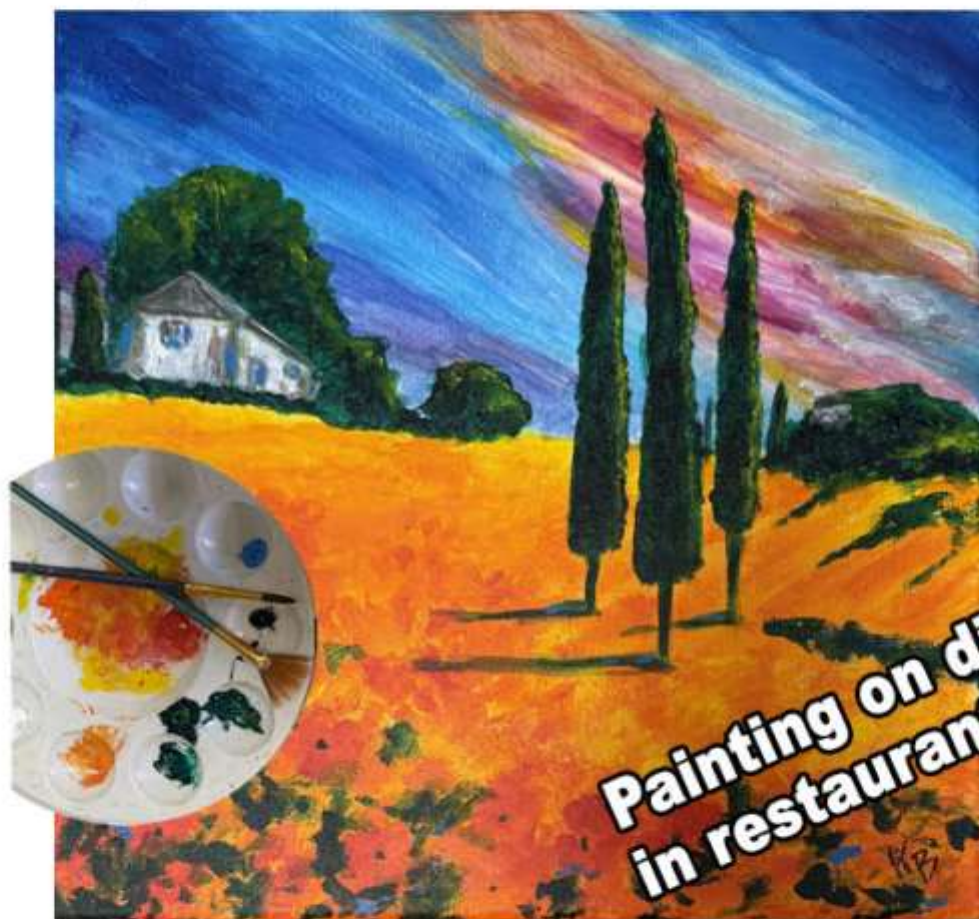
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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## DOT AND CSP REMIND DRIVERS TO PUT SAFETY FIRST

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO- After a series of deadly crashes over the holiday weekend CDOT and Colorado State Patrol are reminding drivers to always put safety first when behind the wheel.

The weekend crashes included a motorist that was struck and killed while changing their tire on I-25, a fiery crash on I-70 involving a semi-truck, a pedestrian that was struck on Hwy 50 in Delta County and a bicyclist that was killed on U.S. Highway 40 near the town of Parshall. Notices of other fatal crashes are expected to be received by CDOT in the coming days. This preliminary data paints a grim picture of the alarming behavior on Colorado roads. "This holiday weekend, Colorado roads became the scene of preventable tragedies," said Sally Chaffee, CDOT's acting executive director. "We witnessed multi-

ple fatalities statewide, including two cowardly hit-and-run crashes at opposite ends of the state. We are imploring every passenger to have the courage to speak up when you see dangerous driving. Your intervention can be the difference between life and death—for yourself, for the driver, and for everyone else on the road."

CDOT is reminding the traveling public to obey the move-over law, never drive impaired, avoid distractions, and buckle up. The top factors in fatal crashes in Colorado include speed, impairment and not using seat belts.

A new law this year forbids holding a phone while driving. Also, Colorado's Move Over law has recently been updated to require motorists to slow down or move over for any vehicle on the side of the road with its hazard lights flashing.

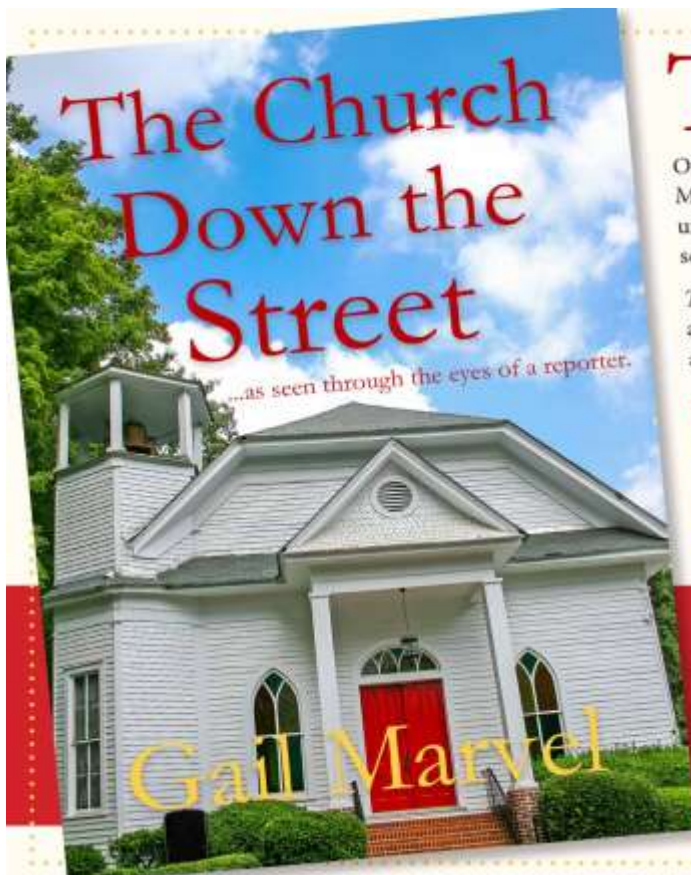
"Holiday weekends bring congested roadways, unfamiliar travel patterns and recreational activities that include impairing substances.

These changes individually or combined can lead to violent and tragic events," stated Col. Matthew C Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "No one thing caused these fatal crashes, but there is one clear solution. Take the privilege of driving seriously by never engaging in behavior that could end a life."

To date there have been 278 traffic deaths in Colorado in 2025. Last year at this time 307 people had been killed on Colorado roads.

### **Crash Not Accident**

Note to reporters: Crashes are no accident — they are preventable. We would appreciate you saying 'crash' instead of 'accident' when reporting.



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

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

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

### **Readers will:**

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## CITY MANAGER BILL BELL – PITCHING A FIT OVER PERKS? REALLY BILL? *Not happy? You're a Public Figure – Take the Heat or Get out of the Kitchen!*

By David White

It's ironic that the City of Montrose City Manager, Bill Bell, who pulls down an incredible \$250,000 or more per year in salary (including benefits), to oversee the operations of a small town (population approx. 22,000 as of 2025 - [Montrose, Colorado Population 2025](#)), has the gall to criticize citizens who dare to call out his elitist, spendthrift ways which, in this case, involve the use of the public's checkbook (City's treasury) for his own benefit.

What has him twisted around the semantics axle this time is his use of the City's checkbook to pay for almost \$14,000 worth of golf memberships at the newly reopened Bridges Golf and Country Club for himself and certain City employees (four of them as I've been told). Keep in mind that a "Non-Resident Golf Membership" (which Mr. Bell most likely approved for himself and his City friends) runs \$3,000 per year (each) plus a monthly fee of \$370.00 per membership. The corporate rate is \$5,000 per year plus a monthly fee of \$250.00. (Go here to see the fee structure: [The Bridges Golf and Country Club](#)) That's a lot of money folks. No doubt the City received a discount on the rates, yet since they're swimming in inflation juiced tax revenue, why not splurge on something nice for themselves? Yeah, at our expense.

In defense of his freewheeling spending of your money, he sends an email to the publisher of the Montrose Mirror that states that the Montrose D.O.G.E. group and I **"...don't understand what a payroll deduction is..."**. Really? As a business manager and owner for over 40 years, I certainly do understand what it is. What I don't understand is how a City Manager can use taxpayer money to float himself and his City buddies a \$14,000 **INTEREST FREE** loan to buy golf memberships at one of the City's premiere country clubs and then have that amount presumably paid back to the taxpayers, without interest,

through their paychecks over the course of several weeks, months or years. And who knows if it's even happening.

The reality is that the City's bank account (s) have been fair game for this City Manager for years. Family, friends, employees of the City and who knows how many others, derive benefits from Mr. Bell's proclivity to pay for things with taxpayer funds! But don't worry, he's never out-of-pocket for anything. The number of receipts the man turns in for reimbursement is staggering.

Moving on...Mr. Bell derides this writer for his criticism of the unfair advantage he has sought and succeeded in arranging for his children. He blames this writer for **"ruining people lives"** and that disclosure of his fiscal misdeeds are the reason. Excuse me Bill, YOU'RE the one ruining people's lives by allowing these corrupt practices to continue. What have your auditors to say about all of this? Obviously, your bosses on the City Council are complicit in this self-created mess you find yourself weakly trying to talk your way out of as they defend your actions and label people such as myself troublemakers, liars or worse.

While Mr. Bell argues that the City's various funds are his to play with, the inept and blind to his Rasputin ways City Councilmembers, who are his willing acolytes, continue to allow this behavior to go on. And this is nothing new. Let's list off a few more of these so called "payroll deductions or loans" (in random order) that he states justifies the play money authority he has been given over the last 14 years of his employment with the City:

Municipal Court Judge & the City's 911 Attorney for the Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA-they set your 911 surcharge on your phone bill annually) Bo Nerlin received a Telluride ski pass in 2022 along with City Councilor and Mayor Barbara Bynum paid for with a check from the City to the Colorado

Flights Alliance in the amount of \$2,500 on December 29, 2022. City Finance folks list the purchase as "passes." No mention is made of the loans to either being reimbursed. Charges were expensed to the Municipal Court and City Council accounts.

November of 2020 – Telluride Ski Pass purchased by the City for Councilor Bynum in the amount of \$1,100.00.

Charged to the City Council's budget.

November of 2023. Bynum gets yet another ski pass to Telluride. This time a reimbursement shows up in February of 2024 as a refund on the City's U.S. Bank credit card. Charged off to the City Council's budget.

Nerlin, again, received a ski pass to Telluride on December 30, 2024 with a reference that he would reimburse the City. Nothing was mentioned about a payroll deduction, nor do we have proof that the loan was paid back for the purchase of the pass

December of 2024, Kendall Delp, employed in the City's Water Department, purchases a Telluride Ski Pass via Colorado Flights Alliance on the City's credit card for \$1,375.00. Nothing was mentioned about a payroll deduction. Mention is made of Mr. Delp reimbursing the City. We have no proof that the loan for the pass was paid back. Charged to the Water Department.

November 2024 - \$1,840.32 for tickets to Universal Studios, Orlando, Florida for the City's Youth Council (of which Mr. Bell's daughter is the "Mayor") for a junket to Florida with the City Council and three staff members. This was to be reimbursed via donations. No record of any reimbursements.

There are more of course to include the purchase of entry fees for golf tournaments and other reimbursements for so called "out-of-pocket" expenses or other expenditures to benefit Mr. Bell's family and their particular interests such as the

## ***PITCHING A FIT OVER PERKS? REALLY BILL? From Previous pg***

the Mudder event, golf tournaments, American Junior Golf Association tournaments, Rotary Club, etc. Yet Mr. Bell states that ***"...it is not morally acceptable to enable them (i.e. Montrose DOGE and White) to continually attack children and family members and myself regarding things we have not done."*** Really??

You've put yourself in this position Bill as well as your family. Don't blame me or anyone else for what you've done and are

now trying to back peddle your way out of. Stop being so brazen as to grease the proverbial skids to benefit your family and friends and maybe the public will let up on its criticism of your self-promoting antics.

Or better yet, move on to a community where you can get away with this kind of political and economic self-aggrandizement to carry you through to retirement. Montrose has had enough of it!

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

## **WHO IS KIRSTIN COPELAND??**

***Answer: If Recall Efforts Succeed Against Commissioner Scott Mijares, she could be his Replacement – Let's Find Out More About Her***

By David White

As many folks now know, a rag tag group of disgruntled folks, mostly Democrats and a few RINO's (Republicans In Name Only) with a Green Party member and some unaffiliated voters, have taken it upon themselves to launch a recall from office effort against Montrose County Commissioner Scott Mijares. Mijares represents District 1 which is basically the geographic boundaries of the City of Montrose.

The recall folks need over 4,500 **VALID** signatures in order to put a recall question on the ballot in this coming November's off year election. This means that the recall folks have to come up with a much larger number of signatures to secure a place on the ballot. As is the case with most petition drives, you're going to get a lot of bogus signors, incorrect signatures or addresses, etc. from people that will dilute your numbers enough that you won't succeed in getting the matter you're petitioning for on the ballot.

Republican luminaries such as former firebrand County Commissioner Roger Rash, disgraced former GOP County Chairman Ray Langston as well as now "unaffiliated" Commissioner Sue Hansen and friends are doing their best to rid the County of Commissioner Mijares. But why? Is he too brash? Is he too business oriented? Is he too successful at wanting

to change the bureaucratic culture and nature of County Government? What is it?

According to the language found on the petitions that will begin circulating this week, he's guilty of following the rules and these folks don't like it. He speaks his mind with clarity. And they don't like it. He makes decisions that are based on years of private sector experience including a downtown Montrose business that he and his wife have been recognized for restoring the historic building it operates from. And they don't like that either. And of course, he asks a lot of questions as he attempts to gather information in order to make a sound decision and hold folks accountable for their actions as County employees, contractors, vendors, et al., and they don't like that all.

So, as a part of this recall drive, the leaders of this effort (Jim Haugsness, failed political candidate from years gone by and a political party flip-flopper); Stephanie Williams (one of the trustees of our local public library); perpetual Democratic Party operative and political activist as well as former RE-1J School Board member, current City of Montrose Planning Commission member, etc., Phoebe Benziger lead up the team on the bluer side of the political coin to take out Mijares. As some may recall, Benziger and her husband Michael, headed up and bankrolled a similar effort against the three (3) County Com-

missioners in 2011 and failed. But what happens if she and they succeed? Well, to call for a recall, you need to find a candidate and that they have – Kirstin Rae Shier Copeland, aka Kirstin Copeland.

On Monday, July 7, 2025, she or someone affiliated with the recall effort, filed a "Committee Registration Form" with the Colorado Secretary of State formally kicking off the "Committee to Elect Kirstin Copeland" campaign. Then, on July 8, 2025, Ms. Copeland filed a Candidate's Affidavit with the Colorado Secretary of State declaring herself to be a candidate for the office of Montrose County Commissioner, District 1. She further declared herself to be politically "unaffiliated."

How and why Ms. Copeland entered the picture has yet to be revealed publicly. But this much is known about her...she is 55 years old (soon to be 56 in August). She resides on Bristol Drive in Montrose but lists her address as being located at the UPS Store on South 3rd Street where she rents a mailbox. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Conservation from the University of Colorado Boulder. She retired from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division in May of 2022 after an almost 25-year career that was highlighted by Ms. Copeland being named the first female State Park Ranger on the Western Slope. She was the Ridgway State Park Ranger for the last 16 years of her career.

***Continued next pg***



# WHO IS KIRSTIN COPELAND?? From Previous pg

She is currently on the board of Friends of Youth and Nature. According to her biography as posted on their website ([Friends of Youth and Nature - Friends of Youth and Nature](#)), we find a bit more information about her as follows:

***Kirstin grew up on farms in Colorado and Kansas exploring outdoors year-round. She translated her passion for the outdoors to a degree in Environmental Conservation, and further into a career as a Park Ranger and Manager in Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Kirstin has been involved with environmental education, public safety, and mental health for many years including being a part of Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) from inception and looks forward to contributing to the missions for both TRY and FOYAN. Kirstin is FOYAN's liaison for youth outreach in Montrose and Ouray Counties. (Contact us - Friends of Youth and Nature)***

Ms. Copeland also identifies herself as being a member of K9 Tech as well as Search & Rescue Dogs of the United States. She volunteers in the community and also has worked part-time for United Air Express. She has no prior political or business experience outside of her State government employment according to public records.

Public records show that she is or was married to David John Copeland who was a Colorado State Highway Patrol Trooper and went to work for the Montrose Police

Department after leaving the State Patrol around the same time that she left the State Parks & Wildlife Division. According to a press release from the City of Montrose on May 4, 2022, ***"Officer Copeland recently retired from the Colorado State Patrol as a master state trooper with 28 years of service. (Chief) Hall said Officer Copeland is an expert in the areas of drug recognition and impaired driving investigations. His experience will be a boost to the department."*** ([Montrose Police Department Welcomes Two New Officers](#))

While Mr. Mijares came into office without much formal or prior political experience, he did have many decades of successful private business experience. He now has six months of having held the office of County Commissioner under his belt. Does it make sense to boot him out and replace him with a career government employee and one who has an obvious political bias given the recall team's composition and their connections to this dark horse candidate?

While Ms. Copeland is seemingly not an intellectual slouch nor a person without qualifications, time will tell if she and the recall committee can make the case to the public that jumping ship, changing horses or any other euphemism along those lines is the right thing to do this early into Mr. Mijares' term. From a political strategy perspective, it seems pretty clear that the effort to remove Mr. Mijares from office is simply an attempt to restore Commission-

er Sue Hansen to her leadership role as Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners and bring back the go along to get along "leadership" that was reflected in the past when Roger Rash, Keith Caddy and Ms. Hansen were in control of the County's political power levers. Putting a person sympathetic to the stated positions of those behind the recall effort in the seat held by Mr. Mijares is clearly the goal so as to deliver such an outcome. The voters spoke in November of 2024. They wanted Scott Mijares' no-nonsense approach to government. They wanted the transparency that he promised. Internal forces at Montrose County and external forces in the form of a small group of disgruntled folks who most likely didn't vote for Mijares last year, have pushed back against the will of the people. In my opinion, this effort is only going to lead to further division and turmoil in the Montrose County community. Is it going to be worth it once the food fight over style vs. substance is settled? Probably not.

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

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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### MUFFETT MARIA VAN BEETHOVEN

***May 26, 1957 — July 6, 2025***

MUFFETT MARIA VAN BEETHOVEN left this life in the early morning of Sunday, July 6, 2025, having endured a brief and intense experience with cancer. She was, as she wished to be, at home with her beloved dogs.

Born Muffett May Fynn, she was the third daughter of Dorothy Evalena Bowen Fynn and John Alfred Fynn. She was born in Denver and spent her early years in Wyoming and Texas. The family returned to Colorado in the mid-60s, settling in Grand Junction a year later. Muffett graduated from Grand Junction High School, attended Mesa College, and earned a bachelor's degree from Western State College of Colorado.

After her father's death in 1980, Muffett moved with her mother to Montrose, where they shared a home for many years. When Dorothy developed dementia, Muffett became her faithful caregiver. Muffett considered this one of the defining experiences of her life.

Her work life encompassed some variety. She began her professional life as a teacher at Oak Grove Elementary. Following that, she worked at C's Glass for a number of years. Finally, she joined Scott Fly Rods. There, she was engaged and energized by the corporate culture and the shared commitment to excellence in craftsman-

ship. She spent 28 years in their employ, becoming lead wrapper.

Muffett was a creative, adept in multiple forms of expression. She was a musician, contributing piano and woodwind enhancement to worship services in her faith community. She was a painter. Most notably, she was an artisan with glass. Several examples of her work remain in the local area, such as the "Alice" window in the Children's Room at Montrose Public Library. A reserved person by nature, Muffett nevertheless involved herself in the community. She was scrupulous about being an informed voter and encouraged others to do the same. She participated in many fundraisers for local organizations, especially 5K runs. She volunteered at Montrose Animal Shelter fostering dogs and was instrumental in the founding of St. Francis Animal Benevolence, a local charity. She participated with Magic Circle Players, operating the light board. She loved the County Fair and enjoyed competing in the Arts and Crafts.

Muffett was favored with rich friendships, here and at distance. By connecting online, she cultivated and maintained strong bonds with friends and family she was unable to visit. The strength of her network was well demonstrated throughout her illness. She has been preceded in



death by both parents and her oldest sister, Martha Sue Miller. She is survived by her sister Jane Fynn Janovyak and numerous nieces and nephews of two generations.

The family requests no flowers or gifts. Donations in Muffett's honor may go to Montrose Animal Shelter, 3383 North Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401 or to Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center, 735 South 1st Street, Montrose, CO 81401.

A Celebration of Life will be held later in July.





# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## JOSEPH RICHARD ALLEN *March 9, 1937 — July 5, 2025*



JOSEPH RICHARD "DICK" ALLEN passed away peacefully on July 5, 2025, in Montrose, Colorado. He was a successful businessman, an avid outdoorsman, and—most importantly—a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

Dick was born on March 9, 1937 in Eagle, Colorado, a fourth generation Coloradan, to Joseph Dewey Allen and Helen Hart Allen.

The youngest of four children, he grew up alongside his beloved older sisters—Jean

(Johnson), Judy (Burford), and Joyce (Cunningham)—in the heart of the Colorado Rockies. From a young age, Dick developed a deep love for the outdoors. He spent his youth hunting deer and elk, fly fishing, riding horses, and exploring the White River National Forest—activities he would continue to enjoy throughout his life. He was a strong student and a proud member of his high school football and basketball teams.

After graduating from Eagle High School in 1955, Dick attended the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he studied business and was a member of the Chi Psi fraternity. Upon graduating in 1959, he began his professional career in the trust department at the First National Bank of Denver. For the last 37 years of his life, Dick was married to Jackie Mountfort Allen. Dick had two daughters Jennie Coulthurst (Tom) and Kellie Strawbridge from his first marriage to Clarice "Curley" Van Name Sawyer. Along with one son Jake Allen (Brooke) from his second marriage to Barbara Brekhus Allen. He was a proud and loving grandfather "Bapa" to Kellie's two children Lucy and Henry and to Jake's daughter Livia. A voracious reader, Dick enjoyed everything from novels and non-fiction to history and periodicals. He was a

sports enthusiast and held CU Buffs football season tickets for over 50 years. He loved to golf and was a longtime member of the Denver Country Club. He also remained an avid skier well into his 80s, embracing the Colorado winters with joy and determination. From 1974 to 1985, Dick served on the board of directors for the Cleo Wallace Center, including several years as chairman from 1977 to 1982. In 1980, after leaving the trust department, he co-founded Rocky Mountain Investors with close friends and business partners—a firm that thrived well into the 2000s. Above all, Dick cherished his time at the family cabin near East Brush Creek, just south of Eagle. As a teenager, he spent summers building hiking trails throughout the White River National Forest—work that reflected a lifelong appreciation for Colorado's rugged beauty and a commitment to its stewardship. Dick's life was marked by quiet generosity, steadfast loyalty, and a deep love for his family, friends, and the natural world. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered. A gathering will be held for family and friends to remember Dick's life and legacy at the Brush Creek Pavilion at 909 Capitol Street in Eagle, CO on Wednesday, July 23 at 11:30 am.

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## PASTOR RICHARD SIROKMAN

***May 19, 1955 — July 5, 2025***



PASTOR RICHARD SIROKMAN, a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, loyal brother, and faithful servant of God, went home to be with the Lord, leaving

behind a legacy of faith, love, and dedication.

Born with a heart for ministry and a passion for sharing the Gospel, Richard faithfully served as the pastor of Waves of Mercy Church for 20 years, beginning in 2005.

Whether standing behind a pulpit or traveling as an evangelist, his calling was clear, he lived to spread the Word of God and minister to the hearts of people.

Richard was a man who lived fully, both in the church and out in the field. When he wasn't preaching, he found joy in the simple, meaningful moments: working under the hood of a car, going on back country hunting trips, or casting a line with his children and grandchildren. His love for the outdoors was only matched by the love he poured into his family and his congregation.

He was preceded in death by his mother Louis, his father George, his brothers; Ber-

nard, and David, and his sisters; Dena, Marry Grace, and Ellen. He is survived by his beloved wife, Gloria Rachel Sirokman; his daughter, Londa Bercillio, and her husband, Martin Bercillio; his son, Lance Sirokman, and wife, Chelse Sirokman; his son, Laramie Sirokman; and his sisters Georgiana, Norma, Sherry, and Lynn. He was a proud grandfather to Martin Blake, Preston, Kira, Lance Junior "LJ", Yzerman, Aza, and Everleigh. Each of them carries a piece of his strength, humor, and unwavering faith.

Those who knew Richard knew a man who stood firm in his convictions, who was quick to lend a helping hand, and who never missed an opportunity to share God's love. His impact will continue to echo in the lives of those he touched, from the pulpit to the garage, to the quiet places of the wilderness.

He ran the race well, and now rests in the presence of his Savior.

## LISA KAY (HARSANYI) STEPHENSON

***December 4, 1966 — July 2, 2025***



In memory of Lisa Kay (Harsanyi) Stephenson, longtime Montrose resident, beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend.

Lisa Kay (Harsanyi) Ste-

phenson passed away at home in the company of loved ones on Wednesday July 2, 2025, after a brave journey with cancer. She was 58 years old.

Born on December 4, 1966, in Pueblo, CO, Lisa spent much of her early life on the front range in Loveland, CO and Denver, CO and went to school in Fort Collins, CO at Colorado State University. Lisa made her home in Montrose, CO where

she lived and worked for over 20 years.

She was known for her adventurous spirit, love for animals, and a heart, hands, and ears tuned to beauty.

Lisa loved her boys, her people, and a rose garden that framed her backyard. She was at ease in the work of care: gently tending to the people she loved the places she lived in, and the animals she cared for. Her warmth made family of strangers. Lisa was always up for a conversation and made space for every person to feel welcomed.

Lisa understood the practice of joy. She had a contagious smile and delighted in sharing the best parts of living: hiking, Nebraska football games, the way it feels to click in the final piece of a puzzle, Colorado Avalanche hockey, all forms of travel, theatre, dinners out, board games, crafting and getting lost in live music. She understood that together was the best way

to be.

More than anything, Lisa loved being with her family.

She is survived by her husband, Ben Stephenson (Montrose, CO); her mother, Suann Hughes (Montrose, CO); her children, Jared McKinnon and Zachary McKinnon (Montrose, CO); Kaitlyn Evanko-Douglas (Las Vegas, NV) and Kayla Malone Stephenson (Denver, CO); her grandson, Kevin McKinnon (Montrose, CO); her sister, Angela Harsanyi; her brother, John Harsanyi; and her brother John Hughes.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Hughes, and her sister, Barbara Hughes.

A Celebration of Life will be held on July 26, 2025 from 11:00am – 2:00pm at Remington's at the Bridges in Montrose, CO. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to <https://gofund.me/f5f40123>



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## MARGARET FAYE MORGAN

*July 18, 1937 — July 2, 2025*



MARGARET FAYE MORGAN passed away from a broken heart, surrounded by her beloved family, on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, in Montrose, Colorado. She was 87 years old.

Margaret was born on July 18, 1937, in DeQueen, Arkansas, to Homer and Lillie Mae Priddy (Bailey). Due to her father's whims, she went from picking cotton in the fields of Texas to living in row houses in Philadelphia, where she met childhood friends who lasted a lifetime. She completed the 8th grade and later was briefly married, having her first son, Jimmy Mor-

gan. As a teenager, she dated an up-and-coming star named Elvis Presley. Her husband Ray often bragged that she chose him instead of Elvis.

Margaret met and married Ray Morgan on January 13, 1956, and they spent 64 wonderful years together. They moved to Colorado almost immediately after their wedding. After arriving in Colorado, they logged in the Cimarron area and lived in numerous logging camps. Aside from living in Dolores, CO for a brief four years, they finally settled in Montrose in 1960, where they built a beautiful life together. They had their daughter, Lisa, in 1961, and their son, Bobby, in 1973. Margaret worked several odd jobs, including at Russell Stover Candy Factory. In 1985, she began working for her son-in-law as the secretary and receptionist for Silverleaf Home Improvements, where she continued to work until her passing.

In her younger years, she was very active in her sorority, Beta Sigma Phi, bowling, and square dancing. Margaret was well known by all who loved her for her cooking and baking (especially for her son and grandsons). She had many hobbies, but her most cherished time was spent fishing with her family—she caught a fish the Friday before she passed.

Margaret's relationship with Jesus began at a young age in a Holiness Church in the

backwoods of Arkansas. She was baptized in the Cossatot River at age 12 and rededicated her life in 1984, being baptized again alongside her son Bobby and her husband Ray.

Margaret served in many church ministries, most importantly teaching her grandchildren for years. She continued faithfully attending church throughout her life and spent the last 16 years with her family at Celebration Church.

Margaret was preceded in death by her son, Bobby Morgan, the day before; her husband, Ray Morgan; her father, Homer William Priddy; her mother, Lillie Mae Priddy (Bailey); her sister, Judy Deltondo; along with numerous brothers- and sisters-in-law and beloved family members.

She is survived by her sister, Lillie "Dinkey" Moore; brother-in-law, Leroy Morgan; her son, Jimmy Morgan (Kathy); daughter, Lisa Coram (Gary); daughter-in-law, Melissa Morgan; grandchildren, Paula Suhorepetz (Brad), Summer Dunham (Ferron), Chelsey Morgan, Margo Poole (Jake), Ty Coram (Melissa), Valor Morgan, Isaac, and River Clishe; great-grandchildren, Avery, Autumn, and Aspen Leith, Cooper Suhorepetz, Jax and Ruby Dunham, Kat, Nola, and Leo Morgan, Lily and Violet Poole, Aiden, Blake, and Chandler Coram; and countless nieces, nephews, and other beloved family members.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## BOBBY RAY MORGAN *June 13, 1973 — July 1, 2025*



At 17, he joined the U.S. Army—a decision that would shape the rest of his life. After his military service and several years in coal mining, his career shifted toward private and public protection. From 2020 until his passing, he managed the office at his sister and brother-in-law's business, Inside and Out Fireplace and Patio.

Bobby married Misty Hockaday and had their son, Valor Morgan, in 1997. The marriage ended shortly thereafter. Bobby was a proud father to Valor and was actively involved in providing him with a great childhood, leading him through Cowboy Action Shooters, riding motorcycles, camping, hunting, and fishing. He was determined to give his son the best tools to succeed in life. One of Bobby's greatest legacies was the tradition of hunting, shared across generations with his Papa (Ray), brother-in-law Gary, nephew Ty, and his son Valor.

In 2014, he married the love of his life, Melissa. Together with their blended family—Valor, Isaac, and River—they went on non-stop adventures.

From appearing in a movie, taking motorcycle trips, scuba diving in foreign countries, and cosplaying, to dressing up and entertaining children for charity, they had many more adventures planned for their life together.

A true protector at heart, Bobby surrounded himself with people and organizations who shared his values of God, family, and community—including the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA)

and MPR. He had a deep passion for teaching and instruction, especially in CPR, First Aid, Hunter's Safety, and Gun Safety. His life was anchored in his faith in God and belief in Jesus as his Savior. That foundation, instilled in him at a young age, shaped how he led his son, served his family, and engaged with everyone he met. He was active in youth ministries as a leader and counselor at camps, in Royal Rangers, and through Boys Faith & Fly Fishing. In recent months, Bobby was deeply impacted by the book *The Titus Ten: Foundations of Godly Manhood*, which he participated in as part of a men's study group that made drastic changes in his life and attitude. God was working in him in visible ways, and he eagerly shared that journey with anyone who would listen.

He was followed to Heaven the next day by his mother, Margaret Morgan, and preceded in death by his father, Ray Morgan. Bobby is survived by his "Pretty, Prancing, Pirate Princess" wife, Melissa Morgan; his son, Valor Morgan; stepsons, Isaac and River Clishe; his oldest brother, Jimmy Morgan (Kathy) and their children and grandchildren; his sister, Lisa Coram (Gary); niece, Margo Poole (Jake), Lily and Violet; nephew, Ty Coram (Melissa), Aidan, Blake, and Chandler; Aunt Dinkey Moore; cousins Missy, Marty, Melanie, Jody, Tiffany, and Christy; and many other cousins and beloved family members.

Bobby was proud to support Making America Great Again. #Trump2025

In the early hours of July 1, 2025, Bobby Ray Morgan passed away from natural causes in Montrose, Colorado, surrounded by his family. He was 52 years old.

Born on June 13, 1973, in Montrose, CO, to Ray and Margaret Morgan (Priddy), Bobby grew up in a large, very close family, and his cousins were more like siblings. He was especially close to his cousin Christy, who was his favorite partner in crime. He spent elementary school in Montrose and Dolores and graduated from Vista Charter School in Montrose in 1991. In grade school, he helped excavate the Anasazi ruins while the McPhee Dam was being built. Throughout his youth, he was involved in Royal Rangers, King's Kids, as well as the Boy Scouts and Little League.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.





# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## IRMA LORENA DOMINGUEZ SOSA

***June 4, 1978 — June 29, 2025***



IRMA LORENA DOMINGUEZ SOSA, 47, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on June 29, 2025, at the home she shared with her family.

Born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, on June 4, 1978, Lorena moved to the United States with her family at the age of 7. She spent her formative years in California and Colorado, eventually calling Montrose home. She eventually would study at the Technical College of the Rockies to become CNA, wishing to offer compassion and strength to those in need.

Despite the challenges of living with lupus, Lorena lived a life full of joy and passion. She was an animal lover, a devoted fan of music, and someone who never passed up a chance to dance. Her deep Catholic faith was the foundation of her strength, guiding her through life's trials with grace and determination.

Lorena will be remembered as a resilient, strong-willed woman who cherished her family above all else. Her love, courage, and unwavering spirit leave an indelible mark on all who knew her.

She is survived by her loving parents, Irma Leticia Hernandez Esparza and Manuel Esparza, and her dear brothers, Max Emmanuel Esparza and Carlos Alberto Esparza.

Lorena's life was a testament to faith, perseverance, and love. She will be deeply missed, forever remembered, and always cherished.

*Irma Lorena Domínguez Sosa 4 de junio de 1978 – 29 de junio de 2025*

IRMA LORENA DOMÍNGUEZ SOSA, de 47 años, residente de Montrose, Colorado, falleció en paz el 29 de junio de 2025, en el hogar que compartía con su familia. Nacida en Guadalajara, Jalisco, México, el 4 de junio de 1978, Lorena se mudó a Estados Unidos con su familia a los 7 años

de edad. Pasó su infancia y juventud entre California y Colorado, hasta que finalmente estableció su hogar en Montrose. Posteriormente, estudió en el Technical College of the Rockies para convertirse en Asistente de Enfermería Certificada (CNA), con el deseo de brindar compasión y fortaleza a quienes más lo necesitaban.

A pesar de los desafíos que implicaba vivir con lupus, Lorena llevó una vida llena de alegría y pasión. Amaba a los animales, era una fanática devota de la música y nunca desaprovechaba la oportunidad de bailar. Su profunda fe católica fue el pilar de su fortaleza, guiándola con gracia y determinación a través de las pruebas de la vida.

Lorena será recordada como una mujer resiliente, de voluntad firme, que valoraba a su familia por encima de todo. Su amor, valentía y espíritu inquebrantable dejan una huella imborrable en todos quienes la conocieron.

Le sobreviven sus amorosos padres, Irma Leticia Hernández Esparza y Manuel Esparza, así como sus queridos hermanos, Max Emmanuel Esparza y Carlos Alberto Esparza.

*La vida de Lorena fue un testimonio de fe, perseverancia y amor. Será profundamente extrañada, eternamente recordada y siempre amada.*

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

ISSUE 530 July 14, 2025

## ART &amp; SOL

## THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE WITH WENDY VIDELOCK



### A Mountain of Many Surprises

Last week a friend and I set out to visit another friend who has long lived on the Grand Mesa, the flat top

mountain in Western Colorado known to the ancients as Thunder Mountain or Thigunawat, (home of the departed spirits) and often simply called in these parts, The Mesa. In the summer months The Mesa, with its higher elevations and lakes, offers a welcome respite from the blistering heat of the valley. Though I'm a desert dweller through and through, it's always a deep pleasure to find myself among friends, among the lakes and wildflowers and among such magnificent and stately trees.

#### Looking Closely I Notice

*The Aspen is a tree inspired by the breeze, and given to the gentle sound and intimacies of deep connection underground. The Ponderosa Pine gives off a scent a little bit like turpentine. The long-lived Bristlecone has a mind of her own—she thrives in places covered in stone. The Engelmann Spruce is an emerald jewel, just as green as she is blue. The Juniper is a storyteller and always a favorite*

*among the poets and troubadours. The Douglas Fir is given to heights, the Lodgepole Pine twists at the waist and the Piñon Pine, an old childhood friend of mine, calls in the jays from the other trees with her rugged and incredibly edible piñon seeds.*

Indeed, The Grand Mesa is a magical place. This visit we went to a secret pond and were treated to gorgeous yellow and orange water lilies — a slender young snake slipping gracefully here and there between them. I even caught sight of a beaver on a larger body of water, an elusive creature known to prefer invisibility, so that was a real treat. But nothing could prepare me for what we encountered next.

While sitting beside one of the many lakes, we noticed something happening in the water that none of us had ever seen before. We three chatty friends were rendered speechless as what appeared to be a water dance taking form before our eyes. The water near an inlet began spinning and lifting into the air. It looked to span about 25 or thirty feet in diameter and was spinning lazily at first, then more rapidly in what can only be called an ephemeral whirlwind. It lasted only about 10 or twelve seconds before losing strength and diffusing itself. It very much resembled a common phenomenon in the desert known as a dust devil—only this one wasn't made of

dust and twigs and various debris, but of water particles. All three of us were gobsmacked.

After I'd gotten home I did a little research and discovered what we had seen was in fact called, not a dust devil, but a "steam devil". Steam devils are rare meteorological events that occur under specific atmospheric conditions. They are small, spinning vortices of steam or fog, resembling a miniature tornado. They form due to localized convective updrafts — rising warm air that begins to rotate due to localized air flow differences. The visible steam or fog highlights the rotational motion, making the vortex easy to observe. What a thrill to be in the presence of such a strange and beautiful water dance!

Because I live at the foot of La Mesa, I can attest that it is more than just "the largest flat top mountain in the world" or home to the swan and the thunderbird, but is a mountain of many surprises. The Grand Mesa is often shrouded in mist or crawling with fog during the winter months. It withstands wildly intense thunder and lightning storms in the spring and fall. It glows breathtakingly with the influence of sunset at dusk. And it provides all kinds of nooks and crannies to endless rainbows to appear in, should we be lucky enough to have summer monsoons in August.

And don't get me started on how the full

**Continued next pg**



## THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE WITH WENDY VIDELOCK From previous pg

harvest moon rises over The Mesa's shoulder and sets the night sky and the entire valley on astonishment alert.

**Dear Moon,**

You've seen it all,  
the crawling of the deep lake,  
the Isis age, the great divide,  
the rising of the great wall,  
the rumbling herd, the changing guard,

the collaring, the canyoning,  
the daughtering, the languaging,  
the white dune, the monsoon,  
the driftwood and the alibi.

Ancient Moon, Sister kin, Eye  
in the sky, of all the many things  
you've seen, which one am I...

-----

Wendy Vidlock of Palisade is an award

winning author who currently serves as poet laureate of Western Colorado. She advocates for the arts in public spaces. Wendy believes language is the invisible influence informing our ideas, opinions and relationships. Her books are found wherever books are sold. Find out more at <https://wendy-vidlock.constantcontactsites.com>



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LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



**525 ELIZABETH STREET,  
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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**

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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
- ¾ Mile Highway Frontage
- 2 Homesites

128 + Acres with a spring fed pond, releasing 1.5cfs water meandering throughout the land. This unique property has a nicely maintained 3000 sq ft. home built in 1976 with with a metal roof, updated electric panel, many new windows & full basement. There is a detached one car garage, equipment shed, 6 granaries, an insulated bunkhouse close to the Uncompahgre river, and a manufactured home currently being rented.



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# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

## WEEKLY CARTOON

### SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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# HOME FOR SALE


**PRICE IMPROVEMENT**



OFFERED AT \$479,000

## Nicely Designed Comfortable Living

 3 bedrooms

 2 bathrooms

 3 car garage

 1,805 sq. ft

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

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

Bear Creek  
1312 Five Mile Creek  
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**MLS# 821454**



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# The Satisfied Woman

## HOW TO ATTRACT A QUALITY MAN: BE YOURSELF, KNOW YOURSELF, AND OWN WHAT YOU WANT

Attracting a quality man isn't about playing games, pretending to like things you don't, or contorting yourself to fit someone else's preferences. It's about alignment—being aligned with who you really are, what you truly want, and having the self-

awareness and self-respect to not settle for less. If you're looking for real, lasting connection, and not just a shallow hook-up or "situationship," then the foundation has to be YOU.

Here's how to attract a man who is not just interested—but right for you.

### 1. Know Yourself First.

Before you can recognize a quality man, you have to know who you are. What do you like? What lights you up? What are your values, your non-negotiables, your dreams?

Don't say you love hiking if you actually hate the outdoors. Don't pretend enthusiasm about hunting if you are an avid animal lover who cries over roadkill. If horses terrify you, don't go chasing a cowboy. Compatibility isn't built on chemistry alone—it's built on aligned lifestyles, values, and interests. Be honest with yourself. Know what works for you and what doesn't.

### 2. Be Authentically You

Confidence isn't just about appearance—it's about energy. And the most attractive energy? Someone fully in their own skin. You don't need to morph into someone you *think* men want. That's exhausting, and more importantly, it's ineffective.

Be busy. Be interesting. Clinginess is draining. A quality man wants to share



By Gia Pirelli.  
Courtesy photo.

your life, not *be* your life. A woman who is present in her own life, and open to partnership without needing it to feel whole? That's powerful.

### 3. You Attract Who You Are (and What You Think You Deserve)

Your beliefs shape your reality. If, deep down, you believe you're not worthy of love, you will unconsciously choose partners who reinforce that. If you settle, tolerate mediocrity, or chase crumbs—ask yourself what you're telling the universe about what you deserve.

Do the inner work. Heal. Build your self-worth. Because you won't attract a man of quality if you don't feel like you're worth one. Like energy attracts like energy. A man who knows his value will be drawn to a woman who knows hers, too.

### 4. Stop Casting a Wide Net—Be Specific

Many people use dating apps like they're shopping the clearance rack: grabbing anything that kind of looks okay and hoping for the best. But love isn't about volume—it's about alignment.

Define what you want. Not just height or hobbies—but who he IS. Not just how hot he is, or the size of his big...wallet. It's so much more than that. Define how he moves through the world. How he treats people. How he makes you feel.

Once you've clarified that, go where he might be. What does he do all day? What does he do for fun? If your ideal man values health and nature, you're more likely to find him on a morning hike than in a bar at 5pm. If he's a rancher, go to a cattle auction or a horse show. If he's an intellectual, go to interesting book stores or join an online book club. Stop looking for him in places you already know you aren't a match.

### 5. Compatibility > Chemistry

Sure, opposites attract. But for the long haul, compatibility wins every time. Can you build a life together? Can you even build a sandwich together? Do you share

values, communication styles, and visions of the future? Simone DeBeauvoir once wrote, "Love does not consist in gazing longingly at one another, but rather in gazing together in the same direction."

A quick spark is exciting. But a long, slow burn—deep respect, shared values, emotional safety—that's where love grows. Don't confuse intensity with intimacy.

### 6. Be an Attractor, Not a Chaser

Let your energy do the work. That doesn't mean do nothing—it means be intentional. Take care of yourself—inside and out. Do things that you find fulfilling, or that make you feel good. Say no to what doesn't feel right. Be open—but discerning.

You don't need to chase. You need to BE. A quality man doesn't need a performance—he needs presence. And the more you build yourself, the more likely you find someone who has built himself too.

### 7. Organic Is Better

Online dating has its place—but it's often riddled with people wearing masks, or carrying super weird baggage. Organic connections—meeting someone through friends, at a mutual event, or simply by living your life—tend to create more natural, honest beginnings and a deeper, more meaningful connection.

But regardless of how you meet, the principle stays the same: Be real. Be intentional. Be open. And stay rooted in who you are.

### 8. Be Realistic

You attract who you *are*. This isn't about shame or judgment—it's about alignment and realism. If you eat Taco Bell five nights a week and are 50 pounds overweight, it's unlikely that an elite athlete with chiseled abs and a disciplined lifestyle is going to be your perfect match. If you're unemployed and living in a trailer, don't expect to seamlessly blend into the



## HOW TO ATTRACT A QUALITY MAN From previous pg

life of a wealthy, white collar businessman.

And even *if* you could attract someone “out of your league,” so to speak, the imbalance would eventually create tension—often leading to resentment, insecurity, or power struggles. Lasting love thrives in mutual respect and shared reality. So rather than dream about someone in a completely different lane, focus on

becoming your best self. Build the life you want—and then find someone who fits into that life with you.

Attracting a quality man starts with being a quality YOU. Raise your standards. Stick to them. Live your life with fullness and clarity.

The right man won’t be threatened by your strength—he’ll be inspired by it.

When you stop chasing, stop settling,

stop focusing on the negative, and start living in alignment with who you truly are...that’s when you become a magnet for someone who is truly right for you, and truly worthy of your time.

Because love isn’t about changing to fit someone’s mold.

It’s about becoming so aligned with who you are, that the right person *sees* you—and recognizes home.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### ETHAN J. PERRY ANNOUNCES 2025 SKELETON CREW TOUR

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

BOULDER— Ethan J. Perry, the frontman of Ethan J. Perry & The Remedy Band, is amidst his Skeleton Crew 2025 Tour, a solo acoustic series showcasing his introspective and genre-blending sound. Perry performs at the Horsefly Brewing Company in Montrose on Thursday July 31, for a solo show from 5 to 8pm. Admission is free.

Known for fusing Americana, indie, and jazz, Ethan’s music has been compared to “...riding a horse through the desert in

space,” by journalist Jamie Hawkins, which perfectly captures his ethereal yet grounded sound.

Rachel Perrell of *The Levee Breaking* notes that Ethan’s music is “...honest... It’s the super long drive home to visit, remembering the dog you grew up with, and maybe even quietly missing a long put-out relationship.” This emotional depth is at the core of Ethan’s solo performances, promising an intimate and authentic experience for audiences.

Ethan began his career in Seattle and

soon after formed Ethan J. Perry & The Remedy Band. Describing their music as Americana Indie Technicolor Jazz, the band has captivated listeners with its creative fusion of styles.

While his band will tour again in the future, the Skeleton Crew 2025 Tour offers fans a more intimate, acoustic journey with Ethan.

In addition to his music, Ethan is a strong advocate for sustainable agriculture and environmental consciousness, living by the motto: “*sound~living.*”





Warrior Resource Center  
4 Hillcrest Plaza Way

# PAINT YOUR PET



Saturday, July 19  
1-3 pm in the Cantina

**Come in and paint where it's cool!**

Send photo to Kate of your pet.

She will trace it onto  
a 12x12 canvas for you  
and provide everything  
else you need plus  
step-by-step instructions  
to paint it.

Link to send photos  
provided when you register



**Open to the public. Includes a snack and soft drink**

**\$40-45/pp**

**Senior or Military Discount available**

<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/071925whafv>

**With Kate Burke**

Questions, or pay cash at the door, text 970-729-1188





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Footwear & Clothing



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970-249-3668



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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

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

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

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

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

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

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

## CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

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

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

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970-249-0530

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

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

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

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

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of  
 God.

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

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose

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

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

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

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

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

**United Church of Christ (UCC)**

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

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

**Phone:** 970-765-7070

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service:** Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-  
 thentically.

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

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation

**Address Office hours** N/A

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

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

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene

**Address:** 705 South 12th Street

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

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

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian

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

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

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

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

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

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ

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

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

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

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

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

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

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

on life's journey.

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

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

## MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Orthodox

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

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist

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

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

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

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

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

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

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

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

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

*matter what stage of life they are in.*

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

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

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

### Church Directory

#### Mirror Editorial Staff

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

### information to the Montrose Mirror:

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

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?





## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS: READERS THEATRE: 2 ACROSS BY JERRY MAYER

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE—Two strangers, a man and a woman, board a San Francisco BART train about 4:10 one morning. They are alone in the car, both going to the end of the line, and both doing the same Saturday *New York Times* crossword. She is an organized, sensible psychologist. He's a free-spirited, unemployed ad exec. She is a crossword pro, he always quits before finishing. When he tosses his puzzle aside, she snaps, "Crosswords are metaphors for life, those who finish, succeed; those who don't, fail." But, he is competitive and she happens to be lovely. The result is an 82-minute trip filled with unpredictable surprises and beautifully crafted humor.

### DEISIG NAMED TO THE SPRING 2025 BSC PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

#### *Special to the Mirror*

BISMARCK, ND-- Jeremy Deisig, Montrose, Colo., has been named to the Bismarck State College President's Honor Roll for the Spring 2025 semester.

"Being named to the President's Honor Roll reflects the dedication and drive our students bring to their education," said BSC Interim President Dan Leingang. "Their hard work today is building the skills and mindset they'll need to thrive in the workforce tomorrow, and we're proud to recognize and celebrate their success."

Students must maintain at least a 3.50 grade point on a 4.00 scale while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of classes to qualify for the BSC President's Honor Roll.

#### **About Bismarck State College**

Bismarck State College (BSC) is North Dakota's Polytechnic Institution, offering high-quality, affordable education with more than 100 career pathways, including two-year associate degrees, four-year bachelor's degrees, and short-term program certificates. Dedicated to student success since 1939, BSC prepares students for high-demand careers through comprehensive advising, flexible in-person and online course options, industry-driven curriculum, and continuing education opportunities. Learn more at [www.bismarckstate.edu](http://www.bismarckstate.edu).



# Time to feed the fledglings

## Birdfeeders

with birdseed  
\$45



10" Tall. 4 styles with a butterfly.  
Hand-painted by Kate Burke. Wood, rope hanger.  
Exterior surfaces sealed to mitigate weather damage.  
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Or order at [kathrynrburke.com/product/birdfeeder10](https://kathrynrburke.com/product/birdfeeder10)





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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

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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## SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MONTHLY

**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 18**-Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program will be Friday, July 18 at Noon at the Hampton Inn Montrose. Brown bag lunch. Project Healing Waters will be the program presented by Bob Bell in conjunction with Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans. For 20 years, PHW has been dedicated to its mission of supporting veterans through this unique program. Come find out more and bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.

**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 Hebrew Fellowship, 62701 Jig Road, Montrose. For more info, call 970-250-9322.

**Aug. 14**-The next meeting of the Women's Giving Club will be Thursday, Aug. 14, 5:30 at The Bridges. Bring \$100 each, listen to short presentations by the three organizations drawn, and vote to make a big financial difference to one local non-profit. All women are invited and encouraged to attend. There is a \$10 hospitality fee for a drink, appetizers and room charges. For more information, please contact Phoebe Benziger at 970-209-9598 or [phoebebenziger@gmail.com](mailto:phoebebenziger@gmail.com)

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

# DAY AND NIGHT: SOUTH RIM FIRE



Above, the view from East Main on Saturday, July 12. Photo by B. Slate. At right, Gunnison Clamp captured this image of the fire after dark.

Click on this ad to  
Download your **FREE** copy  
of **Beyond Rock** today!

This Xeriscape Guide is made  
just for Montrose, put together  
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