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© Issue No. 647 July 21, 2025

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BOCC PASSES RESOLUTION TO 'ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACCOUNTING PROTOCOLS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX'

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The county board room was full well before BOCC Chair Scott Mijares called the regular meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to order on Wednesday, July 16, with community members, staff, sheriff's officers and citizens in attendance.

All three commissioners were in attendance as well. State Rep. Larry Don Suckla (R-HD 58) led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance; the Invocation was delivered by Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church; "What you do is a very important consideration, which shapes an even more important consideration, which is who you are," Leuthauser said. "...The question I leave for you, for everyone in this room is, who are you becoming..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ray Langston spoke. Langston addressed Commissioner Sean Pond, noting an OP-ED that Pond had written in the *Mirror* last week, "You have exposed yourself and the Sheriff's

Continued pg 42



The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 16, with community members, staff, sheriff's officers and citizens in attendance. The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church (above). Leuthauser said. "...The question I leave for you, for everyone in this room is, who are you becoming..." Photo by Gail Marvel.

COMMUNITY HEARS OVERVIEW OF SOUTH RIM FIRE



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-At 6 p.m. on July 15, 2025, the Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3 held a public meeting at Grace Community Church to update the community on the South Rim Fire. Approximately 200 people were in attendance. Following the 45-minute presentation, citizens were invited into the gym for individual Q & A with the various incident team members.

Please note that information on the fire is fluid and that some data presented has changed since the meeting held on July 15.

Public Information Officer, Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3, Deana Harms opened the meeting thanking the church for opening their facility for the meeting. She said, "The size of the fire is 3,988 acres, it is zero contained, and there

Continued pg 29

[Your Brain on Nature:- Social Anxiety:](#)
[By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD](#)

[City Council Hears Updates from](#)
[Emergency Management, Botanic Gardens!](#)

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

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

A media tour of the South Rim Fire at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park was held on July 18, 2025. Photo by Gail Marvel.

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror



Fresh news for busy people

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Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of more than 30,000 across the region and around the world

Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Harry Switzer

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

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Community Read: The Art Thief

Community Read:
The Art Thief

Wednesday, July 23 at 6pm
Library Meeting Room

The popular Community Read is back for a Summer Reading Edition of *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel! We will gather in the library meeting room on Wednesday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m. for the discussion. Sign up to snag one of 30 complimentary copies of *The Art Thief* by emailing the Reference Team at montroseref@gmail.com.

Registration is required to receive a complimentary copy of the book and join the discussion.

320 S 2nd St. www.montroselibrary.org
Mon-Thurs 10-7, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5
(970) 249-9656

MONTROSE REGIONAL
LIBRARY DISTRICT



CONGRATULATIONS CARTOONIST JIM COX!

Special to the Mirror

UNITED STATES-Cartoonist Jim Cox, who works with the *Mirror*, has been honored with 1st & 3rd (Best Original Editorial Cartoon) for two of his Editorial Cartoons, in the 2025 National Newspapers Association Foundation Contest! Congratulations Jim! Super cool!



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MIRROR PUBLIC NOTICES

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH OFFERS PILLCAM™ GENIUS FOR EASIER, NONINVASIVE SMALL BOWEL IMAGING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health's Digestive Health Center now offers advanced small bowel imaging with the PillCam™ Genius SB, a minimally invasive capsule endoscopy that makes testing more comfortable and convenient for patients, all performed right in the clinic.

Patients simply swallow a small, single-use capsule equipped with a camera. As it travels through the digestive tract, the capsule captures high-resolution images to help providers diagnose and monitor conditions such as Crohn's disease, gastrointestinal bleeding, and other small bowel disorders.

"The PillCam™ Genius SB has truly transformed how we approach small bowel diagnostics," said Victoria Oliva, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, nurse practitioner at the Digestive Health Center. "It offers a noninvasive, patient-friendly alternative that minimizes discomfort while providing us with high-quality images to make faster, more accurate clinical decisions."

Along with the capsule, patients wear a small transponder device placed just below the belly button using a bandage-like adhesive. This transponder stores images and can send signals to the capsule to capture targeted photos during its journey through the digestive system.

"This technology lets us see areas of the small intestine that traditional scopes can't always reach—and it does so without the invasiveness of hospital procedures," Oliva added.

To learn more about the PillCam™ Genius SB procedure or to make an appointment at the Digestive Health Center, call 970-497-5979.



The PillCam™ Genius streamlines endoscopy procedures for both patients and providers. Courtesy photo.

EVICTION NOTICES:

PUBLIC NOTICE:

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727 Fruit Park Road
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PUBLIC SALE OF CONTENTS IN FOLLOWING UNITS: SALE DATE 7-26-25

German Sanchez
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Montrose, CO 81401
Unit: U13

John Stanek
3456 G Road
Clifton, CO 81520
Unit: U25

Rick Kuchler
1119 Normandy Road
Montrose, CO 81403
Unit P3



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SIP, STROLL & SAVOR: AGRICULTURAL TOURS RETURN TO THE PALISADE PEACH FESTIVAL



Special to the Mirror

PALISADE - The Palisade Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the return of the Agricultural Tours during the 2025 Palisade Peach Festival, an immersive experience that takes guests deep into the vibrant agricultural roots of the Grand Valley.

Visitors will enjoy behind-the-scenes access to some of Palisade's finest orchards, vineyards, cideries, and distilleries, meet

local producers, and discover what makes this fruit-growing region so unique, all during the peak of the peach harvest.

These curated tours offer a perfect blend of tastings, education, and scenic exploration, celebrating the land, the people, and the flavors that define Palisade.

Tour Schedule & Highlights:

Friday, August 15 Peaches & Vines Winery Tour- Visit local wineries that blend Palisade's world-class fruit with expert winemaking. Sip your way through scenic vineyards and meet the vintners who make it all happen.

Peaches & Pints Cidery Tour- Explore Palisade's blossoming craft cider scene and sample small-batch, orchard-grown ciders made from our famous peaches and apples.

Saturday, August 16 Peaches & Vines Winery Tour- Enjoy a second chance to

discover new pours and hidden gems among Palisade's celebrated wineries.

Peaches & Spirits Distillery Tour- Taste your way through some of the region's most innovative distilleries crafting small-batch spirits with local fruit and flair. Includes behind-the-scenes looks and exclusive samples.

Why Join? These intimate, guided tours are perfect for those who want to go beyond the festival grounds and experience the flavors of the valley at their source—while enjoying stunning views, farm-fresh hospitality, and the rich story of a community built on the fruit of its labor.

Tickets: Space is limited for each tour.

Reserve early via

www.palisadepeachfest.com Age Re-

striction: All guests must be 21+ to attend

tastings Transportation: Round-trip

shuttle service provided

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CORONER'S INFORMATION RELEASE

Montrose County Coroner's Office

MONTROSE--On June 23 at 1020 Hours, a small single engine aircraft with two pilots on board left north bound from Montrose Regional Airport and it is believed that the aircraft failed to gain altitude and adequate speed. They banked slight left but crashed into a small hill in the 63000 Block of Juniper Road approximately 0.7 miles from the runway takeoff point. The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the Montrose County Coroner's Office were dispatched to the crash site. The plane caught fire and two individuals were pronounced dead at the scene.

The two individuals have been identified as Lawrence W. Skinner age 61, and Alejandro D. Antunez age 53. Both are from Fort Meyers FL.

The FAA and the NTSB are still investigating the cause of the crash. The cause and manner of death are still under investigation by the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigations.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INC. NOTICE OF DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS

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

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

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

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



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

Dr. Michael Brezinsky, Chairperson
Nominating Committee
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RECALL ATTEMPT BUILT ON LIES AND MISINFORMATION

Editor:

The recent recall effort against Commissioner Scott Mijares is built on a bed of lies and misinformation.

In the spring of 2024, Montrose conservatives were just five days away from having a serial tax evader become the Republican nominee for County Commissioner in District 1. This nominee was selected and supported by a seated board that had signed a resolution pledging not to involve themselves in elections.

At the urging of prominent Republicans, Scott Mijares entered the race to give voters a real choice in who would represent them on the three-person board. He literally turned his life upside down for the citizens of Montrose—because no one else would.

Now, a small group of liberal activists, joined by so-called Republicans, are trying to undo the results of an election they simply don't like. While it is their right to initiate a recall, it is not their right to deceive the public with false allegations in an attempt to overturn a fair and free election.

If you signed the petition currently circulating and feel you were misled, there is a remedy: contact the County Clerk and ask to have your name removed from the recall petition.

Conservatives understand what's at stake: if Commissioner Scott Mijares is recalled, the radical left will have claimed a major victory—and Montrose County, the crown jewel of conservatism on the Western Slope, will have fallen. And then, where will we run?

For more information regarding this recall please check out the facts at:

<https://www.montroserepublicans.org/> and <https://www.codogereport.com/>

Do not sign the petition

Monty George

Montrose GOP County Chair



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

LOG HILL- The Fortuna Tierra Club is hosting the tenth annual Log Hill Hustle, Fun Run and fundraiser on Sunday, August 24 at 8 AM starting and finishing at the Divide Ranch and Club Clubhouse at 151 Divide Ranch Circle, Ridgway, CO 81432. This year to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Log Hill Hustle, we are providing t-shirts. Please visit <https://www.fortunatierra.com/> to register and find out more information about the Fun Run. Fortuna Tierra's major fundraiser provides scholarships for Ridgway secondary school graduates.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2025 UNCOMPAGHGRE RUBBER DUCKY RACE

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Come to watch a couple hundred ducks float on the Uncompahgre River!

Watch the 2025 Uncompahgre Rubber Ducky Race, on Thursday, July 24, 5 to 5:30 p.m., at Rollans Park in Ridgway. The

first five ducks to cross the finish line downstream will win prizes for their human entrants.

This fundraiser for the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership will support programs throughout the year.

Entries are being sold online and at Ridg-

way Farmers Market and Ridgway Concert Series until July 23 or until all 290 ducks are sold, whichever comes first. It's free and fun to watch the race on July 24.

<https://>

www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/rubber-ducky-race/

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



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

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3. TAP THE LINK AND GET STARTED!



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:

Call (970) 249-8500

Submit a tip online at P3Tips.com

Use the P3 Mobile App

Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity.

If the information results in an arrest, the tipster may be awarded cash.

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.

In summary, Crime Stoppers provides a safe, anonymous platform for citizens to assist in the prevention and resolution of crime within our communities.



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The American Red Cross of Western Colorado Shelter Simulation



Because local and national disasters are increasing, your community needs you now more than ever. The Red Cross of Colorado invites you to join a day of sheltering education and simulation to learn the skills needed to set up a shelter in your community.

When: Saturday July 26, 2025
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: Grand Junction National Guard
2820 Riverside Parkway
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Who: Anyone interested in gaining hands-on experience standing up a shelter in the event of an emergency.

Whether you're a seasoned mass care volunteer with the Red Cross or just beginning your journey as a disaster responder, we welcome you to join us! We're excited to train and equip individuals who are ready to support their communities in times of need.

Please RSVP to Myra Gaither at myra.gaither@redcross.org by July 18th, so we can plan accordingly.



**American
Red Cross**

QUESTION:

WHAT DO THESE

OPERATIONS ALL

HAVE IN COMMON?



ANSWER:



Keep Montrose free.

Don't fall for Democrat psyops.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES OFFICERS JOLLEY, ORINICK TO ITS RANKS, PROMOTES ROBERTS TO COMMANDER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose Police Department welcomed a pair of new officers to its ranks last week, filling vacant positions within the agency. Officers Caleb Jolley and Latecia Orinick were officially sworn in during a ceremony held prior to the City Council's regular meeting Tuesday evening, July 15.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall, along with senior command staff welcomed Jolley and Orinick before an audience of friends, family, City Councilors, city staff, and fellow Police Department officers in the City Council Chambers.

Hall said the swearing-in process for new police officers is one of his "great privileges and honors," as chief of police.

Jolley and Orinick are recent graduates of Colorado Mesa University's Western Colorado Peace Officers Academy (WCPOA) in Grand Junction.

Before each official swearing-in ceremony, Hall points out that officers begin their tenure with the department with a high level of support from city administrators, staff, City Councilors, and Montrose residents.

Hall said emergency personnel working the South Rim fire near the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park this week have been met with overwhelming support from community members donating food and other items, to the point of overabundance and having to turn these donations away.

Hall said these same citizens often donate food items to the Police Department as well.

"That shows you right there the level of support from our community," Hall said. "I can't state it enough how much we are supported, and it's amazing the amount of support we get from all of our citizens."

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

"Just remember the feeling of tonight, remember the weight of the badge, and the level of integrity that you hold for all of us, you also hold for every law enforcement officer in the country," Hall said.

Hall, along with senior command staff, also promoted veteran Montrose Police

Department officer Jonathan Roberts from the rank of Sergeant to Commander.

Hall said the interview process to select the new commander was one of the most competitive the department has ever seen.

"I could not be more proud of all the candidates, and more proud of Jonathan," Hall said.

After Roberts took the commander's oath of office, his family joined him to pin his new badge and commander rank to his uniform.

"Having my family here and the support from them and the Community through it all is what helped me reach this point. It's what it's all about," Roberts said.

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

For more information about the Montrose Police Department, visit www.MontrosePD.org.

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.

Coffee with a Commissioner

Featuring: Sean Pond



August 2, 2025



8:30am - 9:30am



5th Avenue Grill
502 Main Street, Nucla



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BE CAREFUL FOR WHAT YOU WISH FOR

Editor:


Last night when I was supposed to be sleeping I was walking, no running through my Facebook! I could not believe my eyes. Almost every site I went to either supported or at least showed the depth to which the liberal movement has become. Some news sites reported while in their reporting were promoting what I was seeing. Almost every major city was covering protests being staged by the group Indivisible. You can tell it was staged by the individuals who were actually going to the protests. I haven't seen anti-American displays like this since the Vietnam war protests. The flag burnings and disrespectful nature of the displays made my blood boil and run cold at the same time. There were a few displays that seemed ill guided but orderly. While pictures/videos raged across the screen of my phone desecrating our national symbol, with major cities removing "Old Glory" and replacing her with symbols of foreign flags and ideologies not even discussed in churches. While viewing this mayhem, it became crystal clear that someone ordered these displays. They were all acted out almost with the same script. I'm sure there are some legitimate protesters out there that are still clinging to "NOT MY PRESIDENT" but the others waited until unseen directors said "roll the cameras, action" and then stopped. I am a veteran and I love my country, I come from a family of veterans who were at Pearl Harbor in 1941. I will stand up for my country and the freedoms we hold so deeply. As we used to say back in the days of my youth "I may not agree with your words but I will defend your right to say whatever is on your mind. With that we need to remember that there is no "free lunch". Our freedoms are not something you bring out to a weekend picnic protest. Each of our freedoms comes with a cost and responsibility. The costs are huge. Lives have been given/paid to pave the way for you to speak your mind but with every thought that is brought into the light comes a responsibility. Be careful for what you wish for, you may just get it...

John Brown, WE THE PEOPLE

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CREATE A SAFER, HEALTHIER WORLD WITH CULTIVATED MEAT

To the editor,

While pandemics have receded from public discourse, their potential threat very much remains. Animal agriculture in general, and factory farming in particular, drastically increases the risk of zoonotic viruses making the jump to humans. Politicians interested in advancing public health should support government funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without raising and slaughtering animals.

The new protein is identical to slaughtered meat at a cellular level, however the need for sick livestock to come in contact with human workers is eliminated. Widespread adoption of cultivated meat would significantly reduce the threat of pandemics. While there are technological hurdles to mass production, these can be overcome with public investment in cellular-agriculture development. Government leaders should back this effort to create a safer, healthier world.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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MontroseHealth.com/HealthFair



Special to the Mirror

DENVER – An arrest has been made in connection with an arson attack on the Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder's Office. The attack was perpetrated with a firebomb device and also impacted the County Assessor's Office. It took place on June 12.

"The Colorado County Clerks Association is grateful to federal, state, and local law enforcement and the Colorado Department of State for their prompt and professional response to this situation. While the investigation remains ongoing, we unequivocally condemn any deliberate act or threat of political violence," said Matt Crane, Executive Director of the Colorado Clerks Association. "Colorado's County Clerks and their teams serve as nonpartisan and trusted stewards of our democratic process. Any attempt to intimidate or harm them—or compromise their facilities—is an affront to democracy itself and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The suspect in this case was arrested on Thursday, June 26 after a joint investigation by the Pagosa Springs Police Department and Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement agencies. Video footage obtained during the investigation assisted law enforcement in identifying the suspect, who has also publicly expressed election conspiracies and anti-tax beliefs according to the affidavit for arrest warrant.

According to the same affidavit, a "Molotov cocktail-type device" was thrown into a room that holds voting equipment. Both the County Assessor and County Clerk's Offices were affected. The suspect was arrested for first degree arson, a class four felony, and possession of an explosive or incendiary device, a class five felony.

The case is in the Sixth Judicial District.

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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST FORMER MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

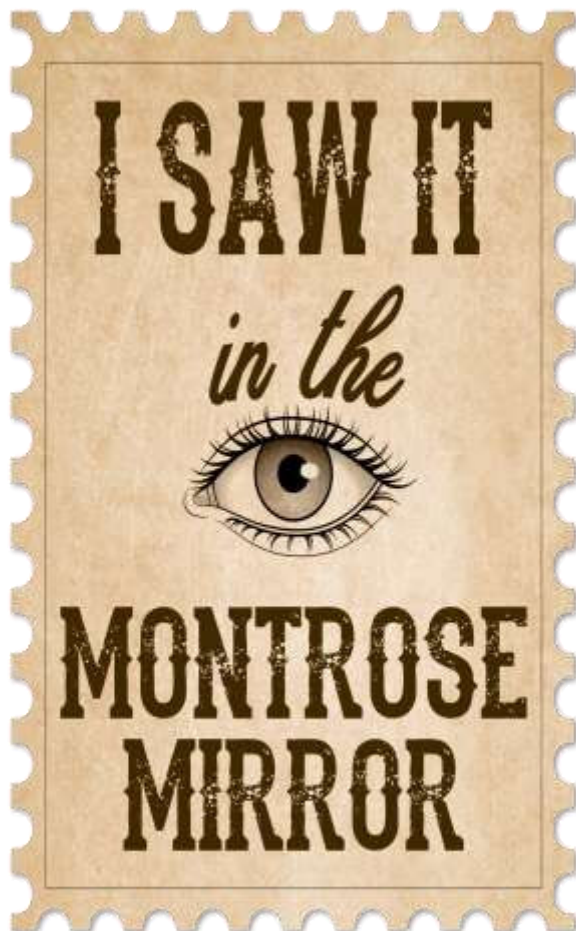
Office of Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, the Justice Department filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court of Washington, D.C. against three former members of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for refusing to vacate their offices after being removed by President Donald J. Trump.

The subjects of this complaint have continued to operate in office despite their removal and subsequent failure to obtain legal relief protecting their old positions. This litigation reflects the Department's ongoing commitment to protecting the President's core Article II powers, which include the authority to make personnel decisions regarding those occupying federal offices.

The complaint asks the court to declare that the former members have not lawfully served on the board since their removals, to enjoin the former members from serving on the board, and to order the former members to refund any compensation during their unlawful terms of service.

Read the full complaint [here](#).



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CITY HEARS UPDATES FROM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND BOTANIC GARDENS, APPROVES WATERFALL CANYON ANNEXATIONS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present as Mayor David Frank convened the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, July 15. Frank called the meeting to order, "If you would please rise, and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance..."

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files asked to remove Item 7 from the meeting agenda, *"consideration of an application for a new Retail Liquor Store liquor license at 113 W. Main Street for West Main Liquor LLC, doing business as West Main Liquor, for consumption off of the licensed premises."*

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Emergency Manager Paul Eller gave an update on the South Rim Fire and current conditions at the Black Canyon National Park. As of Tuesday morning, the fire was burning on 3,988 acres, with zero percent containment, Eller said. The Federal Type 1 Incident Management Team was currently managing the fire, on behalf of the National Park system and Montrose County. There were currently 309 personnel on the fire from Federal, State and local resources. Approximately 50 homes had been evacuated. The team was currently focused on protecting homes, the Crystal Dam, the Gunnison Tunnel, as well as the high voltage KV line that helps to power the national electrical system, Eller said. The Visitor Center was not lost. City staff has done an excellent job, providing resources such as a passenger van, hydrant hookups, and water supplies for helicopter drops, "We've offered Cerro Reservoir as one of those locations," he said.

City staff have also provided traffic management at Hwy 550 and the 6700 Road. Eller asked the public to avoid the intersection and not to bring gifts of food or drink to firefighters, "These teams come self-sufficient...they have their own kitchen, their own cantina, their own supplies..."

Mayor Frank thanked Eller for the update. "You guys have done an outstanding job."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Frank read the rules for public

comment and reminded all that comment would be allowed on individual agenda items as those items were considered.

President of the Montrose Botanical Gardens Liz Mauk addressed Council and gave an update on the gardens. "The gardens are thriving and extremely busy. We've got adult and children's programs that go on throughout the summer. We've had lots of visitors, we've got a great board to work with...we are a 501 c 3 non-profit, we are run and maintained by volunteers. We typically have 25 people show up on a Wednesday to maintain the gardens.

"We also have a strong partnership with the Library District and also a partnership with the Valley Food Partnership.

"So, I would like to thank the city, because for 30 years now you have supported the growth of the gardens--since its inception."

Mauk also thanked City liaison Katie Schroer, "She does a great job of back and forth communication...we're very grateful for her."

The Gardens will celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. "We're going to have our large celebration on September 13th in the afternoon...it'll be kind of a carnival atmosphere with a live band, games for all ages, with hot dogs for lunch..."

The garden is embarking on a major renovation of the children's garden. "We will keep you involved and in the loop...hopefully the city will continue to support us we go into this next endeavor."

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

WATERFALL CANYON POND ADDITION ANNEXATION

Commissioner J. David Reed recused himself from the [Waterfall Canyon Pond Addition Annexation](#).

RESOLUTION 2025-09

[Resolution 2025-09](#), findings of fact for the Waterfall Canyon Pond Addition Annexation, was approved with four votes to approve, and one abstention.

ORDINANCE 2686 - FIRST READING

Council considered [Ordinance 2686](#) on first reading for the annexation of the Waterfall Canyon Pond Addition. Mayor Frank opened a public hearing.

First to speak was Susan Kroll. She expressed concern that until another HOA is designated, "...We would be the people responsible for carrying the liabilities insurance...it would probably result in a special assessment...the community has a significant number of senior citizens...we could possibly be held liable...it could be devastating to the people who are already living there..."

John Connell spoke. He asked staff to bring up the map, saying, "The pond is in the county."

Connell said that after Montrose County had denied Developer Matt Miles a special use permit for a gravel pit in 2023, Miles moved the gravel pit to Waterfall Canyon. "...That makes sense, right? R-3 zoning for a gravel, pit?" Connell said, "That's exactly what zoning is designed to prevent, that sort of clash. Does zoning mean anything at all in Montrose..."

Laurie Cannell spoke. Cannell said she was against the annexation. "...Did you notice the enormous size of the pond..."

Seven acres is very large for a pond, Cannell said. "The pond won't be as beautiful when liability concerns and HOA fees are double...what will you do when we get three or four days of hard rain? The pond never goes down...it will be a burden to the next HOA...please leave this pond within the Montrose County limits."

Mayor Frank asked City Engineer Scott Murphy about the outlet mechanism to drain overflow; Murphy said that regulated improvements for the pond would include an outlet control structure.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said he was concerned that no Environmental Impact Study was required. "...would there be some way to check the safety of that, to be sure that it meets effluent..."

Murphy said that the pond is designed to improve water quality by settling out particulates, in keeping with the City's MS4 permit, prior to water being released to Happy Canyon Creek. "That's what this

CITY APPROVES WATERFALL CANYON ANNEXATIONS

From previous pg

is...it's a prescriptive methodology; the state gives prescriptive regulations that, if you do all of this, it meets the effluent requirements required under the Clean Water Act."

Council voted to adopt [Ordinance 2686](#) on first reading, in a three to one vote with Ulibarri voting no and Reed abstaining.

ORDINANCE 2687 - FIRST READING

[Ordinance 2687](#), zoning the Waterfall Canyon Pond Addition as R-3, Medium Density District, was also approved in a three to one vote with Ulibarri voting no and Reed abstaining.

WATERFALL CANYON WEST ADDITION ANNEXATION

Mayor Frank opened a hearing on the annexation of the Waterfall Canyon West Addition. Planner William Reis said that the Waterfall Canyon West Addition Annexation was required to be a separate annexation as it does not share a common boundary with the Waterfall Canyon Pond Addition. "...This piece is a result of a boundary line adjustment that was done between a city property and a county property..." The piece is not to be developed, Reis said.

Owner Matt Miles said that he took the piece of property in a boundary line adjustment with a neighbor about ten years ago, "...so that we could sneak a trail in on the west side of Happy Canyon Creek...now we have a trail which is to the benefit of everybody...especially me and my horse."

Laurie Cannell spoke, "...the developer mentioned that little piece of property being annexed is a benefit to everyone in the community...they are specifically Do Not Trespassing zones...whatever is currently developed in Waterfall Canyon, we are not allowed to cross that boundary, so none of us are enjoying or using that property...the gravel pond was dug, the stone and everything gravel was moved into our development...that's where all the gravel

is...that's where it was crushed...also it's an issue with hundreds of dump trucks driving on the outskirts...and the stone is all leaving Waterfall Canyon..."

Mayor Frank said that the gravel pit was not up for discussion.

Aaron Ranstrom asked if R3 Zoning was appropriate for the parcel, "Would that not be more appropriate as public zoning, if this is a free-to-use trail..."

Also, "...right now there is only one way in and one way out of Waterfall Canyon, and that's on Blue Lake Drive...as there's any additional development, due to traffic demands, we need another entrance paved for builders to come through and not disrupt everything at that single entry point..."

RESOLUTION 2025-10-FINDINGS OF FACT
[Resolution 2025-10](#) was approved with one abstention.

ORDINANCE 2688 - FIRST READING

Also approved with one abstention was [Ordinance 2688](#) on First Reading.

ORDINANCE 2689 - FIRST READING

John Connell commented on Ordinance 2689, saying that the lots are unbuildable. [Ordinance 2689](#) passed with four votes and one abstention.

"Please retrieve Mr. Reed," Mayor Frank said, as Councilor J. David Reed rejoined the meeting.

Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt presented two code amendments, Ordinance 2683 and 2684.

ORDINANCE 2683-FIRST READING

Council considered [Ordinance 2683](#) on first reading, amending Title 11 Chapter 7 Section 7, regarding density standards in the B-1 zone district and front-yard garage setbacks in residential zone districts.

The Developer of Spruce Point Patio Homes spoke in support of the amendment, which was ultimately approved in a four to one vote, with Councilor Ed Ulibarri voting to deny.

ORDINANCE 2684 - FIRST READING

Council considered [Ordinance 2684](#) on

first reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the Carrier Neutral Location Minor Subdivision from P, Public District, to B-1, Central Business District.

"When we agreed to sell the old City Hall property, one of the conditions was that it would remain in the public use," Councilor J. David Reed said.

City Attorney Chris Dowsey said that property will be a hotel with a restaurant. Mayor David Frank said that the property must be rezoned for use as a hotel. The building is listed on City, State, and National registries of historic places, and there are historic preservation easements on the property, Planner William Reis said.

Mayor Frank opened a public hearing; property owner Chad Horning of Telluride thanked Council for the rezone. "We're looking forward to turning the project into a wonderful hotel for the community."

[Ordinance 2684](#) was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE 2685 - FIRST READING

Also unanimously approved was [Ordinance 2685](#) on First Reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lot 2 of the Klein Minor Subdivision from MHR, Manufactured Housing District to R-6, Medium Density/Manufactured Housing District.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker delivered the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report, by [Fund](#) and by [Area](#).

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave a brief update on the closure of the intersection of West Oak Grove and Rio Grande, which was scheduled for July 16. City Public Works Director Jim Scheid spoke about the slurry sealing of roads that were recently chip sealed. Restriping will occur within a few days of Slurry sealing.

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that the crack and seal team has been doing a good job.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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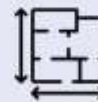
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COMMUNITY HEARS OVERVIEW OF SOUTH RIM FIRE From pg 1



The metal roofs are the only thing that remains of seven Comfort Stations [restrooms] on the South Rim at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Photo by Gail Marvel.

are 299 total personnel.”

Stuart West, Park Superintendent, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

West said, “Let me take you back to Thursday’s thunderstorm. There were three strikes on the south rim and one strike on the north rim. Within two hours we cleared the park and then found people in the wilderness area and got those folks out. Most of the South Rim, 85 percent of the South Rim of the park is burned. The visitor’s center is intact, that’s good news. The maintenance facility and the heavy equipment are demolished. We’ll take no more reservations for the year. Until vegetation grows back, the rock is unstable. We are trying to hit the fire from every angle — air, ground. Recovery will be a slow process. The first step will be assessments of all our losses. It’s going to take quite some time. The focus is 100 percent on the fire, later [we’ll focus] on how you can support the park.”

Jon Kaminsky, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management.

Kaminsky said, “BLM’s main role is to limit community risk — habitat, 400 to 500 acres, livestock operators, Gunnison sage-grouse, hunting, and fishing.”

Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard.

Lillard said, “We are blessed to live in the country we live in. Things [cooperation] are going great with the incident team. We have deputies keeping houses safe from looters.”

Scott Hawkins, Emergency Manager, Montrose County

Hawkins said, “The evacuation map has changed. There has been [community] cooperation and patrolling with deputies. We are updating apps. People can still access homes and can go in and check on their homes. You just need a driver’s license, ID, check-in with security so we know you belong there. Donations, we are overwhelmed with calls. Unfortunately, the fire fighters cannot accept donations. No food or water. [The park closure] is \$35 M loss in revenue for the city and county. If you want to help, go shopping, patronize the businesses. Re-entry — Reverse 911 will be our source. Put your name in the Montrose County alert system.”

Scott Stearns, Meteorologist, Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3.

Stearns said, “My job is to predict the weather. We do our best to determine what the fire is going to do. Actually, there were seven cloud to ground strikes.



On July 15, 2025, the Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3 held a public meeting at Grace Community Church to update the community on the South Rim Fire. Above, Montrose County BOCC Chair Scott Mi-jares was present. Photo by Gail Marvel.

Starting at about noon, winds and low humidity predicted activities for the day. Moving into next week, there is potential for ignition; potential for lightning, not for rainfall.”

Brandon Bonenberger, Operations Chief, Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3.

Bonenberger said, “Critical values are why we are here — Crystal Dam, powerlines, the portal road. Firefighters and public safety are the priority. Structure protection, direct attack and indirect attack, evaluate fire behavior. We can’t put people in the canyon because of safety. The imminent threat to Hwy 50, it’s looking good on the map now, but it’s not out of the question.”

Audrey Huse, Air Operations Branch Director, Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3.

Huse gave an overview of air operations and aircraft. Focusing on the Super Scooper she said, “It takes 12 seconds to get a full load of water. They need a mile of clearance in the water. They have four hours on scene before they need to refuel, and they do 180 knots when loaded. It’s an awesome firefighting tool.”

Scott Sugg, Incident Commander (t), Rocky Mountain Area Complex Incident Management Team 3.

Sugg said, “With all the fires burning you [the community] are very aware of what’s going on. Value is what’s important to your community. Look at value, but look at risk to respond, and look at the probability of success. Tie those three together.

COMMUNITY HEARS OVERVIEW OF SOUTH RIM FIRE From previous pg



At the South Rim Fire some buildings were saved with the help of red fire retardants. However, the 5,430 square foot maintenance facility to the left was completely destroyed, along with all the heavy equipment. Photo by Gail Marvel.



All reservations at the park have been cancelled for the remainder of the year. Park Superintendent Stuart West said, "No one wants to camp in an ash pit. We'll re-open in stages." Photo by Gail Marvel.

Responders locally did a great job, the Type 3 team before us set us up, and the [good] support from the community."

The meeting adjourned and participants were invited to go into the church gym where maps were displayed on the walls and incident team members were available to answer questions from individuals.

Additional information from Montrose County Sheriff's Office Community Services

David Farley.

Montrose County is handling evacuations. Farley said, "In the seven fire zones there have been about 70 homes evacuated, which equates to about 150-160 people. Citizens have been cooperative, but we can't force people to leave their homes. No residential structures have been lost and no livestock lost. People who are displaced or evacuated can call us for help at 970-252-4003."

Additional Information from Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Chief Operations Officer Cody Carver.

DMEA has assets, both overhead and underground, in the area and they are assessing potential threats as the fire progresses.

Carver said, "As of now, we have not been able to assess our facilities as it is an active fire scene, and it is not safe for crews to do so. We will continue to monitor closely and respond as conditions change. Our top priority is the safety of the public, first responders, and our

crews. We're closely monitoring the South Rim Fire and remain focused on protecting critical electric infrastructure while ensuring safe, reliable service to our members. At this time, we have not experienced any major outages related to the South Rim Fire. Our crews are on standby and ready to assess and repair any damage as soon as conditions allow."

In addition to the South Rim Fire, DMEA is keeping a close watch on other high-risk areas in their service territory, including Grand Mesa. With fire danger elevated across the region, they are maintaining a heightened state of readiness by enacting special fire prevention operating mode to mitigate the threat of utility-related fire starts.

Take-aways from the July 16, 2025 Media Tour for the South Rim Fire.

-With 4,227 acres burned, the fire is now 14 percent contained.

-The South Rim, which contains the visitor center, is 85 percent burned; however, in the entirety of the park itself only 12 percent is burned.

-About eight percent (325 acres) of the burn is on BLM land.

-Some of the South Rim fire is inaccessible;

the north side is steep with rocks and cliffs and is inaccessible.

-The visitor's center, administration building, and apartments for park employees were spared.

-The 5,430 square foot maintenance facility, including heavy equipment, and seven comfort stations (restrooms) are completely destroyed.

-There are 450 firefighters.

-The fuel load is high. Smoke could be around for a week or more.

-Crews are comprised of personnel from state, regional, and other states. There are no firefighter injuries and no civilian injuries.

-Currently the fire cost is estimated at \$6.2 M. The cost will be shared among multiple agencies.

-The National Park has 25 employees. All employees will remain in their positions, some will be reassigned to the Curecanti National Recreation Area. Curecanti remains open.

-Re-opening the Black Canyon Park will take some time and it will be accomplished in stages.

-There is no risk to Western Slope water right now, but measures are being taken

COMMUNITY HEARS OVERVIEW OF SOUTH RIM FIRE From previous pg

to mitigate Crystal Dam and the diversion dam.

-Evacuation orders are still in place and people are asked not to repopulate for now.

-Nationally there are five planning levels for incidents of this type; the South Rim Fire is level four.

-Deer, chipmunks, and birds are still noticeable in the park.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCOTT IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

Editor:
I support Scott Mijares. Scott brings to the office not only common sense but business acumen. Those initiating the recall have a political agenda; their own.
They want to maintain their political power and do so by staying in the system. They move from one official position to another stifling the progress and best interests of the community. Political offices should be managed like a business; not a political agenda. After all it is a “business,” the peoples’ business. We need a change from “SOS” (same old stuff) and that is what Scott brings to the office.
Scott is transparent in communicating his decisions, knows how to maintain a budget and listens to the people. We need qualified people with no other agenda except to serve the people and the community. Scott is the right man for the job.
Let’s make sure Scott can continue to advance “the peoples’ agenda for the betterment of our community.”
Carol McBride, Montrose



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MontroseHealth.com/HealthFair 

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

APPROVAL RATING FOR DEMOCRATS HAS DROPPED TO HISTORIC LOW

Editor:

It is totally logical that polling shows the Democrat Party's approval rating has dropped – again – this time to an incredible 19%, which is the worst rating recorded since the poll's (Quinnipiac) inception. The party's credibility with Americans continues to plummet since the 2024 election. A Democrat super PAC poll just showed voters perceive the Dem Party as “out of touch,” “woke,” and “weak.” Imagine that. Democrats are repeatedly on the wrong side of numerous “80/20” issues: pushing genital mutilation of children, celebrating late-term abortion, men dominating women's sports, resistance to the deportation of illegal aliens with violent criminal records, and much more. In addition, Democrats have solid majorities against them on issues important to conservatives. Most of the country agrees that “What the intelligence community did to Trump is a bigger scandal than Watergate,” and that “Officials who were involved in the manipulation of intelligence to 'get Trump' should be criminally prosecuted.”

Their own polls are telling them they have to change, but common sense and authenticity seem to be totally lacking in Democrats – at least those Democrats calling the shots. Common sense would seem to tell Dems not to use the “we need illegals to pick our cotton” argument to defend using little children to pick marijuana on a California farm owned by a Gavin Newsom donor. Or to contest the deportation of adult illegals arrested by ICE on that same pot farm who had convictions for kidnapping, attempted rape, and attempted child molestation. Common sense would seem to tell them not to embrace a socialist/communist/anti-Semite for mayor of New York City. This is the same person (Mamdani) who wants government-run grocery stores, wants to “seize the means of production” in America, views the police as the enemy, would prevent the NYPD from responding to domestic violence calls, would create an exodus of taxpayers from the city with even higher taxes, etc. Common sense would seem to tell Dems that championing such a person is only verifying that they hate America as founded and want to re-imagine our nation as a socialist/communist country. Perhaps the party

has moved so far left that common sense is not even an afterthought.

It is interesting that a recent Rasmussen poll also shows that a majority of Democrats still believe the Russian collusion hoax, even though it has been repeatedly debunked -- definitively and categorically. These are the same people that want you to believe the recent cuts of 1,300 employees at the State Department will have a detrimental effect on our diplomacy abroad. The numbers tell a different story. The Department went from 57,340 total employees in 2007, to 72,895 in 2015, to 80,214 in 2024. So, it grew by nearly 23,000 employees (+40%) before the “devastating” cut of 1,300 (less than 2%). About half of the employees cut will take a voluntary buyout. As senior officials at the State Department began the process of downsizing, they quickly ran into the most absurd inefficiencies within the Department. The Department couldn't even tell the reviewers how many people worked there. Many positions were not only inefficient, but duplicative. There were dozens of offices handling human resources, three different offices dealing with sanctions, and two handling arms control issues. Some documents were going through 40-50 different layers of approval processes. Every independent bureau and office had its own executive director, its own HR department, and its own payments. Payments were being made out of more than 60 different offices.

The practically non-existent approval ratings also reflect Democrats' total lack of credibility. Congress is passing a bill to claw-back \$9 billion of wasteful foreign aid and public broadcasting. About \$8 billion of that goes to foreign aid, of which only 12% ever makes it to its intended recipients. The rest goes to bureaucrats – and NGO's who pay their leaders exorbitant salaries. The rest of the \$9 billion is the federal gravy train for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which is the parent company for NPR and PBS. Democrats have no shame in spewing their propaganda: “If NPR and PBS are defunded, people will die!” “Rural America has no other possible source or connection to the outside world without NPR and PBS!”

And most hilariously, Dems are claiming that NPR, the most leftist of all broadcast-

ers who are answerable to no one but themselves, is not biased. The same rural Americans who NPR claims are so poor and ignorant that they only have NPR to listen to were labeled “Christian nationalists” by NPR. NPR also called America's interstate highways racist, along with country music and birds. They claimed Biden's debate performance didn't change the election, days before he dropped out of the race. They praised looting. They claim biological males have no advantage in women's sports. They told Americans to stop eating beef, and repeatedly promoted the Russian hoax. No one is arguing that NPR or PBS can't be on the air, just that taxpayers shouldn't have to fund their propaganda. Taxpayers would have no objection to the Soros front groups stepping up and funding them. Bottom line: When Democrats openly advocate to continue the Democrat slush fund which is USAid, and demand that taxpayers continue to fund far-left opinions posing as legitimate news, they have zero credibility with the vast majority of the American people.

Here's some things worth smiling about: While Democrats scream about reducing the State Department by 1,300 employees, you won't hear about the Chicago Public Schools having to lay off 1,458 employees, mostly teachers and special education classroom assistants, because the CPS is bankrupt.

The layoffs and the bankruptcy are not funny, of course, but the fact that whenever Democrats have complete control, everything goes up in flames is worth a chuckle. I have to be amazed at the bevy of lies that Democrats / the media told about Trump before and after he won his second term – like forecasting imminent economic doom. All of those predictions have been proven wrong. The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq recently reached record heights. The inflation remains far below the 40-year high we suffered under Biden. The Treasury reported a budget surplus in June, thanks to Trump's America first trade policies. Government spending also fell 7% in June. During the first five months of Trump's second term, the federal deficit was about a third lower than the same time period a year earlier when Biden was in office.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROTECT YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

Editor:

In your July 7th issue of **The Montrose Mirror** an opinion letter was written by Sean M. Pond that included a lot of misinformation anti-wildlands bias aimed at the Gunnison Outdoor Resource Protection Act (GORP). This legislation was not drawn up in a windowless room, nor was it drafted by a limited group of people. The Gunnison County Commissioners assembled local stakeholders, after collecting years of public proposals, to come up with a vision of how to manage the public lands in the county in the near future. This working group is known as the Gunnison Public Lands initiative (GPLI).

Members of GPLI include "Backcountry Hunters and Anglers", "Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association", "Gunnison County Sno Trackers", "Gunnison O.H.V. Alliance of Trailriders (GOATs)", "Gunnison Trails", "High Country Conservation Advocates", "The Wilderness Society", "Trout Unlimited", "Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District", and the "Gunnison County Stockgrowers' Association". Many diverse groups with varying interests, but all with a common bond, how best to manage these public lands.

In addition, it has bipartisan support from Gunnison, Hinsdale, Delta, Pitkin, Ouray, and Saguache Counties as well as some local municipalities. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe supports GORP as do several public land user organizations and many local businesses.

Mr. Pond wrote that, "GORP is a massive federal land lockup that threatens the economy, culture, and future of Western Colorado". He further states that the act would be, "eliminating timber harvest, choking out grazing, blocking oil and gas exploration, banning motorized access, and severely limiting recreation". He continues, calling it, "A land grab, plain and simple."

I hope one would choose to research on their own, rather than go by the words of Mr. Pond. Go to www.gorpact.org and read the frequently asked questions (FAQs). First of all, it is NOT a federal land "lockup" and definitely not a land grab. No privately owned lands, these lands are all administered by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Often people try to equate the word "wilderness" with

"lockup". Gunnison County is about 1.9 million acres in size. Of that, the Forest Service and BLM administer about 1.6 million acres. GORP is proposing about 123,000 acres of land be formally designated as wilderness. The vast majority of this designation, are additions to already existing designated wilderness areas.

Yes, some lands will be closed to the cutting of timber. The majority of lands included within GORP will ensure a healthy habitat, protection from soil erosion, and provide wildlife a home and forage. Unlike portions of the Pacific Northwest (PNW), with higher rainfall and a variety of timber types, Colorado is not a viable forest resource in the sense of reforestation. The climate is much drier and tree species do not have the growth capacity like the PNW. Other than Christmas tree farms, how many tree farms have you seen in Colorado? I doubt you have ever seen one or ever will.

Grazing will be choked out under GORP? Hardly. The Act includes special language to ensure that grazing operations continue within all the proposed special designations. Ranching and livestock grazing will be sustained.

GORP does prohibit "new" oil and gas leases and mining claims within the special designation areas, but does not affect valid, existing claims and leases. Again, one must look at the purpose these lands are to be managed. They are preserving lifestyles, promoting recreation, benefiting various wildlife species, and making sure the scenic splendor of Colorado is protected. Oil and gas and mining are short-term economic gains with sometimes huge losses in the future. Plus the immense costs of reclamation.

The Forest Service and BLM already have travel management plans in effect for most areas. This is always an ongoing process. GORP specifically states, *"The special designation areas in the bill do not close any roads or trails where summer motorized use currently is permitted by the federal land management agencies."*

The statement by Mr. Pond that GORP is, "severely limiting recreation", is completely at odds with the purpose and intent of this Act. Quoting from GORP's website, *"You can hike, bike, ride your horse or dirt bike through wildflower-filled meadows, along-*

side some of the state's most scenic mountain landscapes, and from rolling sagebrush country to the base of snow-capped peaks. The GORP Act aims to ensure that future generations of recreationists get to have this same experience."

Mr. Pond tries to instigate fear by bending the truth. He makes it sound like hunting and fishing will be curtailed because you won't be able to drive everywhere you want. We all know the best hunting and the best fishing is not alongside a roadway. He even states that getting in and out of the backcountry becomes a "nightmare". He writes, "Try packing out an elk five miles uphill on foot."

In my days as a law enforcement ranger, I remember talking with two hunters getting ready to hunt elk, about an hour before sundown, by dropping down into the Dolores River Canyon near Dove Creek. I asked them one question, "Okay. You shoot an elk. How are you going to get it out of there?" They looked at each other, then looked down into the canyon. Finally one answered, "I think we'll just hunt up here on the mesa".

I applaud Gunnison County and their attempt to protect the world they live in, recreate in, and enjoy. I congratulate the individuals, groups, local government entities, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for striving to protect their culture, their holistic approach to the economy, and the future of Western Colorado to benefit the majority both today and for future generations.

Last statement of mine, and I know it's a little snarky. Mr. Pond's opinion was signed, *"By Sean M. Pond Montrose County Commissioner, District 3"*

His opinion should have been simply signed, "Sean M. Pond, Montrose, CO". He should not use his elected status to make his statement seem like it has any greater weight.

Unfortunately, one thing he said is probably true. He stated that GORP, "It's a dead end."

With our current president (busy hiding any truth about Epstein) and a Republican Congress who fails to protect our waters, our air, our wildlife, our public lands; this bill undoubtedly will not go forward. I hope I am wrong. These lands deserve long-term protection.

Jon Sering, former Montrose resident

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RECALL IS A MARCH TO SOCIALISM

Editor:

Turning Montrose County socialist is and has been a major goal of the Democrat Party for years. Now they have an opportunity with the recall attempt of Commissioner Scott Mijares. The recall petition is being sponsored by and circulated by what I can only describe as uniformed hard left persons devoid of the facts. Commissioner Scott Mijares goes to work every day and defends all the citizens of Montrose County. He has not implement-

ed policies or procedures that other boards of county commissioners haven't instituted.

The Men and women of the Montrose County Sheriff Office fully support the recently passed 'RESOLUTION' supporting them by Commissioner's Scott Mijares and Sean Pond. SHERIFF GENE LILLARD was Instrumental IN GETTING THIS CRITICAL LEGISLATION PASSED. What has changed? The answer is, the far left socialists and their supporters do not like the

loss of power and now are trying to void your recent vote for Commissioner Mijares.

Yes, the nullification of your vote is now in progress through this bogus petition. Scott Mijares is all that stands between Montrose County becoming a dark blue, left leaning socialist County. Please SAY "NO" TO THE RECALL AND SUPPORT SCOTT MIJARES. STOP THIS MARCH TO SOCIALISM.

William Bennett, Montrose, CO

STAND FOR SOMETHING GOOD

Dear Conservatives and Republicans,
Montrose County is at a crossroads and we need to decide what we want our county/city to look like. It's time to not battle each other and focus on **what kind of policies and values we want governing** in our school, city and county. My personal opinion is I want Republican values that protect our children, our land, and our pocketbooks.

There are many elected and appointed positions all over our county and the people who serve on these boards make decisions to represent us every day. I am not wanting to sow discord but it boils down to what each of these people **represent on our behalf**. I want to list some influencers in our community (and they may be nice people), but you are going to get liberal values if they are representing us. Bottom line is **IF you want liberal policies**, then go ahead and vote for or encourage the following politically active people to keep serving-

Presenting GOLD STAR members of the **Democratic Party**: Pheobe and Michael Benzinger, Alice Murphy- current School

Board member, Matt Jenkins, Jock Fleming, David and Linda Gann, Barbara Bynum, Ryan Sedgely- current DMEA board member, and Fred and Gania Brown.

Some others: Ellen Angeles- Democratic Candidate last year for State Education and

Joey Boese- former Peer Kindness employee who introduced wokeness to the organization.

If you are Conservative or Republican, **please check out how Scott Mijares votes on YOUR behalf**. I don't think you will find even one issue that he did not boldly stand behind us on! He is not a polished politician but a business man who stepped up to the plate to put Conservative values into our County. If any of you want to **criticize how he is doing, I encourage you to run** for school board (we need several Conservative Candidates this November!) and city council (in 2026!!) and **show us all how it's done**.

With **mostly Democratic energy going towards the Recall of Scott Mijares**, I feel frustrated that this energy was not di-

rected towards protecting our children from WOKE agendas currently flooding our schools and the frivolous spending on our City Council. I'm appalled and hope that eyes will be opened and hearts will be searched at the **whole picture** of what is happening in our County and what would be **THE BEST FOR US**.

I ask each of us to search our hearts and consider how we can personally benefit Montrose, instead of committing Conservative suicide for our county and signing the ludicrous Recall Petition. Let's step up to the plate and **encourage one another to run** and actually STAND FOR SOMETHING GOOD!

For more information and truth (instead of filling our minds with the liberal Daily Press' discord), please see the Montrose Republican website for Scott Mijares' rebuttal that is written on each petition. Here is the link:

<https://www.montroserepublicans.org/voter-information>

Thank you for reading and considering my concerns,

Jodi Woodden- Montrose citizen

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ROGER RASH'S RECALL PUSH: WHAT'S BEHIND THE DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGN?

Editor:

In Montrose County, the recall effort targeting Commissioner Scott Mijares has taken a personal turn. On Saturday, July 19, 2025, former Commissioner Roger Rash appeared at my mother's doorstep, petition in hand, urging her to support the recall of Mijares, a newly elected commissioner. My mother firmly declined, saying, "Absolutely not," and explained her support for Mijares. This encounter raises a critical question: what motivates Rash, alongside Keith Caddy and Commissioner Sue Hansen, to push so aggressively for this recall, and what might they be trying to conceal?

A Personal Vendetta or Political Maneuver?

The recall effort, initiated by the "Recall Scott Mijares Committee" with a formal notice filed on July 7, 2025, seems driven by a deeper agenda. Rash's criticism of Mijares predates his January 2025 swearing-in, as evidenced by articles in the *Montrose Mirror* from December 2024. These pieces reveal Rash's disapproval of Mijares before he even took office, suggesting a pre-existing bias. The timing is suspicious, particularly given the outgoing board's decision on December 18, 2024, to commit \$25 million to the North Campus project, depleting capital improvement funds and requiring \$10 million in debt, a decision Mijares later questioned for its fiscal impact.

Rash's door-to-door campaign, backed by Caddy and Hansen, appears less about Mijares' performance and more about resisting his push for transparency and fiscal accountability. Mijares campaigned on resolving disputes like the Public Safety Sales Tax, enrolling the Sheriff's Department in the Fire and Police Pension Association, and reviewing county departments for efficiency. These priorities may threaten entrenched interests, possibly explaining Rash's urgency to gather signatures.

What Are They Hiding?

The recall petition cites several grievances, but they lack substance and raise questions about Rash's motives:

1. Alleged Open Meetings Law Violations:

The petition claims Mijares violated Colorado's Open Meetings Law (C.R.S. 24-6-401) regarding the resignations of former County Manager Frank Rodriguez and County Attorney Martha Whitmore. However, Rodriguez resigned voluntarily, and his contract did not require formal board acceptance. Whitmore offered her resignation multiple times to Mijares and Commissioner Sean Pond independently, with no decisions made outside public meetings. These facts undermine the accusation, suggesting Rash may be deflecting from the board's transparent handling of these exits.

2. Wasted Taxpayer Funds: The committee, including Rash, alleges Mijares cost the county over \$500,000 in severance and legal fees. In reality, severance payments to Rodriguez (\$86,746.50) and Whitmore (\$90,648.50) were contractually mandated, totaling six months' salary each, as approved by the BOCC. No evidence supports claims of excessive legal fees or backfilling costs. This inflated figure seems designed to mislead voters, possibly to obscure the outgoing board's own fiscal decisions, like the North Campus project.

3. North Campus Project Scrutiny: Mijares' call to pause the \$25 million North Campus project for review by the new board was rejected, yet no breach of contract occurred. His push for fiscal caution contrasts with Rash's tenure, during which the project was rushed through. Could Rash be shielding past decisions from scrutiny?

4. Public Health Director Process: The petition questions Mijares' handling of the Public Health Director's appointment, but he followed Colorado Revised Statute 25-1-508, convening the Board of Health to

lawfully select the director. No demotion occurred, as the position was not legally filled prior. Rash's focus on this issue may distract from Mijares' efforts to ensure legal compliance.

5. Toxic Work Environment: Vague claims of a hostile workplace, echoed by Rash and the committee, lack concrete evidence. Interim County Manager Leslie Quon's resignation cited tensions, but Mijares' public letter refutes specific allegations of harassment. This accusation may aim to inflame public sentiment rather than address substantive issues.

A Broader Agenda?

Rash's history as a commissioner, ending in 2024 due to term limits, includes controversies that may inform his current motives. In 2021, he was named in a lawsuit by former employee Jonathan Goodman, alleging First Amendment violations after Goodman raised concerns about government waste. This suggests Rash's sensitivity to criticism of county spending, a pattern Mijares now challenges. The recall, supported by Rash, Caddy, and Hansen, may be an effort to suppress Mijares' reforms and protect a status quo that benefited from less oversight.

Conclusion

Roger Rash's doorstep campaign to recall Scott Mijares is not just a petition drive but a signal of resistance to change. My mother's refusal to sign reflects a broader sentiment: Montrose County voters, who elected Mijares in November 2024 with 18,129 votes, deserve a commissioner who prioritizes transparency and fiscal responsibility. Rash's motives appear tied to shielding past decisions and thwarting Mijares' agenda, but the lack of evidence behind the recall's claims reveals a weak foundation. Residents should question what Rash and his allies might be hiding and stand with Mijares to ensure accountable governance.

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

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BOCC PASSES RESOLUTION TO 'ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACCOUNTING PROTOCOLS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX' From pg 1

Office to possible litigation..."

Julie Yarnell spoke. She thanked County employees for keeping the public informed. "Thanks to all departments—we see you and we appreciate your efforts..." Yarnell recalled seeing Montrose GOP Chair Monty George on television discussing the search for a county manager, "Why is George the source...so who is sharing this information...this is a breach of trust and ethics..."

Deb Lillard addressed the BOCC, saying that she spoke for the spouses, children, brothers and sisters of those in the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. She thanked Commissioners Mijares and Pond for backing the men and women in law enforcement. "They deserve the best equipment this world can provide," Lillard said. "Thank you for standing up for public safety—it's what leaders do."

Scott Hammer spoke about the property that had inspired the county to implement a junk ordinance, "Please take a moment to drive by 63970 Nancy Way...there have been no significant improvements at the Carlile residence...the BOCC passed an ordinance but there has been no enforcement...there is a lane of traffic that cannot be used...what would you do if this property was in your neighborhood...please, on behalf of the 43 homes in Aspen Cove...direct your code enforcement officer and your attorneys to deal with this matter as per the ordinance that you've passed..."

Sue Gattis spoke. "I too want to thank all county employees...I see them trying very hard to make the best of a situation that is not of their own making...maybe, Mr. Mijares, if you haven't, it would be a good idea if you would take a course in personnel management; there's never anything wrong with admitting you might need a little help with some issues... maybe improve those skills and you might not have so many problems..."

Jodi Woodden spoke in favor of the Public Safety Sales Tax Resolution that was on the meeting agenda. "When I tried doing research on the PSST...trying to dig through and figure out who's getting

what...it was confusing, and quite frankly it felt like the sneakiness that was happening with the Montrose School District when they tried to pass the high school, that outlandish high school... I want to express my full and complete support for this resolution and I thank whoever put it together to start straightening things out."

Jim Anderson spoke. "I want to comment on personnel management...if you are going to investigate, you might find that the people objecting are the very ones who created this environment—who elected YOU to anything?"

"...These environments are created quite often by the employees themselves...make sure you get both points of view...they (commissioners) haven't done one thing every other board hasn't done."

Carole Antolovich spoke. "I want to publicly support Scott Mijares because so many people speak out against him..." Antolovich said that when the former board began the search for a new county manager, incoming commissioners asked them to delay hiring the new manager, but the request was ignored. And when the new commissioners do make a decision, "Loud and angry progressives try and override it," Antolovich said.

Celia Gardner said that she also supported Scott Mijares. "Leadership isn't about pleasing everyone...sometimes doing the right thing stirs resistance...progress is rarely met with applause...let God guide your judgment, let his wisdom give you courage..."

When all of the constituents had finished speaking, BOCC Chair Scott Mijares, who is facing a recall attempt, took the floor. "No decisions are made in Executive Sessions...there was no violation of Executive Session...what you're accusing me of never happened," he said.

Mijares talked about being a participant in the original Unify Montrose project, saying that the initiative was created by a "self-proclaimed Socialist" who wanted to "turn our county from Red to Blue....he wanted to improve our community...we are being infiltrated by a Socialist group..."

Despite interjections from the public,

Mijares banged the gavel and continued, "...There have been no violations, no secret meetings...the fact is Frank (Rodriguez) said that I wanted him fired from day one in office..."

As Mijares reached the end of the three minutes allotted for individual public comment, he continued speaking. "It takes time to address each accusation...I was not in favor of his severance contract..."

County Attorney Julie Andress told Mijares his three minutes were up.

"I am not subject to three minutes," Mijares said, "I am the board chair."

Andress said, "All items have to be publicly noticed."

"I don't think so," Mijares said, and continued addressing each accusation against him. "...This is a nebulous type of accusation that just doesn't have any credibility whatsoever...the county commissioners are in charge of hiring two people, the county attorney and the county manager..."

Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "So now I understand why you wanted to change the Public Comment directions, so you could grandstand about this recall and have an audience of the GOP and everybody else here...This is highly inappropriate, you ignore legal advice...If you all think this is unusual behavior you are wrong...this is what happens. It happens throughout the county, and I've had it. Everything in there is a lie and I'm fit to be tied about all of this. And I think you ought to know who you elected in this position. Ignoring legal advice!"

BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond spoke, "Commissioner Hansen, I would actually ask you both to remain professional today. If we could stop all that it'd be great."

Mijares said, "What you're seeing here is, we have three commissioners. We can't really discuss anything among ourselves unless it's in a public meeting. This is public discourse. This is what you need and what you deserve from your public officials, otherwise we will be accused of having meetings in secret...we're having a discussion, I think it's pretty professional...Sue is entitled to her opinions about

BOCC PASSES RESOLUTION TO 'ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACCOUNTING PROTOCOLS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX' From Previous pg



During the time for public comment, Scott Hammer spoke about the property that had inspired the county to implement a junk ordinance, "Please take a moment to drive by 63970 Nancy Way..." The residence, located in Aspen Cove is pictured above.

pecting, and we need to know exactly where to record that...so that we record it in the proper place, I think it should be part of the resolution or at least be an addendum to it...there's lots of different items that need to be addressed before January 1st so that my office is recording those items properly...we definitely need a detailed document...an official, written document that tells me where."

County Finance Director Cindy Dunlap, who acknowledged her own family ties to the Sheriff's Office and to law enforcement, also spoke. The PSST was a God-send to Montrose County, Dunlap said. "These tax dollars coming into our community are a blessing...Those tax dollars...have 100 percent gone to the law enforcement community, the Sheriff's Office...I was here when they didn't have the proper equipment...these tax dollars have greatly enhanced their operation...when we have faced unfunded mandates, the county has stepped up and funded those in full...we face challenges...your tax dollars are going where they were intended to go, and we have made significant, much needed improvements to the Sheriff's Office...we too want them to have everything they need...we value that they're putting their lives on the line, and the nature of their work...I too am grateful when my husband comes home at night..."

Dunlap asked that the matter be continued, to allow additional time to work through the nuances of the resolution: "I think we have a great start...but I think we need a little more work and we need a little more discussion...I would really appreciate a team approach to the resolution and appreciate some discussion and some conversation with all of the stakeholders involved."

Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "Thank you for stating the fact that this did come at the last minute. To me this is no way to govern. I do support law enforcement, I think people should be held to their budget..." Hansen said that the resolution came down on Tuesday and that she was excluded from the group email. "Rushing

those things. There's things that I could say to Sue right now that I'm refraining from saying. All I'm saying is, this is our only chance to talk, amongst ourselves." "If it's true, perhaps," Hansen said. "We all have our own version of the truth," Mijares said. "...This is your chance to see us interact. In real time. And I hope you appreciate it."

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners considered a [resolution](#) proposed by Vice Chair Sean Pond, "to establish Administrative and Accounting protocols for the Public Safety Sales Tax." Pond presented the [resolution](#), and discussed the [Ballot Language](#) from the Public Safety Sales Tax, which was approved by voters in 2007 after being placed on the ballot through a citizens initiative (Montrose County Citizens for Funding Our Future, or MC4FF).

"People want to know where the money is going...it's not able to be tracked," Pond said. "...We simply have to support the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. I want

to make it to where it's clear, transparent, and open."

The floor was opened to comment from the public.

Those who addressed the BOCC about the proposed resolution included County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy, who discussed what she would need as treasurer should the resolution be passed and explained her office's procedure. The Treasurers office receives and records all funds, "...I have a printout here, that anybody can view after the meeting...this report is from April 2008 until today...it will show you that the entire amount of the sales tax received at the bank was recorded into the Public Safety Fund...we have never recorded any of that money into the General Fund...also, there are other monies received...What we need, is to make sure that, going forward, if the resolution passes, that we know exactly where to record the funds..."

All payments that go into the PSST account must be recorded, and the treasurer's office must be notified. "Everything really needs to be documented clearly when these payments come in," Murphy said. "Also...anybody that is expecting money from the state, or anywhere, we need to be notified in our office before we receive it so we know what we're ex-

BOCC PASSES RESOLUTION TO 'ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACCOUNTING PROTOCOLS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX' From Previous pg

this resolution through is a poor decision." Pond said he hoped to remove the gray areas. "What I want to do is open that window of transparency."

Hansen suggested going back to the voters with another ballot initiative. "If you really want to support the Sheriff, why not just increase taxes?"

She moved to continue the resolution to a time-certain. "I'm not sure what the purpose is of pushing this through right now... I think we should be wise about this."

Pond said the resolution had been approved by legal.

Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard spoke. "This has been an ongoing battle since I came into office and prior to that...we're in the business of fighting crime and keeping our community safe..."

Lillard described examples of funds that were spent for the sheriff's office but over which he had no control, including improvement to an intersection near the MCSO that was unsafe. Instead of having road and bridge do the work, it was bid out at a cost of \$84K. "We paid for that...they didn't ask me, they just did it."

He cited other examples, including the purchase of the Naturita School after the MCSO's previous West End facility was found to contain black mold. "We paid for the building out of the Public Safety Sales Tax but I was never asked or told where the money was going to come from...this has just been a battle and we would just like to get this straightened out. Sean Pond, Commissioner Mijares, thank you for stepping up to the plate and doing this, it's been a long time coming...I support this resolution, it's well written...thank you for writing that and making it happen."

Linda Riba spoke, "I was on the original committee in 2007 that promulgated the Public Safety Sales Tax...the intent of the usage of the public safety sales tax was as an addition over and above what would be normally budgeted for the sheriff's office in the county budget...it was in addition to, over and above...the Sheriff's Department should be budgeted in the

county budget as though the Public Safety Sales Tax didn't even exist, because the Public Safety Sales Tax is on top of what would normally be budgeted to support the Sheriff's Department."

Said Commissioner Sue Hansen, "We may have to have a discussion about what services we want to give up...there wasn't enough money in the General Fund at that time to even fund the Sheriff's Office adequately...we have to go by how we interpret the ballot language...until the General Fund can grow to a point where we can fully fund \$15M for the Sheriff, and then we have to start looking at other services that need to be pared down."

Riba said, "...It was never to be commingled, or substituted for General Fund...Perhaps there may be other line items in the county budget would need to be supplemented by other means. That's up to you guys. But the intent of this PSST process was to make sure that the Sheriff had what they needed to keep us safe, and be there when we call and when we need you. That's the whole intent."

Jim Anderson spoke. He said that he was not on the original committee but attended all the meetings. "...This was never voted on to be a substitute or in lieu of the General Fund..."

The funds have been commingled in the General Fund, Anderson said, but they shouldn't be. "The money goes to the Sheriff, the 70 percent, it doesn't go to the county commissioners, their hands are not supposed to be on it...now unless the Sheriff releases that money, it can't be spent, it's gotta go into the fund...it doesn't go to staff, or county commissioners...the staff that thinks they should legislate how our money's being spent...the staff has treated this and wanted this to be a part of the general fund, all spendable, and that's exactly what's happened...and when they've taken the Sheriff's money they've not even asked him..."

To Hansen, Anderson said, "...you even stood up in the central committee 18 months ago and said this is now the primary fund for the county, and if you say anything other, you're a damn liar."

"Easy now," BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said.

Anderson continued. "For 17 years, we have deprived the Montrose County Sheriff's deputies in a specific PSST fund of...\$65 million dollars...we have decimated our sheriff's department, they can't compete, they can't recruit... we're gonna knock off the lies and the BS...I was there, Sue Hansen was not there...if it would have been a General Fund offset, it would have never passed this county..."

Former County Commissioner David White spoke. "I lived through this at the beginning...the language is no less than 70 percent goes to the Sheriff. If he needs every dime of it, he can have it...whatever is needed by the Sheriff. It's his discretion...the money is trackable...We don't have a revenue problem...it's how it's being spent...the money is there...we wouldn't be having this discussion, I believe, if certain capital projects and other monies were used in the way that it was intended to be used."

"...From my perspective, back in those years from 2009 to 2017, the money was coming in; it was going where it was supposed to go."

Finance Director Cindy Dunlap said when the original ballot issue was passed it was decided to use the base level General Fund funding for the Sheriff that was in place at that time, "...we would use that number, inflate it annually by the CPI increase...and that is the General Fund level of funding that would be maintained henceforth, and that's what has happened every year, and we take great care to make sure that we're doing that."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said the issue is that the Sheriff does not have control over how the money is spent. "...That's the problem, is a lot of these capital projects are not going through his approval...nobody disputes this money's going to the right place. It's where it goes after it gets to the right place..."

Dunlap said she feels the Sheriff should have a seat at the table in all the discussions...I agree that the Sheriff should absolutely be..."

BOCC PASSES RESOLUTION TO 'ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACCOUNTING PROTOCOLS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX' From Previous pg

Hansen interjected. "In accordance with the County Manager, those decisions were probably made..."

Hansen read the original ballot language into the record.

Deb Lillard once more addressed the BOCC. "...I've been in the accounting field for 50 years. When I hear somebody say they need time and this should be put in order for them to figure out how to do their jobs and put line items into their accounting...I have a hard time with that...Sue you keep saying you support law enforcement, all I see you doing is trying to put obstacles in front of this by finding something to postpone...you haven't been willing to support the Sheriff's Office, and you're doing the same thing here...you can make things look the way you want to make 'em look, but I call on the Finance Department to do their job, figure it out, but it shouldn't be something that holds up this resolution."

Dunlap said that the reason for requesting more time was the accounting system.

"There are multiple funds involved...there's all sort of integrated financial management processes, procedures and software systems that this will affect...which is a tremendous amount of work...it's not something we could do in two weeks' time..."

"This is a major structural change to our financial system...if this passes, we have a lot of work to do."

Sheriff Gene Lillard spoke. He said that the Sheriff's budget for personnel is \$9M, and the total budget is \$15M. "...Our budget takes in the West End...we also run a jail that is almost fully staffed...we cover over 2,200 square miles in Mont-



The Montrose BOCC meeting of July 16, 2025. Photo by Gail Marvel.

rose County from Maher to the Utah border...Montrose PD runs around \$16M for their...annual budget; they do not have a jail, they do not have a West End," he said. "They are full staff, I think they're up to 42 sworn officers on the streets of Montrose, five of which left the Montrose County Sheriff's Office to go to MPD because of money and retirement."

BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond spoke. Pond said that the resolution was intended to fix a problem—transparency to the public—not to cause a problem. "My goal with this...is to make sure we are able to track...the public can see where their tax dollars are going...so the Sheriff has the ability...he needs to be sure he is making decisions for that money towards going to

public safety..."

Pond moved to approve Resolution 36-2025, which passed in a two to one vote with Hansen opposed. "Because it's not finished..." she said.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

All [Planning and Development](#) items were approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners entered Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b), (e) and (f) for discussion regarding the appointment of an Interim County Manager.

Following the Executive Session, BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said that a decision had been made to appoint former Montrose County Commissioner David White to the role of Interim County Manager.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ALERT! ALERT! WAKE UP CITIZENS OF MONTROSE COUNTY!

Editor:

It comes as no surprise that commissioners Mijares and Pond have appointed David White as county manager. When they got rid of the totally competent Frank Rodriguez we all knew David White was lurking in the wings. White has been spoon feeding his BS to these two inexperienced commissioners since Pond arrived on the scene.

If you've been around Montrose for more than twenty years you know what a disaster David White and Ron Henderson were when they were commissioners. Their failed attempt to ruin the hospital was just

one of many fiascos that cost our county hundreds of thousands of dollars. It took commissioners Roger Rash and Keith Cadby several years to clean up their mess.

Since then Mr. White has ran unsuccessfully in all kinds of elections but he just won't take no for an answer. And now he's found a way to sneak in the back door without an election. Don't be fooled, he will be calling all the shots while Scott and Sean follow his lead.

If you read his weekly diatribes in the Mirror you know he thinks he's the only one that knows how to govern both our city and county. Obviously I disagree.

So Montrose citizens stand up and be heard. I'm too old to lead the charge but there are lots of you that care as deeply about this injustice as I do. Don't let these three get away with this nonsense. And if you were ever in doubt about signing the petition and voting to recall Mijares surely this shenanigan should convince you that Scott must go!

I'm Don R. Gladwell. I'm nearly 78 years old. I've lived in Montrose for 53 of those years and I'm a lifelong Republican. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Don R. Gladwell, Montrose

TIRED OF PAYING MORE FOR GAS IN MONTROSE

Editor:

It has been brought to my attention that fuel prices have created a major disparity between Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties. Our gas cost per gallon in Montrose has not varied by more than a few cents for at least 4 or maybe 5 months, plus the cost difference between the three counties to be quite irregular. Last year our gas costs per gallon varied by only a few cents either Mesa (Grand Junction) being the least expensive. Delta was almost always a few cents greater than Grand Junction but also a few cents cheaper than Montrose. If the state is the regulator of the gasoline tax then I would think that the taxes per gallon per gallon would remain

the same. If the wholesale price of fuel is adjusted by a few cents per gallon and the taxes are the same then the prices we consumers pay at the pumps should vary only a few cents. It appears to me and a few other citizens that a reasonable profit would be understandable. Then there appears to be a \$0.35 disparity between Delta and Montrose counties. Does that mean that the resellers and or the wholesalers are charging more to Montrose citizens than I would consider reasonable? It's one thing to collect a fair and reasonable profit as opposed to gouging the public and restricting free trade of fuels in the Western Slope. Denver gas costs were in the \$2.50 range while here on the con-

servative Western Slope we are closer to \$3.35 per gallon.

Who is the decision maker that determines the taxes or better yet who or which retailer is gouging us the most. I can't imagine that it costs the wholesalers \$0.75-85 per gallon delivery to Montrose. Who has some ideas to help bring gas prices down. However, this could be some sort of pressure to cause Western Slope to look to electric vehicles. Maybe not, maybe I'm just tired of paying too much for gasoline.

My name is John Brown.

I live in Montrose.

I am tired of high prices just because I live in Montrose.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IN MONTROSE COUNTY WE HAVE OUR OWN VERSION OF THE DEEP STATE

Editor:

For years we have all heard stories about the deep state in Washington DC. The usual definition of that dubious entity refers to the unelected public servants entrenched within our government who mistakenly think that they actually run the government. The reality is that they are but paid employees who have become enamored with their own self importance simply because of their longevity. In truth those paid employees are but 1/2 of the deep state.

All too often the second half is sadly composed of those officials who have been elected to represent their constituents, but hide behind personal and political agendas that do not reflect the wishes of their electorate.

A growing number of Montrose voters are beginning to learn that here in Montrose County we have our own version of the deep state and imbedded within our County Administration. With an unprecedented recall effort about to kick off against Commissioner Scott Mijares it would behoove every voter to look back at what has actually transpired within the last two years.

The first indication that our elected commissioners were part of the deep state was when Hansen, Caddy and Rash violate their own Resolution against supporting one Republican candidate over another. One of their hand picked candidates was handily defeated by Scott Mijares and instead of working toward a smooth transition of power they chose to ostracize him at every turn and work be-

hind the scenes to manipulate staff into opposing him. Last fall when County Manager Washbush resigned under encouragement, the three previous commissioners engaged in a charade to select a new County Manager that could be easily manipulated to maintain the status quo. (Note- there was no outpouring of public resentment.). The end result was the appointment of a hand-picked candidate for County Manager who had absolutely no qualifications for managing County Government.

When the new the BOCC was seated in January a re-organization of the board took place with Sue Hansen being chosen Chair and RICK DUNLAP being chosen Vice Chair. In both instances Mijares voted for the motion for Hansen and Dunlap in an effort to have a smooth transition with the new BOCC.

With the untimely passing of RICK DUNLAP the Republican Party appointed Sean Pond as replacement and a new reorganization resulted in Scott Mijares being elected as Chair and Sean Pond was elected as Vice Chair. This was accomplished strictly according to county protocol. In this instance however Hansen voted against both motions for chair and vice chair obviously unwilling to give up her power and OPT for a smooth transition. That was a prime example of class versus no class.

At the Call To The Public at the very next BOCC meeting the Democrats showed up in mass and exhibited their total ignorance of county board procedures by threatening a recall of Scott Mijares. It

was obvious Hansen had been stirring the pot of dissension because of her loss of power. Then without showing the courtesy of meeting with the Republican Central Committee to explain her decision, she quietly changed her affiliation from Republican to Unaffiliated. For a year and a half she had refused to come to the Republican central committee meeting and report on county government, because she had become persona non grata and had lost all credibility with the Republican Party

The County Manager and County Attorney are the only two administrative positions that work strictly at the pleasure of the BOCC. With the resignations of Rodriguez and Whitmore threats of recall were amplified again exposing the total ignorance of those who made those calls. We have lived here in Montrose for 21 years and in all that time I can recall six managers that were replaced and at least one County Attorney but there was absolutely no weeping wailing and gnashing of teeth over those people losing their jobs. Again it was a clear that Hansen was stirring the recall plot behind closed doors, continuing to stir up dissension among county employees. Charges of a hostile work environment fall squarely at her feet.

Make no mistake, plans for a recall are nothing but politically motivated power grab that is certainly not in the best interest of Montrose County. Any recall should be focused strictly on Hansen. I'm not sure we can stand another year and a half of her stirring the pot of dissension.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TAXPAYERS OWE A HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO COMMISSIONER SEAN POND

Editor:

All Montrose taxpayers owe a huge debt of gratitude to Commissioner Sean Pond for the introduction of a Resolution to once and for all clarify how PSST funds are to be accounted for.

In 2007 PSST ballot question failed to specifically delineate how accounting procedures were to be implemented to verify that all PSST monies actually made it to the benefit of the Montrose County Sheriff's Department. Absent those instructions the reality of the situation is that the County Finance Department has used the

PSST funds as a slush fund to finance expenditures not approved by the Sheriff. At a BOCC public meeting in December 2023 Hansen stated that the ballot committee should have had a better attorney, tacitly admitting that funds have been inappropriately used by the County for uses unapproved by the powers by the Sheriff. When the question was called for on the Pond Resolution both he and Mijares voted YES. Hansen on the other hand, voicing her unwavering support for a strong Montrose County Sheriff Department voted NO. Her actions clearly speak

louder than her words.

The previous BOCC could have resolved this question during 2024 but failed to do so, there by putting the general public safety and the public safety of road deputies at risk. Finally, thanks to Pond and Mijares, Montrose is now well on the road toward having a strong Montrose County Sheriff Department. It is indeed refreshing to finally have two commissioners with an abundance of common sense who put the welfare of the entire county first and foremost.

Dee Laird, Montrose

MIJARES AND UNIFY MONTROSE

Editor:

I would like to set the record straight: It is reported that "Mijares said the current Recall Scott Mijares website looks just like that of Unify Montrose when that group formed."

As I am not in any way connected with the recall effort, I can make no comment about where the recall effort is getting assistance with their marketing. Please note that he said "when that group formed."

When the child care project terminated, UnifyAmerica packed up and left Montrose. Some of us looked at the process and said that it had value. The new Unify-Montrose is a 501(C)(3) corporation which is made-up of Montrose people looking at Montrose problems and coming up with

Montrose solutions. We are governed by a board of purely local people and that board directs the projects that we will take on and how we will do them. UnifyAmerica does not participate in our projects. On the other hand, since UnifyAmerica is interested in our success because it reflects well on them, they still have been making some marketing and logistical support available to us. We are in the process of engaging a local marketing company which will distance us even further from UnifyAmerica.

Again, please let me reiterate that Unify-Montrose is a group of **Montrose** people discussing **Montrose** problems and finding **Montrose** solutions. We are not governed by nor beholden to UnifyAmerica in any way. We look to have our discussions

include as broad a spectrum of Montrose citizens as we can find. We are totally non denominational and party neutral. We foster calm, intelligent discussions. It is our hope that we can get voices from all parts of the community to help with our deliberations.

Please come at least once and make up your own mind how unbiased we are. We need your voice to help us become entirely balanced. Please see the ad elsewhere in this publication announcing our next meeting, and then join us.

Scott, before you make more comments about UnifyMontrose, I hope you will do us the courtesy of attending one of our meetings and discovering who we really are, now.

Rick Bleier, President, UnifyMontrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TREASONOUS CONSPIRACY: PROSECUTING THE 2016 ELECTION INTERFERENCE

Editor:

On July 18th, 2025 the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), Tulsi Gabbard exposed a grave betrayal of public trust: a coordinated effort by high-ranking officials in the Obama administration to manipulate intelligence and undermine the 2016 presidential election results. This conspiracy, which targeted President-elect Donald Trump, was not a mere political maneuver but a deliberate assault on our Constitutional Republic. The evidence demands accountability, and those responsible, regardless of their former positions, must face prosecution under relevant laws to prevent future abuses of power.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) has uncovered a disturbing timeline. Throughout 2016, the Intelligence Community consistently assessed that Russia was not attempting to influence the U.S. presidential election through cyberattacks. A December 7, 2016, talking point prepared for DNI James Clapper explicitly stated that foreign adversaries **had not** altered the election outcome through cyber means. Yet, just two days later, a meeting of top National Security Council principals, including Clapper, John Brennan, Susan Rice, John Kerry, Loretta Lynch, and Andrew McCabe, shifted the narrative. Following President Obama's directive, the ODNI was tasked with producing a new assessment claiming Moscow actively sought to influence the election. This culminated in the January 6, 2017, Intelligence Community Assessment, which contradicted prior findings and relied on discredited sources like the Steele Dossier.

This manufactured intelligence fueled a years-long campaign to delegitimize Trump's presidency. It sparked the Mueller investigation, two congressional impeachments, and the persecution of Trump's associates, while escalating U.S.-Russia tensions. Such actions violate the core principles of our Constitutional Republic form of governance and constitute a grave abuse of power. The evidence

points to a conspiracy that subverted the will of the American electorate, a crime that cannot go unpunished.

Federal law provides clear grounds for prosecution. Title 18 U.S.C. § 2381 defines treason as levying war against the United States or adhering to its enemies, with a penalty of up to life imprisonment. While treason requires a high bar, the coordinated effort to undermine a duly elected president could meet this threshold, particularly if foreign entities were knowingly leveraged to amplify false narratives. More broadly, 18 U.S.C. § 371 criminalizes conspiracies to defraud the United States, including schemes to impair lawful government functions, such as the peaceful transfer of power. Penalties include up to five years in prison. Additionally, 18 U.S.C. § 1001 addresses false statements to federal authorities, carrying a potential seven-year sentence if the matter involves domestic terrorism, which could apply given the national security implications of politicized intelligence.

The involvement of senior officials, potentially including former President Obama, underscores the need for impartial justice. **No individual, regardless of rank, is above the law.** The Supreme Court has affirmed this principle, notably in ***United States v. Nixon*** (1974), which compelled President Nixon to produce evidence in a criminal investigation. Similarly, ***Clinton v. Jones*** (1997) established that sitting presidents lack immunity from civil suits for actions outside their official duties, setting a precedent for holding former presidents accountable. Prosecuting those involved, up to the highest levels, is not about retribution but about upholding the rule of law.

Without accountability, the incentive to repeat such offenses grows. History offers sobering lessons: unchecked abuses of power, like those during the Watergate scandal, eroded public trust until prosecutions restored faith in governance. The 2016 conspiracy, with its far-reaching consequences, demands a similar response.

Failure to prosecute risks normalizing the politicization of intelligence, inviting future administrations to manipulate national security apparatus for partisan gain. This would erode the Constitutional Republic's foundation, as DNI Gabbard rightly warned.

Critics may argue that prosecuting former officials, especially a former president, could deepen political divisions. However, the greater danger lies in allowing such actions to go unpunished. Public trust in institutions, already strained, depends on transparency and justice. A 2023 Gallup poll showed only 17% of Americans have significant confidence in the federal government, a historic low. Shielding powerful figures from accountability would further alienate citizens, reinforcing perceptions of a two-tiered justice system.

The Department of Justice must act decisively, leveraging the ODNI's evidence to pursue charges under applicable statutes. This is not a partisan issue but a matter of national integrity. The conspiracy's architects weaponized intelligence to subvert the law and our Constitutional Republic form of government, affecting not only President Trump but every American who voted in 2016. Prosecuting those responsible, regardless of their former titles, sends a clear message: no one can undermine the people's will without consequence. The path forward requires courage and impartiality. The DOJ must investigate thoroughly, ensuring due process while holding all culpable parties accountable. This includes examining the roles of Clapper, Brennan, Rice, and others, as well as the former president's involvement in directing the false assessment. Only through prosecution can the nation deter future conspiracies and restore faith in its institutions.

The American people deserve nothing less than justice, delivered without fear or favor, to safeguard the republic for generations to come.

**Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB
for coDOGEreport.com**



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2 bathrooms

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MLS# 822819



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORTS SOUTH RIM FIRE RESPONSE WITH JOHNSON ELEMENTARY INCIDENT COMMAND POST

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- – In response to the South Rim Fire burning in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Montrose County School District (MCSD) is actively collaborating with local and regional emergency management agencies to support wildfire response operations.

Johnson Elementary School has been designated as the Incident Command Post and primary fire operations center due to its close proximity to the fire and the availability of ample open space for staging.

The site is currently supporting hundreds of emergency personnel engaged in response efforts. The school campus and surrounding grounds are being used to support essential logistics.

MCSD was one of the first organizations contacted when the need for an operational base arose on Thursday, July 11.

The district responded promptly, making Johnson Elementary available to serve the needs of emergency responders as they coordinate firefighting and logistical efforts.

“We are proud to assist in this critical response and are grateful for the opportunity to support the firefighters and emergency personnel who are working around the clock to protect our community,” said Superintendent Dr. Carrie Stephenson.

The teams currently on-site are fully equipped with the necessary supplies and infrastructure to carry out their work.

While the community's support and generosity are deeply appreciated, the crews

are well-prepared and have what they need to sustain their operations.

As a result of ongoing response efforts, heavy traffic congestion may occur on US Highway 50 near Johnson Elementary.

To support safety operations and minimize delays, community members are asked to avoid the area whenever possible.

MCSD remains in close contact with local agencies and stands ready to assist further as the response evolves. The district thanks the community for its continued cooperation, patience, and support during this time.

For the latest information on the South Rim Fire, visit InciWeb or follow the official South Rim Fire Information Facebook page.



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the montrose mirror

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DETAILS:



JULY 21, 2025



7:30AM-4PM



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Donation based



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

For help registering or other questions:

Camille D'Arcey

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Your Source for Local Business News and Information

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MOTORISTS TRAVELING CO 145 BETWEEN TELLURIDE AND RICO CAN EXPECT BRIEF DELAYS NEXT WEEK

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY — The Colorado Department of Transportation will perform two-day culvert replacement operations on Colorado Highway 145, approximately 14 miles south of Telluride (Mile Point 58). Beginning July 21, motorists can expect full stops, alternating traffic and up to 15-minute delays. The delays will occur during daytime working hours, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.. CDOT urges motorists to plan ahead and allow for additional travel time on CO 145 between Dolores and Telluride.

CDOT crews will work as swiftly as possible to complete the culvert replacement however, operations are weather dependent.

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



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MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN: WHY WE ARE HERE



by Sieglinde Carpenter
MONTROSE-I believe we are here, right where we are to make contributions collectively through our efforts that positively affect change for an enriched life for someone. The Montrose

Republican Women (MRW) is one of eleven original 1936 national charters educating women in good governance and awarding high school scholarships. "We are here because we believe we can make a difference from where we are!" These are sentiments of those who witnessed the presentations at the Republican Women's 15th annual Scholarship Award Ceremony.

The ceremony celebrated two local young ladies' accomplishments as recipients of MRW's \$1,500 scholarship awards, Merilee Gallagher from Nucla and Elizabeth Kistler from Montrose who will be attending college in the fall. As they read their thought-provoking essays about an Article within the Constitution that captures their American spirit, it stirred excitement of hope and home-town pride. These young women share characteristics founded by their families and recognized by their communities.

According to their teachers, they are self-motivated, compassionate young women who are academic achievers with a vision. Their grit and willingness to step up proved them to be leaders in high school and in their communities by meeting challenges with opportunities because they understand - receiving is in the giving. Merilee Gallagher has been accepted to Austin College in Texas, majoring in business administration with career goals as a marketing manager, financial advisor or social media manager. Elizabeth Kistler



(L to R) District 5 Senator Marc Catlin, Diane Carabetta, Scholarship Award winners Merilee Gallagher and Elizabeth Kistler, Marti Barnes and Kerri Catlin, Republican Women's President. Not pictured is Cherie Whiteford, Scholarship Chair. Courtesy photo.

has been accepted at Pepperdine University in California majoring in chemistry with pre-medicine and a career goal as a pediatric surgeon. Receiving a scholarship is the best form of financial aid for families. Equally important, it is a validation of their hard work and dedication to succeed.

State Senator Marc Catlin (Colorado SD5) congratulated Merilee and Elizabeth and presented them with an American flag pin together with the MRW Medal of Educational Excellence and certificate. His words of encouragement also served as a reminder that they are supported by the generosity of small-town people who have big hopes for their future. As part of the MRW's application process, certain criteria must be met and presented to their scholastic committee members. (Proof of

acceptance from a college, two letters of recommendation, one essay and proof of a Colorado Voter Registration.)

The Montrose Republican Women meet regularly on the 3rd Friday, 12-1:30p at the Hampton Inn. These women are on the frontline of political issues and actively educate, support Republican officials and candidates and celebrate American ideals and traditions. As part of the National Federation of Republican Women, they conduct programs for elected officials and candidates. As volunteers, they participate in community events and support charitable organizations in Montrose. For more information, please contact Kerri Catlin 970-209-5170.

Sieglinde "Siggie" Carpenter is a freelance writer who writes for The Love of the Story in support of local non-profit organizations.




HOME FOR SALE


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 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.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TOP 10 REASONS TO WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT EVERY TIME

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO — Despite [information and research](#) showing the effectiveness of seat belts, some drivers still make excuses about why they fail to use this important safety device. Colorado State Troopers share 10 Reasons to Wear Your Seat Belt every time to close the gap between the 92% national seat belt use rate and Colorado's 88% seat belt use rate.

1. Decreasing Your Chances of Serious Injury or Death — the worst possible outcome is a crash. Last year Colorado State Troopers investigated over 21,670 crashes across Colorado. Despite your driving skills, you share the road and crashes aren't predictable. Seatbelts are your best protection inside a vehicle and reduce your chance of being seriously injured or killed.

2. Lower Personal Injury Claims — if you're in a crash and weren't wearing a seat belt, it could impact the outcome of your claim. A defense attorney could claim that your injuries would have been less severe had you buckled up.

3. Hurting Your Passengers — When you don't wear a seatbelt, you will crash against the vehicle and possibly other people inside your vehicle, injuring them.

4. Psychological Consequences — crashes are violent. When you sustain an injury or see the crash result in another person's death, it can cause significant mental trauma and result in anxiety or PTSD.

5. Higher Medical Costs — Injuries without a seat belt are often more severe than those wearing one. This means higher bills, extended hospital stays, and potentially more extensive rehabilitation costs.

6. Long-Term Disabilities — injuries that



result from choosing not to wear a seat belt can lead to long-term disabilities that can impact your quality of life and ability to work.

7. Impact on Auto Insurance Rates — Receiving a ticket or being involved in a crash while not wearing a seat belt can drive up your insurance.

8. Reduced Effectiveness of Other Safety Features — Your vehicle is likely equipped with multiple safety features, such as airbags. If you aren't buckled in, your airbags will be far less effective in protecting you when you need them.

9. Impact on Loved Ones — Your decision not to wear a seat belt can quickly go beyond you. Whether severe injury or death, your family and loved ones will be left to cope with the trauma and financial expenses. This can also impact children, leading them to adopt your habits.

If those reasons don't convince you, you are breaking a law designed to protect you. You will likely be cited if pulled over

for another driving offense or involved in a property damage crash. Please know and respect the law by following the rules below.

10. Colorado's seat belt law.

Adults — Colorado has a secondary enforcement law for adult drivers and front-seat passengers. Drivers can be ticketed for violating the seat belt law if they are stopped for another traffic violation.

Teens — Colorado's Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) law requires all drivers under 18 and their passengers, regardless of age, to wear seat belts. This is a primary enforcement, meaning teens can be pulled over simply for not wearing a seat belt or having passengers without seat belts.

Children — Colorado's Child Passenger Safety law is a primary enforcement, meaning the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained or improperly restrained child under the age 18 in the vehicle



LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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

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

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

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



\$347,000.00

3 BR

1.5 bathrooms

CONTACT: LESLIE GORE

📞 19702753195

✉️ lesliegorealtor@gmail.com

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

U-HAUL TRUCK SHARING COMES TO C AND N STORAGE RENTALS IN DELTA

Special to the Mirror

DELTA — U-Haul Co. of Colorado is pleased to announce that C and N Storage Rentals signed on as a U-Haul® neighborhood dealer to serve the Delta community.

C and N Storage Rentals at 15004 G Road will offer essential services like U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment, and moving supplies.

Normal business hours are 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday; and 20 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday. Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (970) 399-1097 or visiting <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Delta-CO-81416/025774/> today.

C and N Storage Rentals owner Sheryl Serve and partners are proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself

moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Delta County.

U-Haul has teamed with independent dealers to offer rental equipment to do-it-yourself movers since 1945. During these challenging times for small businesses, more than 21,000 dealers across the U.S. and Canada are generating supplemental income through their U-Haul affiliation. When customers rent from a U-Haul dealer, they are directly supporting an independent small business in their community.

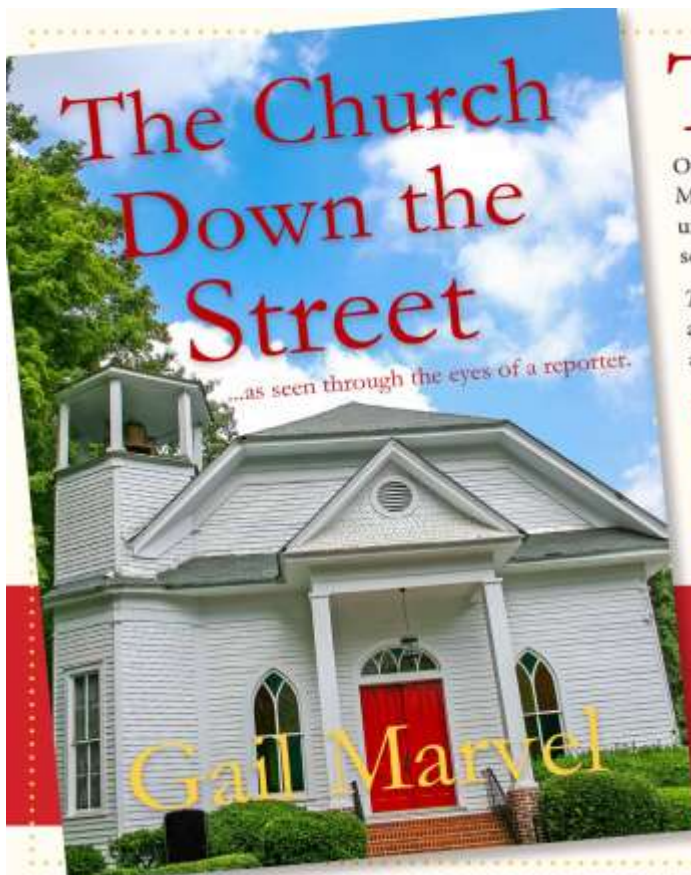
Because no financial investment is required to be a dealer, these local affiliates are not U-Haul franchises. They are simply small businesses that have committed a portion of their lot space for U-Haul equipment, and a portion of their time to help meet the mobility needs of their neighbors. Learn more about the dealer

program and how to join by visiting [uhaul.com/dealer](https://www.uhaul.com/dealer).

Need moving labor services with your U-Haul rental? Since 2002, Moving Help® has been the No. 1 choice of customers seeking labor for loading and unloading, packing and unpacking, home safe moving, piano moving, cleaning, and U-Box storage container services during their moves.

Customers choose the number of workers, hours, and service date needed from a network of 7,800 customer-rated local and independent Moving Help Providers across the U.S. and Canada.

Transparent upfront pricing is given, and payment release is subject to customer approval when the job is completed using Moving Help's patented payment code. Reserve moving labor services at [MovingHelp.com](https://www.movinghelp.com).



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



**ROGER "THE RINO" RASH HAS TEAMED
UP WITH FELLOW DEMOCRATS TO LEAD THE
CHARGE TO RECALL COMMISSIONER MIJARES

SURE WISH HE WOULD HAVE WORKED THIS
HARD WHEN HE WAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER**



Paid for by Anna Maymi

BEWARE MONTROSE



THE RADICAL LEFTIST'S ARE COMING
DO NOT SIGN RECALL PETITION

Paid for by Jeff Cooper

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ELAINE MARIA NELSON

January 14, 1942 – July 13, 2025



Life's journey on earth came to an end for Elaine Maria Nelson who passed away July 13, 2025 in Montrose, Colorado.

Elaine was born in Glendive, Montana on January 14, 1942 to Norvald and Myrtle

Nelson, the only daughter in addition to five sons. When she was nine years old, the family moved to Pomona, California. As an adult, she moved and lived in several cities in California, Colorado, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Elaine retired in 2003 after being employed 41 years in various administrative positions for companies located in California, Colorado and Kentucky. After retirement, she enjoyed traveling to and spending time with her family, and also traveling to places near and far that appealed to her. When she was home, she enjoyed doing craft work and pursuing ancestral research. Most of all, she cherished the time with her family. She was a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church and was active in the local Sons of Norway Lodge.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her son Ricky Magub, and her brothers Norman Nelson, LeRoy Nelson, Duane Nelson, Dennis Nelson, and Melvyn Nelson.

Elaine is survived by her daughter Laura (Bill) Albright of Olathe, CO; son Ken (Joy) Neu of San Ramon, CA, and son Jim (Tory) Neu of Glenwood Springs, CO. She also leaves behind her grandchildren Robby Wright (Phoenix, AZ), Anya Albright (Salt Lake City, UT), Donovan and Kristina Neu (San Ramon, CA) great-grandchildren Laura and Drake Wright (Phoenix, AZ), Ryder and Hadley Pinnock (Idaho Falls, ID), and great-great grandchild Oakley Wright (Crawfordsville, IN).

She had many friends that will miss her dearly, especially the Derby Drive Whine Time Group and the Sons of Norway Lodge.

The family would like to thank Hopewest Hospice for their exceptional care and extend a special thank you to the wonderful staff at Montage Creek Assisted Living who cared so much for Elaine during her time there.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

KELLI DAWN HEPLER

January 31, 1962 — July 2, 2025

KELLI DAWN HEPLER, aged 63 of Delta CO, passed away Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at home. At her side were her husband Bob, her daughter Asha and her dear friend Janne McLaughlin.

She was born January 31, 1962 in Boulder CO, the daughter of Ken Hepler and Jill Floberg. She experienced many moves and different schools in her formative years but ultimately graduated from Walnut High School in Walnut, CA.

She left CA and attended CMC in Glenwood Springs, CO where she graduated with an Associate Degree in Graphic Design. She started her own business-- Graphox Design and Advertising and was well known for her work. Most notably with the following, Agritourism Development, Cultural Heritage Tourism, Grand

Mesa Scenic Byway, Dinosaur Diamond Byway, West Elk Loop Scenic Byway, ALANTA, National Scenic Byway Foundation, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission, as well as a Colorado Tourism award winner.

In 1997, she and her husband Bob Marshall launched 'Prism Interpretive Services' which started a journey of many tourism projects in Western Colorado and beyond.

Kelli is survived by her husband Bob, of Delta, her son Tanner Burgess and wife Arica, grandchildren; Wyatt, Stetson, Maysa of Winifred MT, and daughter Asha Burgess, grandson; Aiden of Delta. Also survived by her sister Kris Cid (Mike) and a half-sister, Becky Chicken (Brent) and half-brother, Andrew, also a step-sister, Lois

Cox (Jaran)

Other survivors include step-father Dean Floberg and step-mother Linda Hepler.

Aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and many friends will mourn her loss.

A Memorial Celebration is being planned for later in September. Kelli loved the Grand Mesa and that's where we would like to gather to remember her and say our goodbyes.



ISSUE 531 July 21, 2025

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SOCIAL ANXIETY



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD

Greetings Mirrorites!

OLATHE-Business and social media is currently swamped by a recognition of a phenomenon called 'The Gen Z Stare'. Like many employers, I have been the recipient of this and have found it unsettling. A recent employee, an intelligent and well-educated man who is a young millennial, was the poster child for THE STARE. A great conversationalist when on a biology research topic he was conversant in, I consistently received a 'deer in the headlights' look when delivering the most basic of task instructions. I didn't find it rude, but the lack of any input left me wondering if my directions were clear. I needed some sort of feedback, like 'Yes Boss,' or 'Got It', or 'I'm On It'. I often did not check in with his understanding of the



task for fear of seeming condescending. Most of the time, he did get the gist well enough, but there were a couple of epic fails that could have been circumvented by a quick recap or query.

I now believe I was getting his equivalent of the Gen Z stare, which is occasionally intended to be passive aggressive, especially in teens, but in older Gen Z or younger millennials appears to be social anxiety-related.

This response to social inputs can happen to anybody of any age. Yours truly here has done it when peppered with questions by more than one person at a party.

But the preponderance of young people who do this is the noteworthy factoid. Most researchers agree that it is a complex behavior that has many mothers. Covid social isolation, excess screen time, excess social media exposure, anxiety, and even an emerging form of mild cognitive disorder have been blamed.

This tendency has real-world consequences for the young graduates and other job seekers who are denied good employment due to a lack of 'soft skills' such as the ability to respond verbally and appropriately or make socially lubricating small talk. Some mid-level managers have

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SOCIAL ANXIETY From previous pg

have quit their own positions rather than work with Gen Z. HR departments report that many of the businesses they answer to deliberately screen against Gen Z because of work ethics and communication miscues, such as THE STARE. This is a real bummer for all concerned.

I choose to believe that anxiety is at the root of much of this behavior, plus lack of good practice. As the old musicians joke goes... 'How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice!' Covid kept many young people from doing just that at a very brain formative age, and screen time makes it worse.

This is not the same thing as a shy, introverted individual being at a loss for words. Those folks tend to break off eye contact, stare downward, shuffle their feet, fiddle with their cuticles or other *displacement* behaviors. Rather, the staring individual seems to be having trouble processing an acceptable response. Whether because of a lack of interest in the interaction or a genuine loss for words, older people find this lack of response unnerving and even offensive. A researcher at [Vistage](#), a CEO coaching firm, Joe Galvin states "Similar to past trends such as "quiet quitting," the 'Gen Z stare' is more than just a viral buzzword; it is not a new problem, but it is a pervasive one, highlighting a larger issue in today's workplace: a growing generational disconnect in employee communication and expectations." Perhaps this is so for a lot of *disaffected youth*, to coin a term from my own 20s. But perhaps there is something less sinister and defiant happening. Maybe a large number just can't

help it.

Face-to-face interactions always contain an element of uncertainty in the face of potential judgments. "During these situations, individuals with social anxiety tend to worry about behaving in ways that will cause them to be judged by others or embarrassed. This includes worrying about acting in ways that lets others know they are experiencing anxiety, for example, blushing, trembling, sweating, stuttering, or staring" the National Social Anxiety Center writes. "Dubbed "the anxious generation" and "the loneliest generation," over 60 percent¹ of Generation Z (young people born between 1997 and 2012) report experiencing significant stress and anxiety, including social anxiety. So my premise about anxiety rather than just teen 'snottiness' appears to have statistical merit. Then there is another aspect that concerns me greatly.

Chronic sensory overstimulation (i.e., excessive screen time) during brain development increases the risk of accelerated neurodegeneration in adulthood (i.e., amnesia, early onset dementia). This is apparently of concern to other researchers such as those who published a 2022 article with the apocryphal title of *Digital dementia in the internet generation*. We won't know for a couple of decades whether our digital society has sown the wind and will reap the whirlwind.

There is little written at this point about time in nature to remedy a deficit in soft skills, but there is some. Gen Z survey respondents often identify pursuit of eudaimonia as superior to the pursuit of career-

driven achievement and place a higher value on nature than previous cohorts. The concept of eudaimonia refers to a sense of a life well-lived, as opposed to the pursuit of hedonic happiness, which is fleeting, addictive, and often empty. Gen Z's concept of well-being goes beyond simply feeling Disneyland happy. It encompasses a holistic view that includes authenticity, purpose, meaningful relationships, and a sense of contributing to a better world, often through meaningful hobbies and time in nature. These lofty values that I wholeheartedly share might indeed make it hard to connect to old (or simply older) farts that just want task compliance.

Gen Z is an extremely pro-nature and eco-conscious generation. For some job-seeking Gen Z folks it may seem a counterproductive waste of time, but scheduling regular and extended walks in nature with trusted friends and family could help land a dream job in the future. This activity will accrue different brain benefits to those of solo rambling, dog walking alone, or solitary gardening, and will not cure all social anxieties, but it is a very strong start. It supports Gen Z values of eudaimonia and work-life balance, while strengthening face-to-face social skills and communication patterns.

Bosses...get those Gen Z staffers outside at lunch in restorative environments as a group with no phones allowed, and Gen Z, get away from your computers and get your butts outside with your local besties! *Have a socially comfortable week, The Mindful Naturalist*



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

TASMANIAN POETS MASON & CONAN-DAVIES TO BE FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ON AUG. 5

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE- Coming to Telluride from Down Under, Tasmanian poets David Mason and Cally Conan-Davies will be featured presenters at Bardic Trails Tuesday Aug. 5 at 7 pm MST.

"David and Cally are a fine poetry team, both being exceptional writers and performers of their work," explained Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds Director. "We are excited to be hosting them from halfway around the world."

David Mason was born in Bellingham, Washington, and has lived in many parts of the world. He served four years as poet laureate of Colorado before moving to Tasmania in 2018.

His many books include *The Country I Remember* (winner of the Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award), *Ludlow: A Verse Novel* (winner of the Colorado Book Award), *The Sound: New and Selected Poems* and *Pacific Light*. Mason has also written four books of essays and co-edited several textbooks and anthologies. His libretti for operas by composers Lori Laitman and Tom Cipullo are all available on CD from Naxos. Mason's website can be found at <https://davidmasonpoet.com>

Cally Conan-Davies is an Australian poet who worked for years as a tutor and bibliotherapist before more years on the road in a camper van, including time in the US. Her poems have appeared in such periodicals as *Poetry*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Harvard Review*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Dark Horse* and *The Southwest Review*, and have been translated into Chinese. She has given readings and workshops in Greece, the UK, the US and Australia. Currently she lives in her native Tasmania, in a house near the sea.

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

September's featured poet will be Peter Anderson of Crestone; October Betsy Quammen (formerly a reporter for the old Telluride Watch when I was editor) will be telling ghost stories; November Beth Franklin of Boulder who runs the Colorado Poets Center will read; and December will bring CMarie Fuhrman of Idaho (and currently heading up the poetry program at Western Colorado University in Gunnison).

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

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

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

Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone



Tasmanian poets David Mason and Cally Conan-Davies will be featured presenters at Bardic Trails Tuesday Aug. 5 at 7 pm MST. Pictured above is Cally. Courtesy photo.

Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the West End Stories & Poems series in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library (moving from the third Sunday of every month to the second Thursday at 6 pm), a new live series in Telluride for the summer on the first Thursday of the month Art Walk at the Telluride Arts office across from the Wilkinson Library, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state Cantor Poetry Prize contest (both open for submissions), the Western Slope Poet Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction's Center of the Arts (given every two years), the San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte (just awarded to George Sibley of Gunnison), and the MycoLicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.

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NICOLASCARTER.COM

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SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT with Nicolas Carter & Joshua Messick

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CARTER**



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MESSICK**

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1840 Niagara Rd
MONTROSE, COLORADO



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RETREAT & CONCERT SHOWCASE HARPS & HAMMER DULCIMERS



Nicolas Carter will conduct harp workshops and perform at an evening concert. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE— Western Slope instrumentalists are invited to take part in a two-day retreat featuring musical workshops, networking, and dancing, followed by an evening concert. Beginning Friday, August 8 and continuing on Saturday, August 9, the retreat will be hosted by Robin Freed of the Montrose-based Harps and Hammers Music Studio. The Saturday evening concert will showcase the talents of Nicolas Carter and Joshua Messick.



Joshua Messick will teach hammer dulcimer and appear in concert. Courtesy photo.

The concert is set for 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 9, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1840-Niagra Road in Montrose. Retreat participants attend for free.

For all others, general admission tickets will be on sale at the door for \$20 with kids twelve and under admitted without charge.

The Presbyterian Church is also the site for the retreat. Dry camping is allowed at the venue. Set-up for those bringing harps, hammer dulcimers, and other instruments begins at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 8. That morning, Nicolas Carter will

conduct a workshop for harps. A session for hammer dulcimers and other instruments will be conducted at another location within the church. An optional Celtic dance class will also be offered with Laura Padgett as instructor.

At 5 p.m. on Friday, a dinner will take place during which participants can sign up to play solos or duets or perform in an ensemble during a post-meal "playing for each other" activity.

On Saturday, August 9, the day begins at 9 a.m. with set-up and tuning. Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Saturday workshops run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Carter will conduct harp workshops and Messick will provide hammer dulcimer. Lunch will be served at noon followed by participant jam sessions, one-on-one teaching, and another Celtic dance class. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. whereafter Carter and Messick will set up for their 7 p.m. concert. An after-party will follow.

Retreat participants pay \$150 for both Friday and Saturday, or \$120 for Saturday only. Lunch and dinners as well as tickets to the concert are included in participant fees. Organizers ask that participants RSVP by the end of July. Payment is due at the time participants check into the retreat.

For more details, including a list of what to bring and acceptable forms of payment, text or call Robin Freed at 970-275-8996 or email robin-freed@harpssandhammers.com.

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

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

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am. Fellowship following service. Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

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

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO'S CANTOR POETRY PRIZE CONTEST ENTERS 8TH YEAR

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program proudly offers statewide recognition and cash prizes for Colorado poets or poets writing about Colorado for the eighth year in a row.

"Whether promoting young poets or rewarding veteran word-slingers, our poetry contests have helped support a strong literary arts program and community on Colorado's Western Slope," explained Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes. "Participants not only buy into the contest lottery but support all our work with readings, zooms, live shows, local and regional laureates. Think of it as a gofundme tariff for non-urban arts."

This Colorado poetry prize began in 2018 in memory of the late Elaine Cantor Fischer. Elaine was a revered local political leader, supporter of the arts and painter. She helped start the Fischer Poetry Prize

29 years ago to honor her husband, attorney and poet Mark Fischer, who died tragically in his Forties while skiing the slopes of Telluride.

The Cantor Prize contest is open to English language poets of all ages living in Colorado or poets outside of the state writing about events or places in Colorado. First place prize has been increased this year to \$1,000 -- with five \$250 finalist prizes.

Contest organizers are sensitive to providing participants with more than just a spin at the poetry roulette wheel. Feedback on poems, explaining how far the poem progressed in the contest's eight-step review process and offering a brief critical scan, is available for an \$8 fee per poem.

Deadline for reception of submissions is Aug. 31, 2025.

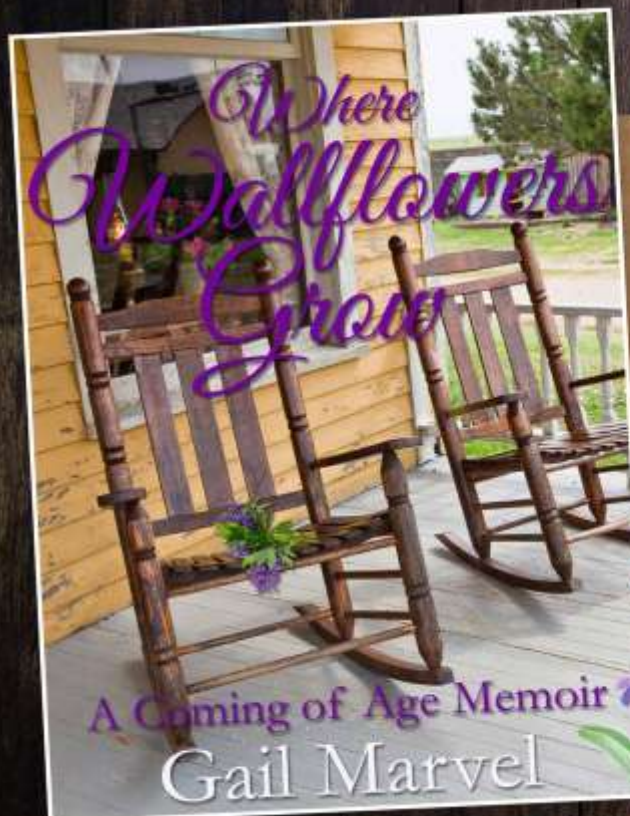
Final judge for this year's contest is the award-winning Colorado poet José "Tony"

Alcántara. He is the author of a debut poetry collection *The Bitten World: Poems* (Tebot Bach, 2022). His poetry has appeared in numerous publications, including *American Life in Poetry*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Ploughshares*, *The Southern Review*, and *America*, *We Call Your Name: Poems of Resistance and Resilience*.

His poem "Divorce" won the 2021 Neil Postman Award for Metaphor from *Rattle* magazine. And he has been a finalist in several Fischer and Cantor contests run by the Telluride Institute.

You can enjoy Tony performing his poem "Deep Ecology" for Bardic Trails Online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3784jKsG4&t=12s

The Cantor Poetry Prize contest is a project of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program. For more information, visit the website: tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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



The Satisfied Woman

THE HIDDEN COSTS OF PORNOGRAPHY: HOW IT DAMAGES MEN, RELATIONSHIPS, AND INTIMACY



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

In today's hyper-connected world, pornography is more accessible than ever—available instantly and endlessly. While society often treats it casually or even celebrates it as a form of sexual liberation, there's a growing body of

evidence—and personal testimony—that paints a very different picture, particularly for young men and their relationships.

Pornography is not just a guilty pleasure. For many, it quietly becomes a source of addiction, confusion, disconnection, and deep dysfunction.

It skews what's normal. For young men, porn is often the first exposure to sexuality. But unlike real intimacy, pornography isn't about connection—it's about performance. It portrays sex as a visual spectacle, focused on domination, objectification, and repetition, rather than mutual pleasure, creativity, or emotional depth. This also skews expectations. It teaches boys and men that women want what they see onscreen—that louder, rougher, or more extreme always means better. And that's not necessarily true. Sometimes, sure, but context and mood are the determining factors. The reality? Most women don't resonate with those portrayals—after all those women onscreen are paid to act like that—and many women feel pressured, compared, or even dehumanized by a partner trying to mimic that. What was meant to be an act of closeness becomes a reenactment of something designed for consumption, not connection. Ultimately, what you're left with is the erosion of intimacy.

At its core, great sex is built on true emotional safety, and genuine curiosity. It's a space where two people explore not just their bodies, but their deeper selves.

When pornography enters the space, it often replaces intimacy with imitation. Basically “monkey see, monkey do.”

Rather than discovering what turns you or your partner on through conversation, exploration, and shared vulnerability, porn encourages scripts and awkward disconnect. You perform acts because you've seen them, not because they arise from authentic connection or desire. Over time, this performance mindset can chip away at the emotional closeness that makes sex meaningful and fulfilling, leaving resentment and dread in its wake. Women don't want to be bent into a pretzel and repeatedly banged into a headboard. Sorry, guys. No matter how loud she sounds—maybe check and see if you're giving her a concussion, or maybe your elbow is on her hair. Not to shoot your horse, but that's where connection and awareness comes in—again.

For many men, especially those introduced to porn during adolescence, the damage is subtle but profound. It can desensitize—not just physically, but emotionally. What once thrilled loses its edge, leading some down increasingly extreme paths in search of stimulation. Gen X-ers, remember Michael Hutchins from INXS? Auto-erotic asphyxiation. He hung himself on accident, on a doorknob. In a hotel. Ignominious end, to be sure.

In addition to the desensitization, it can create compulsive habits that isolate and distract. Partners become points of comparison, not people. Their bodies, desires, and responses are judged not on what's real, but by whatever programming they've received.

This breeds insecurity and performance anxiety—not just in the bedroom, but in how men view their own masculinity, or how women view their desirability. If sex becomes a performance, failure feels personal. If connection is reduced to conquest, relationships become fragile and transactional. Also? It's just boring.

Porn doesn't just objectify women; it

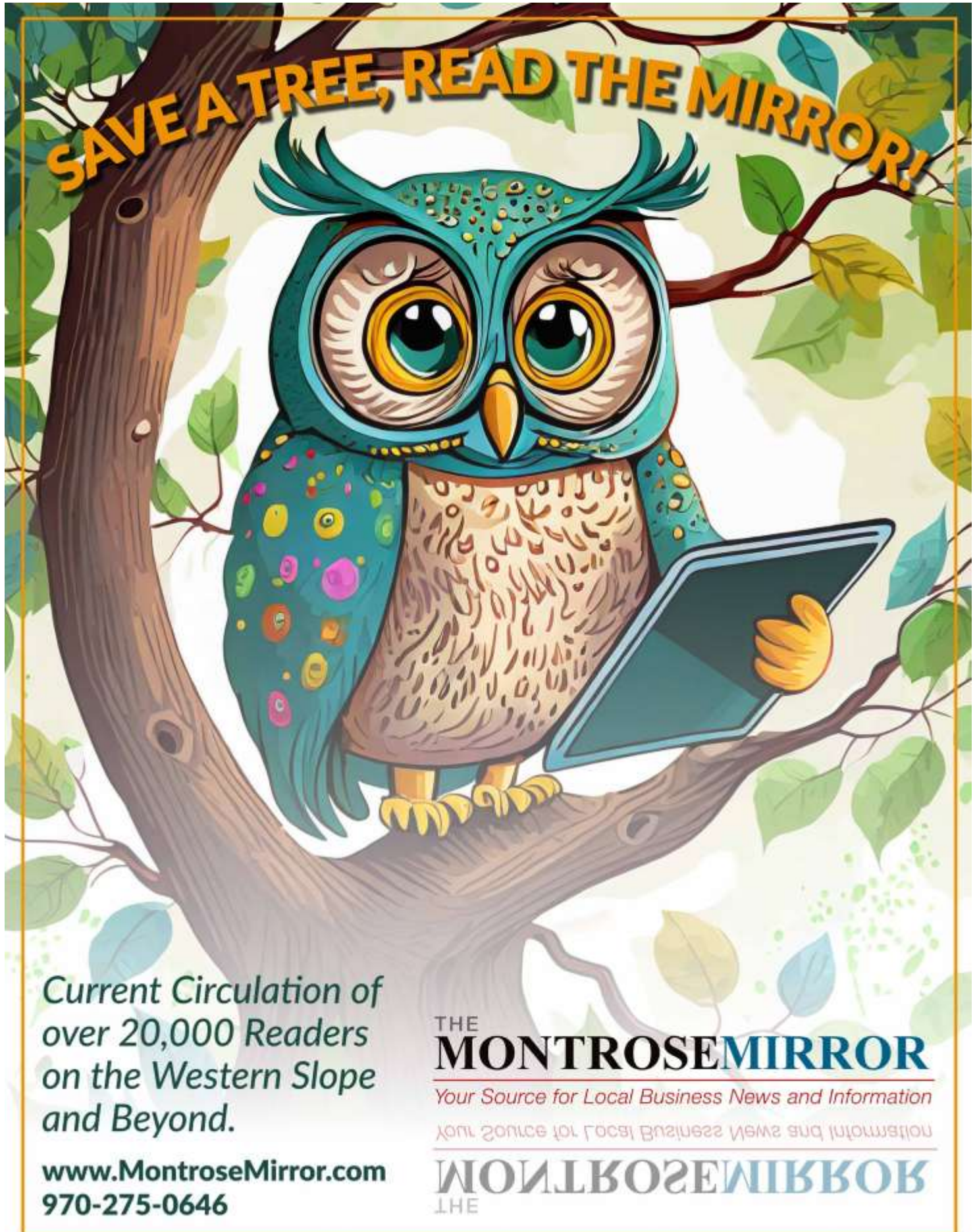
commodifies them. In fact, it commodifies desire itself. It takes one of the most sacred, tender aspects of being human and packages it as a product. Think about it. That's pretty gross. You don't need vulnerability or patience or empathy—just bandwidth.

And that has consequences. It reshapes how men understand pleasure, replacing mutuality with control, creativity with repetition, and intimacy with imitation. Sex doesn't have to be boring to be meaningful. It can be kinky, wild, playful, or intense. But the best sex—the kind that nourishes rather than depletes—that toe-curling, mind-blowing, ‘I-think-I'm-deaf-in-one-ear’ kind of sex emerges from a place of comfort, communication, and shared curiosity. It's about discovering each other, not comparing each other to some weird fantasy. When two people feel safe and seen, they can explore together without pressure or pretense. They can tune into what actually feels good—not just what looks good on a screen. That's not prudish—that's powerful. And I'm not saying role-playing isn't ok. That's fine, if it's actually your thing, and comes from a mutual interest or desire to explore.

Pornography promotes artificial excitement, but often delivers emptiness. It creates illusions of pleasure while quietly stealing the conditions that make pleasure deep and lasting: connection, trust, and presence.

For men—especially young men—reclaiming your sexuality means reclaiming your ability to connect. It means seeing women as partners, not performers. And it means rediscovering that real sex is not about living up to an image, or pretending to be something you're not. It's not about staring at the pillows, feeling dead inside, but rather, coming alive with someone else. If she's considering the color of the ceiling, you're definitely doing it wrong. Level up, bro.

The truth is you deserve better than what porn offers. And so does she.



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1:00-3:00 pm in the Cantina

With Kate Burke
Open to the public



2 Pots and Paint
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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

July 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

Aug. 24- The Fortuna Tierra Club is hosting the tenth annual Log Hill Hustle, Fun Run and fundraiser on Sunday, August 24 at 8 AM starting and finishing at the Divide Ranch and Club Clubhouse at 151 Divide Ranch Circle, Ridgway, CO 81432. This year to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Log Hill Hustle, we are providing t-shirts. Please visit <https://www.fortunatierra.com/> to register and find out more information about the Fun Run. Fortuna Tierra's major fundraiser provides scholarships for Ridgway secondary school graduates.

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

PUBLIC ART IN BLOOM DOWNTOWN



One Downtown alley mural is complete (Flower mural behind Studio 14 and Heirlooms Store is by Artist Jesse Melanson of Truckee, California) and another is in progress at Demoret Plaza, thanks to the City of Montrose Mural grant program, which operates under the City's development and Revitalization Team (DART). To hear Melanson discuss his artwork, view the video on the City of Montrose website. Photos are by Harry Switzer.



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