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BOCC APPROVES APPOINTMENT, CONTRACT FOR INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER DURING SPECIAL MEETING ON JULY 21

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—On Monday, July 21, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a special meeting. All commissioners were present, as was County Attorney Julie Andress.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Julie Andress asked to move General Business Item Two, “consideration and appointment of David White as Interim County Manager on a contract basis and approval of the Chair’s signature on a contract for services between Mr. White and the County, as approved by Counsel,” to follow the Executive Session, allowing for discussion with legal counsel. The proposed contract is included in the special meeting packet.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 38-2025, extending the



The BOCC convened for a special meeting on July 21. Screenshot.

Continued pg 3

PROJECT 7 REFINES RESILIENCY STRATEGY



Contracted for Project 7’s Water Supply Resiliency Project are (L to R) Deputy Project Manager Miles Graham and Program Manager Rick Huggins. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL—The July 24 meeting of the Project 7 Water Authority was called to order by Chair Jake Foreman; Kevin Carlson attended by Zoom, all other all board members were present in person. The minutes of the June 26, 2025 meeting were approved; there were no changes to the agenda, and no public comment.

Manager’s Report – Adam Turner

Consumption Report – June 2025 Turner said, “We’re right on track with 2024. There is one and a half million gallons difference through the month. Normal June usage.”

Cash Flow Report – June 2025 Turner said, “This includes the extra 50 cents per 1,000 gallon [rate increase making it] \$200,000 over June [2024] water sales. Interest income is down \$18,000. Expenses are tracking with 2024 as well.

Continued pg 10

[Carole Ann McKelvey’s Rocky Mt. Cravings!](#)

[Friends of Youth & Nature: 100 Things to Do Before You’re 12!](#)

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

[Church Directory! Calendar of Events!](#)

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the Montrose Mirror



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

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Michael Albert Collage Art Program

**Wednesday, July 30
12-1:30 PM
Library Meeting
Room**



American Pop Artist Michael Albert will be bringing his nationally renowned "Modern Pop Art Experience" to Montrose. The "Modern Pop Art Experience" will include a short presentation with the artist and a hands-on collage workshop. The program finishes with a FREE POSTER GIVEAWAY & SIGNING - Mr. Albert brings about 21 different prints for the each participant to choose from as a special gift for coming to the event.

Everyone is invited to this event especially kids, teens, and their families.

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MONTROSE REGIONAL
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BOCC APPROVES APPOINTMENT, CONTRACT From pg 1

the 2025 local disaster emergency declaration, as reviewed by counsel.

Commissioners voted to ratify the Approved Multi-County Letter of Support regarding the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation Project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOCC entered into Executive Session for Legal Advice Pertaining to Contract for Services. Also present for the session were County Attorney Julie Andress and Human Resources Director Leslie Quon.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Upon returning to regular session, BOCC Chair Scott Mijares moved to approve the appointment of David White as Interim County Manager on a contract basis, and to approve the Chair's signature on a contract for services between Mr. White and the County. Section 2A2 of the contract was stricken.

Commissioners voted to approve the final General Business item in a two to one vote, with Commissioner Sue Hansen opposed, appointing David White as Interim County Manager on a contract basis and approving the Chair's signature on a contract for services between Mr. White and the County, as approved by Counsel.

BOCC Chair Mijares said, "We'll go ahead and present the contract to Mr. White..."

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2025 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District (MCSD) Board of Education consists of seven dedicated volunteers elected to serve four-year terms. This year, four seats are up for election in Districts A, C, E, and G. Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

Seats Up for Election:

- District A – Neisha Balleck (Eligible for re-election)
- District C – Alice Murphy (Eligible for re-election)
- District E – Sarah Fishering (Term-limited)
- District G – Stephen Bush (Eligible for re-election)

Individuals interested in running for a board position can pick up candidate petitions beginning Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 8 AM at the MCSD District Office (930 Colorado Ave.).

For questions or additional information, please contact Laurie Laird at 970-252-7902.

COLORADO STATE PATROL NEWS RELEASE

Body Found Along Highway 50 Near Starr Nelson Road

Colorado State Patrol

DELTA COUNTY- The Colorado State Patrol, after a thorough investigation, was able to determine: On July 6, 2025, at approximately 4:27 a.m., a 2008, yellow and black Chevrolet Cobalt was driving westbound on Highway 50 near the location of the pedestrian involved crash. Later in the day, the Chevrolet was located at the registered owner's home in Delta and it had damage consistent with an auto pedestrian collision. This included significant damage on the hood and windshield.

After investigators completed multiple interviews with people associated with the Chevrolet and the residence, it was determined that Karin Leal-Ruiz (DOB: 11/15/2000) and Valentin Guelta (unknown DOB) were the occupants of the Chevrolet at the time of the crash. After the collision with the pedestrian, both of them returned to their residence in Delta and possibly left the area in another vehicle.

The investigation also uncovered surveillance video of the driver of the Chevrolet Cobalt on the morning of the crash. On July 6, 2025, at 4:13 a.m. the Chevrolet is seen leaving the owners' address and arrives at a Maverik gas station at 4:16 a.m. Screenshots from surveillance video captured the driver entering the gas station to pay for the gas. A passenger can also be seen sitting in the front seat of the Chevrolet. The Chevrolet departs the gas station at approximately 4:21 a.m., traveling westbound on Highway 50 towards the location of the collision with the pedestrian, seven miles west of Delta.

Based on further interviews, the driver of the Chevrolet was identified as Karin Leal-Ruiz and the passenger as Valentin Guelta.

If anyone recognizes the suspect, knows the whereabouts of the other occupants, or has any information on the case, please contact the Montrose Regional Communications Center at 970-249-4392 and reference case # VC250223. Be prepared to leave your contact information for a return phone call.



Surveillance video still.
Colorado State Patrol
courtesy image.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL HAS RESPONDED TO 1,600 ANIMAL-INVOLVED CRASHES SO FAR IN 2025



Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—Earlier this summer, in June 2025, Colorado State Patrol launched an education and enforcement campaign, “Give Me a ‘Brake’” to help reduce wildlife–vehicle collisions. As the campaign comes to a close at the end of July, troopers want drivers to be aware that there is no “off-season” for wildlife in Colorado.

Last year, animal-involved crashes were the third most common crash factor among all crash types (fatal, injury, and property damage). Troopers investigated 3,573 of these crashes. Ninety-six percent of the crashes caused property damage only to the motorist, but the wildlife often did not survive.

Now, looking at 2025 Colorado State Patrol crash data, troopers have already responded to 1,600 animal-involved crashes from January 1 to July 17, 2025. While the majority (1,525) were property damage, 63 caused injuries and two were fatalities.

“Drivers in the mountain communities know to expect wildlife, but these animals can show up in more unexpected locations everywhere in our state,” explains Col. Matthew Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Two of the most tragic

crashes this year happened on C-470.”

On July 11, at approximately 11:25 p.m., a motorist traveling westbound on C-470 between University Boulevard and Quebec collided with a moose. Three other vehicles also hit this large animal, with one vehicle losing control and causing fatal injuries to the driver.

On July 20, at approximately 5:53 a.m., a motorist traveling eastbound on C-470 near Kipling Parkway swerved to avoid a deer, went off the road and rolled. The driver sustained fatal injuries.

Driving presents unpredictable hazards, including wildlife crossing our roads. In another area of Jefferson County, Colorado State Troopers joined forces with the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office to conduct weekly enforcement on Highway 74 this June. Their efforts aimed to reduce speeds and increase awareness of how to spot wildlife and what to do in the event of an encounter.

On four Saturdays in June, 31 motorists were stopped on Highway 74, resulting in 20 speeding citations being issued. The purpose of the enforcement operations was to warn drivers to slow their speeds and stay alert during this high-activity

season for elk calves traveling with their mothers.

While dusk and dawn are the most common times for wildlife-vehicle collisions, they can and do happen at all hours of the day. Colorado State Troopers want to encourage drivers to keep speeds down and increase knowledge on how to spot wildlife and what to do.

Troopers wanted to share these practical tips from Wild Aware and their [Wild Eyes Program](#):

1. Scan roads (or shoulders) for movement, look for eye shine.
2. Use bright lights at night when safe and flash lights at oncoming cars to warn of wildlife on the road.
3. Do not honk at wildlife in/near the road.
4. Brake if possible. Then use your hazard lights until the animal moves out of the way.
5. If you cannot stop safely, do not swerve – drive straight through. Try to hit the animal from the side, rather than from the front.
6. Don’t exceed the speed limit. Speed increases damage and injury in the event of a crash.
7. More than anything, maintain control of your vehicle.

Wildlife-vehicle collisions can be very costly to drivers. According to the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association, the insurance industry pays nearly \$1.1 billion yearly in claims for all wildlife collisions nationwide. The average property damage cost of these crashes is estimated at over \$3,000.

If you are involved in a crash with an animal, Colorado State Patrol wants you to call 9-1-1 just as you would in any other emergency. In addition, if you witness wildlife in distress from possibly being struck on or near the side of the road, call *CSP for the proper resource to be notified and sent to the scene.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FORMER LA PLATA COUNTY JAIL COMMANDER CHARGED WITH 117 COUNTS OF INVASION OF PRIVACY

Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

DURANGO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation has charged a former La Plata County Jail Commander, Edward Aber, 62, with 117 counts of Invasion of Privacy for Sexual Gratification, a Class 1 Misdemeanor, and one count of First Degree Official Misconduct, also a Class 1 Misdemeanor. These charges stem from an investigation initiated on January 2, 2025, when the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was contacted to assist the La Plata County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation into Aber, who was promoted to Jail Commander in 2018 and granted administrative access to evidence.com in 2019, focused on his alleged inappropriate viewing of sensitive video footage. Aber was placed on administrative leave in July 2024 following allegations of unlawful sexual contact with female inmates and the sexual harassment of numerous female employees. While no charges were filed regarding the alleged sexual contact with inmates, Aber resigned in July of 2024 during the sexual harassment investigation.

Investigators believe 117 different female inmates' strip search videos were allegedly accessed and viewed by Aber, multiple times, between February 14, 2019, and January 14, 2024.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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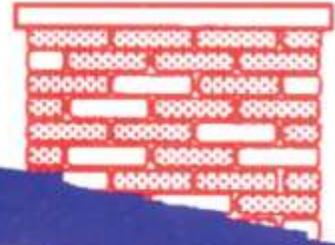
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PROJECT 7 REFINES RESILIENCY STRATEGY From pg 1

We spent about the same as this time last year. Admin is up quite a bit over last year and that is [due to] how much we've spent on legal over the previous years. Debt service will be paid in August."

Process Control – June 2025 Turner said, "It's slightly above the seven year average. Water quality numbers are right where they should be. Looking normal. The checks and deposits are in your packet." A written manager's report with more up to date information (snowpack, reservoir water levels) was handed out.

Updates: Referring to the Black Canyon South Rim Fire Turner said, "This is a good wakeup call with one lightning strike. We dodged a bullet before it got out too far and got to the Gunnison Tunnel. The East Portal and Crystal Dam, there is a half mile area that drains down into the river. Gunnison will send a team out to see if the runoff will impact the water. They will look at the debris flow and the runoff and how that is going forward. With the DOLA [Colorado Department of Local Affairs] we had four entities represented here and how to pursue State money in this climate. We have the \$500,000 grant paperwork done and can draw on that when we decide to move forward. The BLM [Bureau of Land Management] permit we got this week; it includes the environmental assessment. It's not light reading, it's 276 pages. There is no drop-dead date on when we have to start, but overarching it is 10 years."

Turner alerted the board to an upcoming Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) project that will take place on Cedar Creek in front of the old dairy north of town. He said, "They will slide about 70-80 feet of culvert under our line. Make sure [your] emergency plans are ready to go; make back-up plans with emergency connections. The best laid plans. CDOT will let us know when they will work. It will take about three weeks for our part of the project. If they jiggle that pipe the wrong way, it will put a lot of people out of water." Turner's report included needing to sign an extension for the audit and rejoining the CoWARN System, which is a mutual aid agreement between utilities.

Legal Update – Attorney James Silvestro (Zoom). Silvestro updated the board on



During the July 24 Project 7 board meeting, Manager Adam Turner pointed out the location of the recent Black Canyon South Rim fire. Turner said, "This is a good wakeup call with one lightning strike. We dodged a bullet before it got out too far and got to the Gunnison Tunnel." Photo by Gail Marvel.

three informational items: the Fiscal Operations Policies, Standard Contracting Template for Professional Services, and HDR Contract for Program Management. He said, "The Bylaws are 40 years old, they haven't been updated in 40 years. We'll have a full draft on Fiscal Operation Policies in August. Right now, Rick Huggins does not have a contract with us. Last month Greg Swartz with D.A. Davidson was given a two-month [contract] extension."

Background: Rick Huggins, Program Manager for P7's Water Supply Resiliency Program, was under contract when he worked for Garver, but has left that firm and is now working for HDR. Huggins requested the board make the HDR Contract an action item.

City of Montrose representative David Bries said, "Are there any [cost] limitations to Project 7? We should know the limits."

Huggins said, "That would be hard for me [to determine]."

Silvestro said, "It's the chicken and the egg problem."

Chipeta Water Representative John McCollum said, "I'd like to know what the

expenses are going to be with HDR."

Tri-County Water Representative Vicki Ripp said, "How can he say what he's going to charge?"

McCollum said, "He knew what he was going to charge when he was with Garver."

Bries said, "I'm trying to define guardrails. Is it half a million, or \$150,000? We can adjust this every other month. I'm reluctant where we are going."

Speaking to Huggins, Ripp said, "Throw out a number."

Huggins said, "\$150,000 is completely reasonable."

Action: The motion passed with the amendment to not exceed \$150,000.

Resiliency Program Update:

Three Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's) will be needed for operations. IGA 1 – Raw Water (Tri-County and Project 7)

IGA 2 - Finished Water (Tri-County, City of Montrose, and Project 7)

IGA 3 - All members of Project 7 are signatories

With a number of smaller projects, rather than one big project, the Resiliency

PROJECT 7 REFINES RESILIENCY STRATEGY From previous pg

Project is made more affordable, but because of cost escalation over a longer period of time, it is not cheaper.

Cost Allocation Study Update – Hazen and Sawyer

During a 23-slide PowerPoint presentation the board was given three cost allocation options to review. All options (Average, Base & Peak, and Minimum) have Montrose with the highest cost percentage, followed by Tri-County. During the August meeting the board will select the cost allocation method.

The projected cost of the project is \$7,775,480. Tri-County is the most complex of all the entities and cost allocation consideration needs to include their current infrastructure. During a previous meeting it was noted that Tri-County's infrastructure would benefit from improvements and proposed upgrades that are required for pumpstations.

D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz (Zoom) said, "The cost allocation is methodology, not related to debt. We will not go out and issue debt. We will come back in September with estimated rates."

Permitting and Communications Update:

Deputy Project Manager Miles Graham said, "There are no community outreach discussions scheduled."

Project 7 Background:

Established on September 29, 1977, the Project 7 Water Authority is a cooperative among seven water entities that provide domestic water to the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley.

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

- The City of Montrose
- The City of Delta
- The Town of Olathe
- The Tri-County Water Conservancy District
- The Chipeta Water District
- The Menoken Water District
- The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).

Resiliency Program:

The Resiliency Project, which was first presented in 2023, is to build a second water treatment plant south of Montrose that would have direct access to Ridgway Reservoir. The project continues to change and evolve. As larger contracts (design/build/construction) are allowed to expire,

new contracts with a focus on smaller phased-in projects are expected to be put in place.

Project 7 Board meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, begin at 4:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are available on Zoom.

Project 7 Contact Information:

- The seven entities that represent the Project 7 Water Authority are:
- The City of Montrose Utilities Director David Bries 970-240-1484 dbries@cityofmontrose.org
- The City of Delta Mayor Kevin Carlson 970-874-7566 kevin@cityofdelta.net
- The Town of Olathe Mayor Jake Foreman 970-323-5601 ja-cob.foreman@geocities.com
- The Tri-County Water Conservancy District Vicki Ripp 970-874-5127 in-fo@tricitywater.org
- The Chipeta Water District John McCollum 970-209-5137 jmc-collum@rvemontrose.com
- The Menoken Water District Randy Meaker 970-249-5118
- The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).

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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ARMANDO SALDATE JOINS THE CBI AS ITS NEW DIRECTOR

Special to the Mirror

LAKEWOOD – The Colorado Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce Armando Saldate III as the new Director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. He will oversee nearly 400 CBI employees across Colorado devoted to serving victims and solving cases through criminal investigations, forensic laboratory services and the management of criminal justice information.

In his new role, Saldate will carry out the CBI’s mission to be the state’s leading resource of exceptional law enforcement assistance to local, county and state criminal justice agencies. Saldate is a relationship builder who will maintain effective communication with our law enforcement, community, and policymaking partners.

Most recently, Saldate was the Executive Director of the Denver Department of Public Safety. Director Saldate oversaw the Denver Police Department, Denver Fire Department, Denver Sheriff Department, Denver 9-1-1 and Community Corrections. Director Saldate is a long-time law enforcement professional, having started his career in public safety as the top police recruit with the Phoenix Police Department in 1993. While with Phoenix PD, Saldate focused on gang violence reduction and was deputized as a Special Agent and US Marshal with the FBI’s Phoenix Division. While in that position, he was a member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and completed assignments with the Counter Terrorism Information Center, Organized Crime Bureau Intelligence Unit, FBI Violent Gang Task Force, Dignitary Protection Unit, and others.

After relocating to Colorado, Saldate joined the Denver Sheriff Department (DSD) as a senior investigator, and later served as a supervisor in DSD’s Data Science Unit and as the Civilian Commander in the Internal Affairs Bureau before eventually being appointed as Denver’s Public Safety Director.

Saldate replaces interim director Rebecca Spiess, a law enforcement executive with decades of experience, who stepped in when former Director Chris Schaefer retired in May, after a 30-year career in law enforcement.

Saldate becomes the 12th director in the history of the CBI dating back to 1967. His first day as Director will be July 28, 2025.

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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

I STAND WITH COMMISSIONER SCOTT MIJARES

To whom it may concern,

I stand firmly behind Commissioner Scott Mijares. He's a principled conservative who stepped up when Montrose County needed leadership most. His service makes the Montrose community stronger.

Scott doesn't just talk about values, he lives them. He makes tough calls, challenges the status quo, and puts what's right ahead of what's easy. That courage is rare in politics, and it's exactly what we need now. He's here to represent the people, not chase power or popularity.

I respect his honesty, convictions, and unwavering commitment to Montrose County. He's a leader of integrity, the kind this community deserves.

It's disappointing to see his leadership attacked for political reasons. From day one, a small group opposed him, not for any wrongdoing, but because he represents change. Now, they're trying to overturn the voters' decision with a recall.

I stand firmly with Commissioner Scott Mijares. I believe in his leadership, trust his values, and support his efforts to keep Montrose County rooted in strong, conservative principles.

Yours truly,

Larry Don Suckla

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United States Postal Service

UNITED STATES-The United States Postal Service is a marvel of the modern age and of the cumulative experience of 250 years. The everyday story of connecting Americans near and far by mail is meticulously depicted in the artwork for a stamp set now being released by the USPS: 250 Years of Delivering. Offering a bird's-eye view of a bustling town, each individual stamp is a frame of sequential art that tells the story of a mail carrier's journey as she walks her daily route. Chris Ware created the stamp artwork and co-designed the pane with Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS.

Also, the U.S. Postal Service has launched the Stamp Encore contest, offering the public a chance to vote on any of 25 pre-selected, previously issued stamps as part of the 2026 stamp program.

The public can go to StampsForever.com/vote to cast votes and put a "stamp" on an upcoming release. Voting will take place from July 23 to Sept. 30. Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the [Postal Store](https://PostalStore.usps.com/shopstamps) at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through [USA Philatelic](https://USAPhilatelic.com), or at Post Office locations nationwide. For officially licensed stamp products, shop the [USPS Officially Licensed Collection on Amazon](https://USPSOfficiallyLicensedCollectiononAmazon.com).

Additional information on stamps, First Day of Issue Ceremonies and stamp-inspired products can be found at StampsForever.com.



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

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

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

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

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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.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLINIC RELOCATING TO 70 STAFFORD LANE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Delta Health Occupational Therapy Hand, Lymphedema and Speech Clinic is relocating to Building D, where the Delta Health Pulmonology Clinic is currently located, at 70 Stafford Lane, Suite A in Delta, starting on Monday, July 28.

Occupational Therapy was previously located at the Delta Health Orthopedics Clinic on 257 Cottonwood Street in Delta.

“We’re excited to move our Occupational Therapy services to a new, expanded location where all of our rehabilitation services will eventually come together under one roof,” said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, and Chief Executive Officer for Delta Health. “This move allows us to offer a more integrated, convenient and collaborative experience for our patients—ensuring they receive the highest quality of care in a setting designed for healing and progress.”

The Occupational Therapy Clinic plays a critical role in helping patients in a number of areas, including regaining lost mobility, motor skills and function. They provide treatments and exercises to relieve pain, teach the use of adaptive equipment to improve a patient’s independence and quality of life, and more. The speech therapists help patients with written, verbal and nonverbal communication skills.

“Our Occupational Therapists provide remarkable care for children and adults of all ages,” said Manuel Delgado, MS, PT, Director of Rehabilitation Services and Sports Performance at Delta Health. “With compassion and skill, our team successfully helps our patients get back to the life they love. They work closely with their patients and create a comprehensive plan of treatment that aligns with the patient’s goals. We are excited to continue growing and to be relocating to this new space.”

For more information, visit <https://deltahealthco.org/rehabilitation-therapy/> or call 970.546.0104.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING MR. DAVID WHITE TO OUR TEAM

Editor:

I am pleased to announce that the Montrose Board of County Commissioners has selected Mr. David White as our Interim County Manager. Mr. White was chosen after careful deliberation by the board. While the vote was not unanimous, the majority of the board felt he was an excellent choice to lead our county operations—and here’s why.

Mr. White brings with him 16 years of experience in Colorado government, including 12 years in Montrose County. He served as a City Councilman in Colorado Springs from 1989 to 1994, then went on to serve on the Montrose City Council from 2004 to 2008, including a term as Mayor. In 2008, he was elected as a Montrose County Commissioner, serving two four-year terms and completing his tenure in 2017.

We are fortunate to have attracted a candidate of Mr. White’s caliber. His extensive experience, institutional knowledge of Montrose County, and strong working relationships with staff will be a tremendous asset to the Board of County Commissioners.

I look forward to working with Mr. White over the next three months—and possibly beyond—as he takes on this important role. Please join me in welcoming Mr. David White to our team.

Scott Mijares

Chair, Montrose Board of County Commissioner



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

contact me



MICHELLE KLIPPERT

BROKER ASSOCIATE
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PRIVATE CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH CAN ONLY TAKE US SO FAR

Editor:

The nascent cultivated-meat industry is in a funding drought. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from live-stock cells, without slaughter. It offers a number of animal welfare, public health and environmental benefits. Given this drought, I was thrilled to see some private investment in an American facility re-searching cellular agriculture, while re-maining aware significant public funding is necessary to unlock cultivated meat's full potential.

GEA, a German company, opened its New Food Application and Technology Center in Janesville, Wisconsin on July 17. Among other things, the \$20-million facility in-cludes pilot-scale infrastructure for cell cultivation, precision fermentation and plant-based food processing. It expands on an existing GEA campus at the same location. The facility will actually be the company's second such center. The first was opened in Hildesheim, Germany a couple of years ago.

"The food industry is at a crossroads," said the CEO of GEA, Stefan Klebert, in a statement. "To feed future generations sustainably, we must turn vision into scal-able reality. Our new center in Janesville is a key milestone on our shared journey — both for our customers and for us as a company. With this investment, we are helping our customers scale up the pro-duction of novel foods such as precision-

fermented egg white and cultivated sea-food."

In North America, GEA boasts 1,600 em-ployees at 16 locations engaged in testing, training, service, sales and manufacturing. The Janesville center will add more high-skill jobs, including those in scientific and engineering roles, to the total of 74 em-ployees already working at the company campus there.

Further, construction of the facility sup-ported approximately 500 contractors and subcontractors, and will continue to boost the region's economy.

"This facility reflects how Janesville's rich agricultural and industrial heritage can intersect with cutting-edge innovation," said Jimsi Kuborn, Economic Development Director for the city of Janesville. "It not only honors our community's roots, but also creates new opportunities for part-nerships, workforce development, and sustainable growth. This project is a mod-el for what's possible — not just for Ja-nesville, but for the entire Midwest and beyond."

As great as these kinds of private invest-ments in cellular-agriculture research are, they are no substitute for robust public funding of the same, for a variety of rea-sons. Private research generally isn't shared, requiring a duplication of efforts, as each group of scientists is forced to 'reinvent the wheel,' so to speak. Beyond this, cultivated-meat development is a

long-term process, generally a poor match for private interests seeking a quick return on investment.

A mature cellular agriculture could help relegate battery cages, gestation crates and livestock trucks to a less-compassionate past. Since animals aren't required for cultivated-meat production, the risk of zoonotic viruses making the jump to humans and causing a global pan-demic would be greatly reduced. Similarly, scientists believe the new protein will eventually require a fraction of the green-house-gas emissions needed to create slaughtered meat.

Political leaders who care about animal welfare, public health and environment — which should be all of them, in my view — should support a massive increase in state and federal funding for cellular-agriculture research. Such resources will help over-come the remaining technological hurdles to mass production of cultivated meat at a competitive price. Let's build public re-search centers dedicated to this goal at every agricultural college in the United States.

Jon Hochschartner

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MULTIPLE WORK ZONES ON CO 151 ADD TO TRAVEL TIME BETWEEN IGNACIO & CHIMNEY ROCK *Plan for delays and slower speeds July 28 to 30*

Special to the Mirror

LA PLATA & ARCHULETA COUNTIES— In addition to the extensive resurfacing and culvert repair work that has been occurring on Colorado Highway 151 (Mile Points 12 to 26) since mid-February, CDOT maintenance crews will pave a short segment of CO 151 just north of the project boundaries from Monday, July 28, through Wednesday, July 30. Motorists should allow for up to 30 minutes of additional travel time between Allison and the US 160 Junction, near Chimney Rock National Monument.

Traffic Impacts

Maintenance Paving Operations: CO 151 (MP 31 to MP 32)

- Daytime work hours range from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Wednesday
- Motorists should plan for 10 to 15 minute delays
- Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by temporary traffic signals and a pilot vehicle
- Motorists entering the highway from a driveway or intersection must wait for a pilot car before proceeding with the flow of traffic

Resurfacing & Culvert Improvement Project: CO 151 (MP 12 to MP 26)

- Daytime work hours range from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday
- Motorists should plan for 15-minute delays
- Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel
- Work will consist of paving operations and guardrail installation
- For more project information, visit: www.codot.gov/projects/co151resurfacinglaplata

All work is weather-dependent. Motorists are encouraged to check the most current traffic impacts on CO-trip.org.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

NORTHERN COLORADO COUPLE PLEADS GUILTY TO FENTANYL DISTRIBUTION LINKED TO DEATH OF A MINOR

U.S. Attorney's Office-District of Colorado

DENVER – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announces that Destiny Salazar, age 22, and Gabriel Orozco, age 23, both of Weld County, Colorado, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute fentanyl and to distribution of fentanyl.

According to the plea agreements, Salazar and Orozco used cellphones, Facebook, and email to sell fentanyl pills to a variety of customers. They referred to the pills as "blues," "30s," "percs," "perxs," and "yerks" on Facebook. They also used their various devices and accounts interchangeably, with Orozco sometimes responding for Salazar on her account.

The plea agreements further state that the defendants engaged in a series of transactions with an individual on July 24th, 2021, who purchased six pills in total from Salazar and Orozco. This individual shared the pills with a minor female, who died shortly thereafter as a result of fentanyl intoxication. Both defendants and the individual who purchased the pills were aware they contained fentanyl.

Salazar and Orozco continued to conspire and distribute fentanyl through at least March 2022, when they were arrested on burglary charges. At the time of their arrest, they possessed distribution quantities of fentanyl, according to the plea agreements.

United States District Court Senior Judge John L. Kane presided over the hearing.

Salazar will be sentenced on October 21st, 2025, and Orozco will be sentenced on October 23rd, 2025.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Greeley Police Department, Brighton Police Department, Weld County District Attorney's Office, and the Weld County Drug Task Force. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brad Giles.

Case Number: 24-cr-310-JLK

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MONTROSE REGIONAL

CRIME STOPPERS

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ONE SELFISH ACT CAN LEAD TO HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—The choice to drive impaired can have long-lasting effects. Colorado has strict DUI laws and severe penalties for those convicted, including community service, also known as “useful public service.” The number of court-ordered community service hours a sentence includes depends on a driver’s previous convictions.

“For a first-time offense, a driver will be required to perform 48 to 96 hours of useful public service,” stated Chief Matthew C. Packard, Colorado State Patrol. “Probation typically monitors the completion of those hours, and you will need to check with the court to ensure that the organization qualifies under their rules before you begin volunteering.” Finding an organization that is both suitable and willing to accept someone convicted of a DUI can be a challenge. In addition, a person convicted of DUI may be required to pay a fee to cover insurance and the operational costs of the community service program. The court will impose a time requirement to complete the volunteer hours. If a person cannot finish



on time, he will need to ask the judge for an extension, or a non-compliance report will be submitted to the court and a hearing scheduled. The judge may remand the person who does not complete the required hours by the deadline to jail or issue additional fines or add more hours of community service. “The cost of completing these volunteer hours may go beyond a person losing some of their free time,” explains Col.

Packard. “ An organization may be very specific about when or what they need. It is not uncommon for a person to miss work time to complete the needed hours.” If a driver is convicted of a second (or beyond) offense, the sentence will include 48 to 120 hours. The best way to reduce the impact of DUI is not to get one in the first place. Plan ahead for a sober ride.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RECALL IS AN ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT THE WILL OF MONTROSE VOTERS

Editor:

A week ago a host of Russia hoax documents were referred to the Department of Justice for criminal investigation. Those documents show that Obama, Biden, Clinton, Comey, Brennan, Clapper, and Rice et al colluded in an attempt to subvert the will of the American people after the 2016 election.

Since the November 2024 election, Democrats have again tried to subvert the will of the American people by organizing an ongoing Resistance to Trump's administration. It becomes painfully clear that the Democrat Party is willing to promulgate any lie to retain political power. Is there any reason that our local Democrat party is any different than its Washington masters? Absolutely not!

The current Recall Mijares Petition being circulated is but a reflection of the politi-

cal idiocy that we see going on in Washington DC. As I noted in a Letter To the Editor last week, threats of a recall only began after Commissioner Hansen lost her power as Chair of the BOCC. Then with the resignation of County Manager Rodriguez she threw gasoline on the smoldering recall flame and blew it all out of proportion. Never mind that she Caddy, and Rash had made the very same move last fall with Jon Waschbush.

It becomes painfully obvious that she fans the flames of the Recall. Disgraced Montrose RINOs and the Democrat party joined her in this attempt to subvert the will of Montrose voters who strongly supported the election of Mijares.

The petition itself exposes the ignorance of those behind it by charging Mijares with actually following county protocols for transparent government. This attempt

is nothing but a poorly veiled power grab. Last week I was approached by one of the recall gatherers who was anxious to have my signature on the Recall Petition. I inquired as to the reasons why I should consider signing and I got standard talking points. When I pressed for more detailed information the individual was unable to verbalize anything approaching a coherent argument, pleading a need for more specific information I declined to provide a signature.

If you are not fully aware of all that has transpired within our County Government over the last two years and are accosted by a petition gatherer, the best course of action is to politely decline adding your name on it to the list of those intent on subverting the will of Montrose voters who elected Scott Mijares .

Dee Laird, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM DON R. GLADWELL

Dear Editor,

I respectfully disagree with Don R. Gladwell's recent letter opposing David White's appointment as Montrose County Manager. Mr. Gladwell's arguments rely on misrepresentations and fail to acknowledge White's extensive qualifications and dedicated service to our community. Montrose deserves a fact-based discussion about this decision, and White's record speaks for itself.

Proven Leadership and Qualifications

David White is a respected leader in Montrose with a robust history of achievement. As a local business owner for over 25 years and a public servant for more than a decade, White has honed skills in budget management, operational efficiency, and strategic planning, qualities essential for the county manager role. His tenure as a county commissioner from 2004 to 2012 showcased his ability to navigate complex fiscal and administrative challenges, leaving a legacy of prudent governance.

Correcting the Hospital Restructuring Misconception

Mr. Gladwell inaccurately attributes the 2013 hospital restructuring to White and Ron Henderson, alleging it cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands. While there was a restructuring of the Hospital under White, Henderson and Ellis' tenure, public records tell a very different story than Mr. Gladwell's series of events. Fast forward to the true dereliction of public duty when we look at the hospital real estate transfer overseen by Commissioners Keith Caddy, Roger Rash, and Sue Hansen in March 2022, long after White's term as commissioner ended. County minutes document that the transfer involved real estate valued at approximately \$10 million, with no compensation to taxpayers, a decision driven by the commissioners at the time,

not White. During his tenure, White's contributions to the hospital project helped lay the foundation for Montrose Regional Health's current success, evidenced by its 2024 patient satisfaction rating of 4.3 out of 5 stars, according to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data. His focus was on ensuring long term stability, not the subsequent transfer. However, Rash, Caddy and Hansen literally gave the Hospital (some say illegally) away with absolutely no compensation to the taxpayers who actually owned the real estate --for zero compensation!

Appointment Process Aligns with Colorado Law

The claim that White's appointment undermines democracy is unfounded. Per Colorado Revised Statutes 30-11-107, the county manager is an appointed position, not an elected one. Commissioners Scott Mijares and Sean Pond adhered to legal protocol in selecting White, whose credentials include over 12 years of public service and leadership in the Montrose Rotary Club. Since 2015, White has helped raise over \$75,000 for local initiatives, including youth programs and infrastructure projects, according to Rotary Club financial reports. This appointment reflects a commitment to merit-based leadership, not a circumvention of democratic principles.

Collaborative Governance, Not Domination

Mr. Gladwell's assertion that White will dominate decision making disregards Montrose County's governance structure. The county manager operates under the direction of the Board of Commissioners, ensuring checks and balances. White's collaborative track record speaks volumes: as a key contributor to the Montrose Economic Development Council from 2018 to 2022, he facilitated the creation of 175

new jobs and attracted \$12 million in capital investment, per council annual reports. These accomplishments demonstrate his ability to work effectively within a team-oriented framework.

Defending Commissioner Mijares' Record

The call to recall Commissioner Mijares overlooks his significant contributions to Montrose. He championed the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Resolution, passed in July 2025, this resolution rectified the misappropriation of funds by the previous BOCC approved by voters in 2007, ensuring those resources are now allocated as intended for public safety. A measurable achievement that advances Montrose's interests, not the "nonsense" Mr. Gladwell claims.

A Forward-Looking Choice for Montrose

David White's appointment as county manager is a step toward experienced, principled leadership. His fiscal responsibility, community engagement, and proven ability to deliver results make him an outstanding choice. I urge Montrose residents to evaluate this decision based on verified facts, not misinformation, and to support our county's continued progress under White's capable stewardship. The claim of being a "Life-Long Republican" holds about as much water as a bucket with a hundred holes in it. It means nothing! It comes down to the values you hold true. I don't know what values Mr. Gladwell holds as I don't know him personally.

But I do know that Ronald Reagan was not a lifelong Republican, nor was Donald Trump. Both men started out as members of the Democrat Party. So, the claim of being a lifelong Republican is not a prerequisite or requirement of loyalty to conservative values, commitment is.

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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HARP AND HAMMER DULCIMER CONCERT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On August 9th, Harp and Hammer Dulcimer Concert, Saturday, 7 p.m., featuring Nicolas Carter and Joshua Messick. \$20 at the door, children are free and mention the Mirror to save \$5. At the First Presbyterian Church, 1840 Niagara Road. More information, Robin Freed, 970 275 8996.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado announces that a grand jury has returned a superseding indictment charging Lori Ann Kimball, age 52, of Castle Rock, with one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and 23 counts of money laundering.

According to the superseding indictment, individuals other than Kimball built fake online relationships with victims to gain their trust and convinced them to send money to Kimball in the form of wire transfers, checks, or cash.

Despite being warned by law enforcement about the nature of her conduct, Kimball continued to carry out illegal financial transactions, including transferring over \$3.4 million she received from victims between January 2023 and February 2025 to cryptocurrency accounts in her own name, before eventually transferring her cryptocurrency holdings to digital wallets belonging to overseas individuals.

Kimball also provided false information to banks and cryptocurrency exchanges to conceal and disguise her activity.

During her involvement in this conspiracy, Kimball utilized at least 20 bank accounts and at least 9 cryptocurrency accounts.

The superseding indictment further alleges that on multiple occasions, Kimball knowingly conducted financial transactions involving more than \$10,000 in proceeds from mail and wire fraud. It also alleges that, to conceal and disguise the illegally obtained funds, Kimball used a variety of methods, which included moving money via cashier’s checks and cash between bank and cryptocurrency accounts, structuring cash deposits to avoid scrutiny, withdrawing funds from accounts under investigation, opening new cryptocurrency accounts as others were flagged, splitting transactions across platforms to evade limits, and requesting multiple smaller cashier’s checks instead of a single large one.

The charges contained in the superseding indictment are allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This case is being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Craig Fansler.

Case Number: 1:25-cr-00054-CNS

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH AT MRH'S ANNUAL BLOOD DRAWS AND HEALTH FAIR *Affordable lab work and free screenings offer peace of mind and early detection*



Montrose Regional Health Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – For over 36 years, Montrose Regional Health (MRH) has helped thousands of people gain life-saving insights into their health at reduced costs. This summer, MRH's Health Fair and early blood draws return, giving community members a convenient, affordable way to take charge of their well-being and catch potential health issues before they become serious.

"Each year, we hear powerful stories of people who discovered significant health concerns thanks to our Health Fair—and were able to take action before it was too late," said Leann Tobin, Chief Ancillary Services and Marketing Officer at Montrose Regional Health. "Whether you are watching a chronic condition or just want to stay on top of your health, this event

empowers you to live a healthier, longer life. Although, please remember the blood draws and health fair do not take the place of your annual visit with your healthcare provider. We encourage all participants to get guidance on which blood tests to have from them."

Why Attend?

Low-Cost Blood Tests: Find out important numbers like cholesterol, blood sugar, thyroid levels, and more for a fraction of regular costs. Knowing your numbers today can help you prevent bigger health problems tomorrow.

Free Screenings: Take advantage of free checks for oral cancer, skin cancer, and hearing health. These are quick tests that could make a life-changing difference.

Expert Guidance: Talk directly with healthcare professionals who can answer

questions and share practical tips for living healthier.

Community Connection: Explore wellness booths, giveaways, and helpful health resources.

Early Blood Draw Dates and Locations: Friday, August 2: 4H Event Center, Ridgway (7–10 a.m.)

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

Wednesday through Saturday, August 6 to 9: Montrose Pavilion (6:30 – 9:30 a.m. daily)

Note: Walk-ins will not be accepted on August 6 or 7. Registration is required for those dates.

Online registration is encouraged at montrosehealth.com/healthfair to help reduce wait times and make check-in smoother for everyone.

Health Fair Details:

Date: Saturday, August 9

Time: 6:30 – 11 a.m.

Location: Montrose Pavilion

The free Health Fair will feature affordable blood draws, free screenings, wellness booths, giveaways, and local food trucks. For those looking for a tasty bite or beverage after their screenings, participants can visit The Grill Good Gravy Boat, Twisted B's Soda & Teas, and Cakes Baby. MRH extends sincere thanks to our 2025 sponsors: Alpine Bank, Avient, Mountain West Insurance, and TEI Rock Drills.

For those getting blood draws, a 12-hour fast is recommended. Participants should drink plenty of water, and if using a hormone cream or hormone sublingual tablet, do not apply or take it on the morning of your bloodwork.

For full event details and registration, visit montrosehealth.com/healthfair. Those needing help with registration can also call 1-800-217-5866.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BARACK OBAMA IS BEING DISCLOSED AS BAD ACTOR

Editor:

The Russian collusion hoax is being unraveled before our eyes. The principal bad actors are being revealed and Barack Obama is being disclosed as the main culprit. Recently declassified documents paint an ugly picture that delivers a death blow to all Democrat narratives about what occurred. Those documents confirm that Obama and his inner circle weaponized intelligence to sell a false Russian collusion narrative and then engaged in intentional media leaks to create chaos for the incoming Trump administration. Obama ordered an "Intelligence Community Assessment," which concluded that Russia didn't influence the election. That report was never published. A day after finding out that the Russians did not impact the election, Obama called a meeting of his co-conspirators in the White House Situation Room. The topic to discuss: Russia. A more fitting title for the meeting could have been: "There is no credible evidence to conclude Russia's influence in last month's election – so let's conjure up some false accusations." Obama ordered his inner circle to come up with a new assessment to prop up the unhinged hysterics about Russian collusion that the media was all-too-happy to facilitate. The Steele Dossier, a knowingly false opposition research project paid for by the Hillary Clinton campaign, was included in the report and then leaked to the press. New files reveal that career intelligence analysts were aghast that the higher-ups at the FBI and CIA wanted this document included, let alone for it to be a significant portion of the main body text. The Russian ruse was fabricated based on nonexistent Russian interference – under Obama's direction.

Some coups take the form of military takeovers -- this one involved a conspiracy at the highest levels of the Obama administration – including Obama, CIA Director John Brennan, FBI Director James Comey, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, and Hillary Clinton. We have elections so the people can decide how they want the nation to be governed. While there are always a good many people who are unhappy with the outcome, most sane Americans accept the will of the majority because they believe in our Constitutional system. By conspiring to undermine the duly elected President of the United States, Obama and his crew not only destroyed America's trust in our justice,

electoral, and intelligence systems, they threatened this nation's very existence. It is ironic that the person and the party perpetually lamenting the state of the American democracy are the ones who attempted to circumvent the will of free people by trying to undermine a democratic election.

Most Americans believe that criminals should pay for their crimes, and are hoping for accountability. Most find it absurd that Obama and company have thus far not only gotten away with what many see as abject treason, but have the audacity to lecture us that "No one is above the law." The Russian hoax is easily the biggest scandal in U.S. history, and in a just world, those guilty of perpetrating the hoax would spend years in prison. Recent history, however, has confirmed that the world is not fair – as evidenced by Biden and son accepting multi-million dollar kickbacks from our enemies, the blatant coverup of Biden's dementia, the Hunter Biden laptop fiasco, Hillary and Bill's million dollar "speaking fees" and "donations" to their family foundation, Hillary as Secretary of State approving the transfer of 40% of this country's uranium reserves to Russia, Hillary's unlawful private server while Secretary of State, and much more. All were accomplished with no consequences whatsoever. It seems doubtful that this country will ever prosecute the current batch of Dem conspirators, even though their crimes included, at a minimum, obstruction of justice and seditious conspiracy, and very likely treason. The public's distrust of our federal government agencies will deepen, and Americans will see that, once again, justice is unevenly applied, favoring the left wing elite.

That opinion is pretty bleak, but there is at least one significant positive outcome to consider. Some portion of the 19% of Americans who currently approve of the Democrat party will be so turned off by all of this that they will finally see the light and abandon what was once a great party. The fact that many Democrats still believe the Russian collusion hoax, even though it has been repeatedly debunked, means that no amount of evidence of Democrat malfeasance will sway some on the left. The only people that will continue to support the party will be: federal government employees who logically don't want to lose their cushy, overpaid, and do-as-little-as-possible jobs; illegal immigrants who want the American taxpayer

to support them; multi-generation welfare recipients who have swallowed the Left's victim propaganda; the idiots that have accepted the socialist utopian fantasy that is totally rooted in historical ignorance; the Democrat politicians like AOC, Bernie Sanders, and Zohran Mamdani who preach that philosophy; college professors who know they couldn't make it outside of their academic bubble and preach hatred toward America; former and current Democrat politicians who continue to enrich themselves and their party through their NGO's and "foreign aid" slush funds; anti-Semites that have been welcomed into the Democrat "Big Tent;" those who celebrate abortion though nine months for any reason; male athletes who can't compete with men but think they have a right to compete with women; teacher's unions who want to maintain their monopoly and protect their failures; and transvestites who seem to like being around children in our libraries. The divide between the political Left and Right will continue to deepen, but the Left will continue to lose its significance as more and more people accept that Democrats have absolutely nothing positive to offer the American people. Democrats' desire to maintain political power by any means and at the expense of the well-being of the electorate will become more and more obvious. Here are a couple of things I found funny this week.

Nothing Dems have tried in Trump's first six months has worked. They tried swearing a lot; they tried having margaritas with illegal immigrant gang members; they tried encouraging their supporters to get violent; they tried nominating Communists for elected office. In desperation, they just posted an inflation chart titled "Trump's America." Unfortunately, even a casual observer could see that the graph clearly showed Biden's inflation catastrophe and Trump's total success in that area, both in his first term and thus far in his second. Oops. The tone-deaf WNBA players showed up at their all-star game with "Pay us what you owe us" jerseys. This is a league that drew in only \$200 million last season compared to the NBA's \$10 billion. The WNBA has had a net loss of \$40-50 million per year, in spite of the NBA subsidizing them to the tune of \$15 million annually since the WNBA's inception. Hmmm.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN THE NORTH FORK VALLEY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA — The Delta Police Department is thrilled to announce its participation in the North Fork National Night Out, on Tuesday Aug. 5, 2025 at the Delta County Fairgrounds. This is a county wide event aimed to strengthen bonds between law enforcement and community members, fostering a safer, more connected Delta and neighbors.

National Night Out is a nationwide annual community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work.

“At the Delta Police Department, we believe that strong communities are built on strong relationships. When neighbors know one another and trust their local

law enforcement, we’re all better prepared to work together towards a safer and more connected Delta. National Night Out is a powerful opportunity to build those bonds.

We invite everyone to come meet the officers who serve you, connect with agencies from across the county, and learn how you can get involved in making a difference right where you live.” —

Shaylee Mangum, Community Policing Coordinator, Delta Police Department

This year’s event brings together multiple agencies from across Delta County for an evening of community connection, safety awareness, and family fun.

Participating agencies include:

- Delta Police Department
- Hotchkiss Police Department
- Cedaredge Police Department

- Paonia Police Department
- Delta County Sheriff’s Office
- Hotchkiss Fire Department
- Paonia Fire Department
- Cedaredge Fire Department
- Delta Fire Department
- North Fork EMS
- Delta County Ambulance District

In times of crisis, these are the teams and departments that work side-by-side to protect and serve Delta County. National Night Out provides a unique opportunity for community members to meet and engage with the professionals behind the badge and learn more about the vital work they do every day.

Event Details:

Date: Aug. 5, 2025

Time: 6 to 8pm

Location: Delta County Fairgrounds

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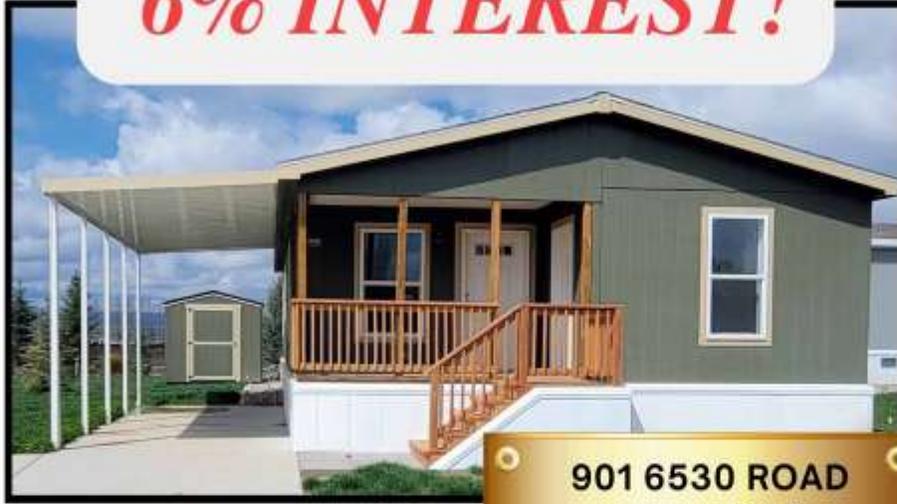
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COLORADO'S RACE TO THE BOTTOM

Editor:

Montrose County, a stronghold of Colorado's conservative heartland, is being swept into the state's far-left spiral, eroding the rugged individualism that defines this region, just look at the forces behind the current recall of commissioner Scott Mijares. And while this article is not about the recall itself, it is about the overall trend we are seeing throughout Colorado and yes, even here in Montrose County. The transformation, sparked by the 2012 Rocky Mountain Heist, has turned a county known for its independent spirit into a battleground for radical policies. As Colorado's legislature pushes a socialist vision rivaling the former USSR, Montrose County's freedoms, from property rights to free speech, are vanishing like a beach under tsunami waves.

According to our very own State Representative, Larry Don Suckla, the Colorado legislature's recent session unleashed **540 new laws** on Coloradans, a staggering assault on individual liberties that hits Montrose County hard. These laws prioritize ideological purity over practical governance, undermining values cherished by locals. Stringent gun control measures threaten Second Amendment rights, vital for Montrose residents who rely on firearms for protection and recreation in this rugged landscape. The proposed reintroduction of wolves, framed as wildlife conservation, is a red herring masking broader regulatory overreach. These policies, alongside environmental mandates, suffocate ranchers and farmers, imposing restrictions on water usage and land management that devastate their livelihoods. Property rights, a cornerstone of Montrose's heritage, are under siege, with zoning laws and wildlife regulations limiting what landowners can do with their property.

The wolf reintroduction plan exemplifies

how conservationism is weaponized to erode Western freedoms. Sold as ecological restoration, it imposes burdensome rules on ranchers, who face livestock losses without adequate recourse. These regulations, crafted in urban centers like Denver and Boulder, ignore Montrose's rural realities, deepening the divide between Colorado's urban elite and its rural heartland. Small businesses, from feed stores to diners, grapple with a regulatory labyrinth that stifles growth, while farmers face mandates prioritizing abstract environmental goals over their survival. Residents feel their way of life, rooted in self-reliance, is under attack.

The roots of this shift trace back to 2012, when the Rocky Mountain Heist brought an influx of outside money and Leftist influence to Colorado. Montrose County, once a conservative bastion, has not been immune. While the county remains more conservative than urban centers, the creeping tide of Leftist policies reshapes local governance. County officials, pressured by state mandates, implement regulations clashing with Montrose's values. From restrictive land-use policies to wildlife management rules, the state's leftward lurch threatens a county that prided itself on minimal government interference.

This race to the bottom betrays Montrose County's heritage. Residents who valued autonomy now navigate a landscape where state-driven mandates encroach on daily life. The right to bear arms, critical in a county where rural isolation demands self-defense, is curtailed. Economic freedom, vital for small businesses sustaining Montrose's economy, is stifled by red tape. Free speech faces subtle threats, as state regulations on public discourse creep into local communities under the guise of safety or inclusivity. The wolf reintroduction, while seemingly benign, adds another

layer of control, further decimating the freedoms of the West through regulations that prioritize ideology over practicality.

The consequences for Montrose County are profound. If this trajectory continues, the county risks losing its identity as a haven for independent thinkers and hard-working families. Economic vitality, strained by overregulation, could falter, pushing businesses and residents to states that value liberty. Montrose's agricultural heritage, a source of pride and stability, faces existential threats from policies favoring urban agendas and wildlife conservationism over rural realities. The county's tight-knit communities, built on mutual trust and minimal government, could fracture under centralized control.

Montrose County stands at a crossroads. The state's rush toward a socialist utopia, cloaked in initiatives like wolf reintroduction, threatens to erase the freedoms defining this region for generations. Without resistance, Montrose risks becoming a shadow of its former self, where government dictates replace individual choice. Residents must rally to preserve their heritage, pushing back against state overreach through local advocacy and voting for leaders who prioritize liberty. If Montrose County is to remain a beacon of Colorado's independent spirit, the time to act is now, before the tsunami of Leftist policies, masked as conservation, washes away what makes this county unique.

We must resist this tyrannical onslaught of intrusions on our liberties, which is fundamentally altering our way of life in a manner that will make California seem like a deeply conservative state by comparison! Wake up, Colorado, and wake up, Montrose! Our future is at stake! This is not a drill; this is reality, and it is profoundly serious. We cannot take it lightly!

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Citizen-Montrose, CO



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS IN FULL SWING

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY--- Summer's long days bring out the best in anything that grows in the ground. From household gardens in the east end to the county's abundant agricultural operations in the west end - sunshine, rain and irrigation systems promise flowers, fruits and vegetables and, unfortunately, noxious weeds. San Miguel County's Vegetation Control & Management (VC&M) staff are in the thick of the busiest time of the year with a months-long itinerary of noxious weed management projects.

Target areas include county-owned and maintained parks, trails and other properties, in addition to known areas county-wide where noxious weeds persist. This June the department, headed by manager Julie Kolb, has treated and sprayed in the Disappointment Valley and Egnar areas. Her team has also tackled the County Road & Bridge gravel pits at Deep Creek, Klondyke and Norwood where disturbed soils lend themselves to the introduction and establishment of numerous species of noxious weeds. There are 32 noxious weeds present within the county, with 6 species prioritized for eradication including Chinese Clematis, Dames Rocket, Leafy Spurge, Oxeye Daisy, Spotted Knapweed and Yellow Toadflax.

County-maintained trails and parks are not spared vigorous treatments each summer. Crews have worked at Mill Creek Park and Down Valley Park, as well as several trails, including Whiskey Charlie, the Galloping Goose Connector and the

Remine Creek Trail. The county's most persistent weeds include Oxeye Daisy, Yellow Toadflax and several others. Many trails, and other recreational areas require several applications per year.

At the San Miguel County Fairgrounds, crews strike early, before noxious weeds emerge. All acres of the fairgrounds are treated, including the ballfields and playground to facilitate many recreational uses. The Department has many additional areas it manages in addition to SMC maintained areas, such as the Telluride Airport, Town of Telluride and private Gravel Pits. Recently the VC&M Department also added USFS areas, and a Conservation Core project to rid an area in Dry Creek Basin of Tamarisk. The VC&M Department works hard to complete these treatments throughout the year.

"Summer is prime time to throw everything we've got at noxious weeds in the county," said Kolb. "Ideally, where we apply treatments, we can stop or slow the growth and proliferation of any number of species that destroy native habitat, threaten wildlife survival, contribute to wildfire issues, threaten crops and livestock and decrease property values. Although some of these species are quite beautiful, they are all invasive and detrimental to many areas and none of these species have natural predators."

Recently, San Miguel County Vegetation Control and Management, accepted a contract with the U.S. Forest Service, where Kolb's crews tackle problem areas in Beaver Park, Deep Creek and other

USFS areas.

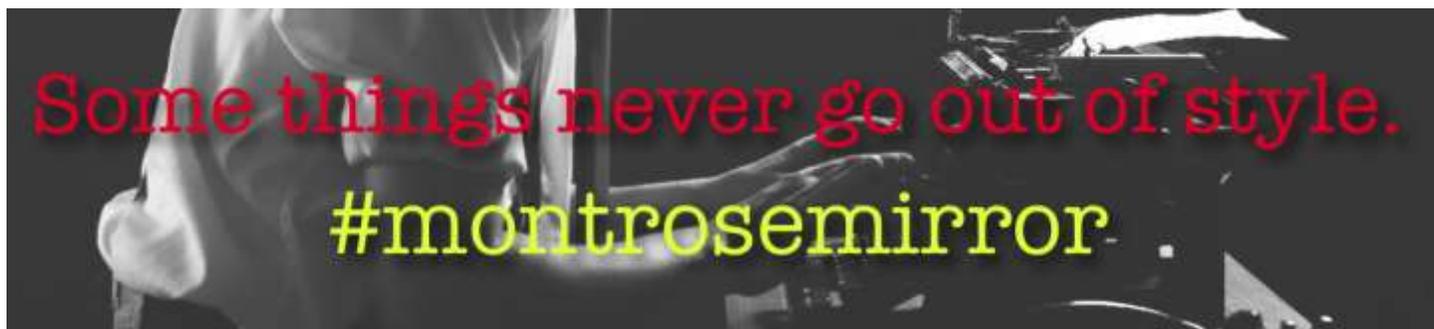
New contracts include the United Gravel Pit in Norwood and the America the Beautiful Project. This project aims to reduce proliferation of Tamarisk in Dry Creek Basin, which includes BLM and CPW areas, and will keep the department busy well into the fall.

Kolb's work does not end in San Miguel County, as her services and expertise are shared with Ouray County. Given the scope of the work performed and her small crews, the success of the treatment programs is noteworthy.

"We're grateful for Julie's efforts in combating noxious weeds in San Miguel County," said County Parks & Open Space Director, Janet Kask. "It's a Herculean task that we all take very seriously."

San Miguel County's Vegetation Control & Management office provides a number of services to assist property owners with noxious weed control, including identification tools, noxious weed management plans for a nominal fee, direct assistance through a cost share for priority noxious weeds, educational programs, identification of weeds on private property and more. County Vegetation Control & Management urges all County residents to manage any weed infestations with elimination in mind. Noxious Weed management is a community effort. Please do your part.

For more information, please contact Julie Kolb, Manager, Vegetation Control & Management at 970-327-0399, or juulik@sanmiguelcountyco.gov.





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Was \$169,000, Now \$149,000
3 bedroom
2 bathrooms

CONTACT:

- 📞 19702753195
- ✉ lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com
- 🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



Home For Sale!

22 Ryegrass Court
Montrose, CO 81403

MLS# 822819



scan for
virtual tour



About The Property :

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

Offered At:
\$434,900

Property Features :

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



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CENTURY 21

Elevated Real Estate

500 E. MAIN STREET
MONTROSE, CO 81401

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY: BATTLING CLIMATE CHANGE

By Tony Hoag

Citizens Climate Lobby

MONTROSE-Climate change is happening quickly, yet incrementally at a pace where if you are not paying attention you may not notice. Drought, loss of lower elevation aspens and rising temperatures are facts of our lives in Western Colorado. Fortunately, there are people tracking green house emissions. 'ClimateTrace.org' indicates that the Uncompahgre Valley emitted 1 million tons of greenhouse gases (GHG) into our atmosphere in 2023. But it seems as if few people have noticed or care to recognize the changes.

Here in the Uncompahgre Valley we have been facing variable intensities of droughts over many years so it seems like drought is the norm. But an article in the *Montrose Daily Press* this summer (June 28) reports 'Water engineer Bob Hurford has a chart he often shares with communities in the Gunnison River Basin to drive home the seriousness of the region's water conditions. It shows that the basin's runoff in the 2020s, so far, is worse than the Dust Bowl era of the '30s. We are fighting for water along the Colorado River as the initial allocations of acre feet of water occurred at a time much more water flowed down the river. This fight is not over and as our rain and snow fall decline we will continue to have less water running in our rivers or storing in our reservoirs. Another obvious marker of climate change is loss of lower elevation aspen trees. I was driving on Grand Mesa and witnessed many dead trees in a once beautiful aspen forest. The Uncompahgre



Lower Elevation Aspen trees dying on Grand Mesa June 2025. Courtesy photo.

National Forest predicts that we will lose up to 95% of our Ponderosa Pines and Aspens by 2050 where they exist now. What about temperature hasn't it gotten hotter here in Montrose? One hundred years of data collected in Montrose shows the average temperature has risen 3.6 degrees, the Western slope is heating up faster than any other part of the State and the top 10 hottest years in the Uncompahgre Valley have occurred in the last 12 years. So is it not only getting hotter it is getting much drier. This heat stress dries out our forests leaving the trees without enough sap to fight off bugs and pathogens that kill them. Climate change is happening all around whether or not we recognize it. Some may

say there is nothing we can do about it, it's a natural recurring phenomenon that happens on this Earth. That may be partially true, but what about the effect of the air pollution we have emitted from the burning of fossil fuels that has resulted in the concentration of pollutants in our upper atmosphere creating the green house effect? Is there something we can do about these green house gas emissions? Will it save the planet? I don't know. Is it worth the effort to decrease the amount of pollutants we put into our atmosphere so we can stabilize our climate and possibly reverse some of the negative effects of climate change? Absolutely, we must do our best to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.





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5% Down/25 Year Term



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PROPERTY FEATURES



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2 Bathroom



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PRICE IMPROVEMENT



OFFERED AT \$479,000

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



Nicely Designed Comfortable Living

-  3 bedrooms
-  2 bathrooms
-  3 car garage
-  1,805 sq. ft

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

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DART AND LOCAL BUSINESSES RALLY TO SUPPORT MONTROSE ECONOMY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — While hundreds of firefighters continue their work to contain the South Rim Fire that has closed the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the City of Montrose remains open, vibrant, and ready to welcome locals and visitors alike.

The closure of the national park, which draws tens of thousands of visitors from around the world annually, has led to economic uncertainty in Montrose. In response, the City of Montrose's Development and Revitalization Team (DART) is stepping up its efforts to support local businesses and reinforce a simple but powerful message: Montrose is open, and there's plenty to explore. Last week, DART convened business owners and community partners to identify immediate strategies for keeping Montrose's economy strong while the national park remains closed. While some businesses or hotels have experienced cancellations and confusion from visitors due to national media coverage, the local reality tells a much different story — one of resilience, creativity, and collaboration.

To help counter the confusion and reinforce confidence in Montrose as a visitor destination, DART is developing a coordinated marketing campaign that encourages locals and travelers to rediscover the abundance of things to see and do in the area.

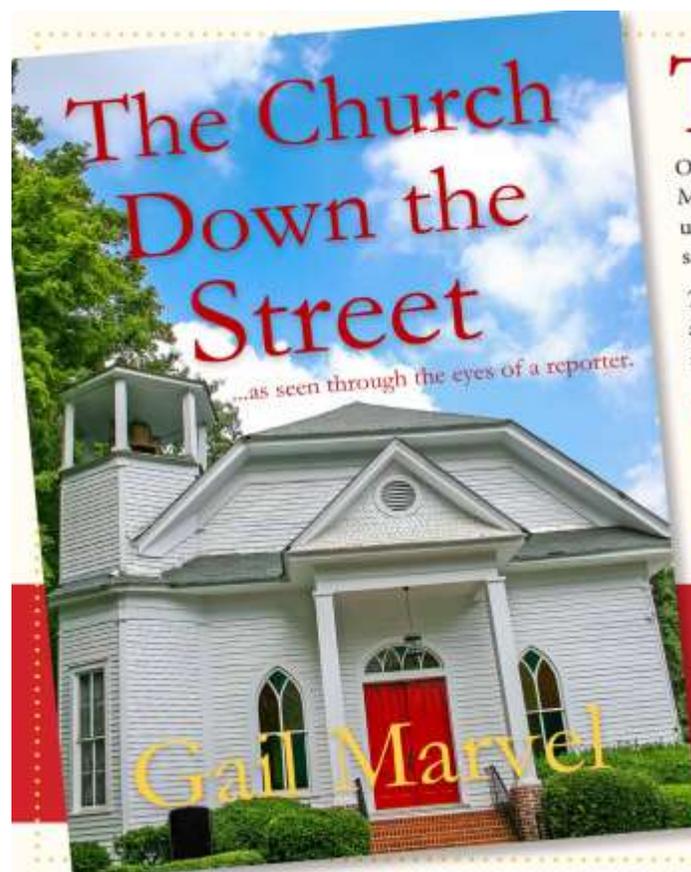
The campaign will emphasize seasonal experiences like patio dining, the Farmers Market, concerts, and the wide variety of outdoor recreation still available — including river trips, golf, and remarkable scenic wonders in the vast public lands surrounding Montrose.

"Our goal is to support both small businesses and tourism operators by reminding people of everything Montrose still has to offer," said Michelle Wingfield, DART and Community Programs Coordinator. "We want to inspire staycations, regional tourism, and a renewed commitment to shopping local."

In the coming weeks, residents can expect to see the campaign grow — but the call to action starts now.

"Every meal at a local restaurant, every purchase at a downtown shop, and every night spent here is a win for Montrose," said Wingfield. "This is a great time to explore your own backyard."

Local businesses are encouraged to connect with DART to get involved, share updates, or collaborate on ideas. For more information, contact Michelle Wingfield at mwingfield@cityofmontrose.org



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





Hidden Lake

\$171,000

5% Down/25 Year Term

BRAND NEW CHAMPION-YORK HOME



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MONTROSE, CO



PROPERTY FEATURES



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOHN G. BRADSHAW

May 27, 1990 — July 18, 2025

JOHN G. BRADSHAW passed away at the young age of 35. A loving husband, father, and friend, he is survived by his wife, Brenna, sons, Hayden (17), Braydyn (12), and Brody (10). He overcame great loss at an early age as they will have to do. When he needed someone to step up his Mimi, Kim Caines, guided and protected him until he found his forever family.

Born on May 27, 1990, John was an ornery and adventurous child. He was loving and worried about others, especially when he felt that they were being wronged.

John served as a sergeant in the US Army for, as he put it, 11.9 years. With two deployments under his belt, he overcame life threatening circumstances during deployments, which also included assisting special forces, personal security, and intelligence operations. His peers looked up to him as a leader and a friend throughout his time served in the military.

He married his best friend and the love of his life, Brenna, on November 25, 2023 in

Montrose, Colorado, surrounded by friends, family, and their children in a ceremony that celebrated the life the two had made over the years they had been together.

Throughout his life, John was an avid outdoorsman. He took his family camping and fishing as much as he possibly could. He spent time teaching his children to shoot and enjoyed the little things as simple as watching movies and having game nights with his family. He would do anything to protect his family and especially his children. John loved to coach and teach his three boys in all manners of life.

John had an innate ability with animals. They gravitated towards him and he always treated them as they were additional children. Even though he refused to let his wife get a goat or a mini highland cow.

John was loved by so many in his community and created an impact in his family and friends' lives. He was so loved and valued. His family has gained an angel.

They gained a heavenly soldier. For ever



and always John Glen Bradshaw you are loved and cherished.

Services for John Bradshaw will be held at Grace Community Church in Montrose, Colorado on July 30, 2025 at 5 p.m. with a reception held after the military honors.



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

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

STEPHANIE DAWN ABBATH *August 8, 1964 — July 14, 2025*



STEPHANIE DAWN ABBATH passed peacefully away July 14th, 2025, at her home surrounded by her loving family after a courageous and hard-fought battle with cancer.

Stephanie was born in Ventura California to Jerry Branch and Yvonne Willis on August 8th, 1964.

Shortly after her birth her family moved to Montrose Colorado where she would

be raised by her grandmother Mae Veo or "Nana."

They spent the majority of their time at the family ranch located above Cimmaron, Colorado. There they hosted hunters from around the country, had family parties and just enjoyed the simple life. It was there that Stephanie met her future husband and love of her life Bill Abbath when she locked him inside of the ranch's out-house. At the ranch, she spent many of her days fishing and swimming in the ponds.

Stephanie and Bill were married November 14th, 1980, in Montrose Colorado. In 1981 they welcomed their first child, Billy. Then in 1983 they welcomed their daughter Sarah to the family. Together they raised their two children in Montrose.

Stephanie was a devoted and fabulous wife and mother. She spent her days caring for her garden, house and kids. She took tremendous pride in making her yard and home look absolutely beautiful.

Stephanie had many jobs over the years ranging from driving trucks for Dick Whitney, flagging for road construction, to working as a realtor at a local real estate company. Stephanie was also a very ac-

complished artist but her favorite job by far was always being a mother.

Later in life, Stephanie enjoyed spending time with and helping raise her grandchildren of which she had six. When at Grandma's they could be found in the kitchen learning how to cook, can and bake. They also spent a lot of time toiling in the garden so as to bring in a bountiful harvest each year.

Stephanie and Bill built a family farm just south of town with their daughter Sarah and her Husband Bryan. Together they raised their own chickens for eggs, pork, beef and hay. Stephanie even had her chickens trained to come when she called. She enjoyed sitting on her back porch with a glass of tea just looking at the San Juans and basking in the life they had built together.

Stephanie is survived by her loving husband Bill Abbath of Montrose; her son Billy Abbath, wife Misty and their two daughters Katelehn Abbath and Rosilyn Abbath, of Grand Junction; her daughter Sarah Kinser, husband Bryan and their sons Kadin Abbath and Mason Kinser, and daughters Makenna Kinser and Riley Kinser, of Montrose.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOHN ANDREW PIATT

February 1, 1939 — July 12, 2025

JOHN ANDREW PIATT was born Feb 1, 1939, passed on July 12, 2025.

John was a beloved son, husband, father, uncle, Grandfather, & Great Grandfather. John was preceded in death by his beloved wife Mary Charlene Piatt, they were married for 61 years. Together they raised 5 children and have 13 Grandkids, 18 Great Grandkids, and 7 Great-Great Grandkids.

John retired from Ouray County where he worked for 21 years. John loved working on his Ranch raising cows, putting up hay, and he loved being around his family and friends. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten. always in our hearts and thoughts.

At John's request, there will be no services, thank you for all the thoughts & prayers.



JOHNNY JARVIS HARRIS

June 30, 1938 — July 14, 2025



JOHNNY JARVIS HARRIS (June 30, 1938) passed peacefully in his sleep on July 14th, 2025.

He was born in Montrose, Colorado to parents Lloyd (Hungry) Harris and Dorthy Jarvis with an older brother Gene. He lived across the western United States including one of his favorite places, Alaska. He was an avid sportsman, often accompanied by his gundog, Babe, and in his later years an incredibly talented leather craftsman. John loved the history of Montrose as well as anywhere he lived, able to rattle off pieces of information at the drop of a hat.

He is survived by his nephew Todd Harris, his great niece Cassandra Harris, with stepdaughters across the United States including Debroah Brown who held a special place in his heart. He was preceded in death by his mother, father, brother and nephew John. The family will hold a memorial at a later date, in lieu of flowers it is asked that a donation be made in John's name to the Ute Indian Museum of Montrose, Colorado.



ISSUE 532 July 28, 2025

ART & SOL

PUN HILL SERVES HIMALAYAN RIGHT


"Rocky Mountain Cravings"
 Carole Ann McKelvey, Food Editor



By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE – Aren't we lucky in Montrose to have not one but two Himalayan restaurants! My son, grandson and I decided to do Pun Hill the other day and were very pleased with the offerings.

We started with a serving (to share) of an appetizer of Mo Mo dumplings (veggie) and, of course, bring some naan bread with that. I wanted a glass of good wine, but alas, they were out of all wine! So, I ordered a glass of the delicious mango lassi (a yogurt drink). We then ordered (also to share) an entrée of chicken masala (a combination of spices topped with cream). Rice also please. Very good! Also, a serving of tofu paneer featuring homemade cheese and a sauce of tomato, ginger, garlic, butter and more spices and cream. We also tried an order of sabzee pakora (deep fried veggies served with a sauce). Yum! Everything we tried was delicious and filling. With more than we could eat in one setting (oh boy, two dinners!). Very nice offerings:

Appetizers: \$7.99-13.99 each

Samosa, puffed dough filled with potatoes, peas and spices; chicken pakora, deep-fried chicken strips battered with tempura and spices; sabzee pakora, deep-fried potatoes battered in tempura; aloo

achar, boiled potatoes pan-fried with fenugreek, turmeric, black pepper and cilantro. Mo-Mo, Himalayan dumplings filled with either chicken, lamb or veggies.

Soup: \$7.99

Dahl

Salads: \$9.99-13.99

Kachumber salad, diced cucumber, tomato and onions in a lime juice dressing; veggie tandoori salad, tossed mushrooms, paneer, cauliflower and tomato on romaine; chicken tandoori salad, marinated chicken breast with tomato on romaine; or mixed salad, a veggie salad with olives.

Bread: \$1.99-3.99

Naan; garlic naan; cheese naan, and aloo paratha, flat leavened bread filled with potatoes, cilantro and pan fried.

Baranya: \$13.99-16.99

Veggie, chicken or shrimp (aromatic rice cooked with meat or veggies and spices, nuts and raisins.

Pun Hill: \$13.99-16.99

Choice of protein pan fried with red, green pepper, green chili, tomato, cilantro, ginger and garlic: choose chicken, beef, shrimp or tofu.

Saag: \$11.99-16.99

Includes spinach, with a touch of cream and choice of protein: tofu, paneer, chicken, lamb, shrimp, or plain.

Masala: \$13.99-16.99

Includes onions, spices blended with sauce and finished with cream: chicken, lamb, salmon, shrimp, tofu/paneer, mushroom pees, mutton.

Makhani: \$13.99-16.99

Prepared using tomato, ginger, garlic, turmeric, butter and spices with cream: tofu/paneer, chicken, lamb, shrimp or

veggies.

Korma: \$13.99-16.99

A blend of tomato, onion, garlic and spices cooked with coconut flakes, nuts, raisins and cream: veggie, chicken, lamb, shrimp, tofu/paneer and malai.

Bhaat rice: \$13-14.99

Rice stir-fried with onions, peas, cumin seeds, ginger, garlic, carrot and spices; or with a choice of tofu or paneer.

Sekuwa: \$14-16.99

Choice of protein marinated in a yogurt-based sauce with lemon, ginger, garlic and blended masala and roasted in a tandoori oven: chicken, lamb, beef, shrimp or Bhaktapur Chhoila.

Vindaloo: \$13-16.99

Prepared with onions, dry and red chili, garlic, spices with a vinegar tang with a choice of protein: paneer, chicken, lamb or shrimp.

Curries: \$13-16.99

Nepalese style curry with onion, tomato, ginger, cinnamon, chile, cumin and garlic: chicken, lamb, salmon, shrimp, veggie, or Sangkhuwa, Machha, catfish.

Fish: \$15.99

Nariwal Machha, salmon cooked in coconut milk; or Nariwal Jhinge Machha, shrimp cooked with coconut milk and spices.

Noodle Dishes: \$12.99-15.99

A variety of noodle dishes including Nepali style.

Drinks: \$2.99-3.50

Choose from hot masala chai, iced chai or lassi. Himalayan Pun Hill Kitchen is located at 710 N. Townsend and is open Wednesday – Monday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 970-615-7028.

HARD WORK AND A FAIR SHARE OF FUN! *Kids and Projects Take the Lead at the Montrose County Fair*



Local youth showed their projects and livestock at the Montrose County Fair. Photos by Harry Switzer.

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\$348,500

2 BR

1 bathrooms

CONTACT: LESLIE GORE



-  19702753195
-  lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com
-  <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ETHAN J. PERRY ANNOUNCES 2025 SKELETON CREW TOUR AMERICANA INDIE ARTIST TO PERFORM SOLO ACOUSTIC SHOWS ACROSS THE U.S.

Special to Art & Sol

BOULDER– Boulder-based artist Ethan J. Perry performs solo acoustic shows featuring introspective and genre-blending music that promises an intimate, heartfelt experience.

Perry, the frontman of [Ethan J. Perry & The Remedy Band](#), will be in Montrose at the Horsefly Brewing Company (846 East Main Street) for two shows (5 and 8pm) on Thursday, July 31.

Perry is amidst his Skeleton Crew 2025 Tour, a solo acoustic series showcasing his introspective and genre-blending sound. Known for fusing Americana, indie, and jazz, Ethan’s music has been compared to “...riding a horse through the desert in space,” by journalist Jamie Hawkins, which perfectly captures his ethereal yet grounded sound.

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

Ethan began his career in Seattle and soon after formed Ethan J. Perry & The



Ethan J. Perry will be at the Horsefly Brewing Company (846 East Main Street) for two shows (5 and 8pm) on Thursday, July 31.

Remedy Band. Describing their music as Americana Indie Technicolor Jazz, the band has captivated listeners with its creative fusion of styles.

While his band will tour again in the future, the Skeleton Crew 2025 Tour offers

fans a more intimate, acoustic journey with Ethan.

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



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FRIENDS OF YOUTH AND NATURE: 100 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 12!



It's never too young to start checking off those 100 things to do before you are 12 — tightrope walking on a log (with a little help from Mom) FOYAN Courtesy Photo.

By Anne Janik

Friends of Youth and Nature

COLOADO—It's mid-July, and if you're a kid, there are countless adventures waiting outside! Feeling a little bored? Check out **"The List"** — 100 fun and simple things every kid should try before turning 12. You'll probably find that you've already done quite a few, but there are still tons more to discover and cross off.

Have you ever peeked under a rock in a creek, balanced on a log, dug for worms, or danced in the rain? How about spotting the Big Dipper, imitating a bird call, playing hopscotch, making mud pies or a flower necklace, sleeping under the stars, building a bike jump, or howling at the moon? These are just a few examples from the list.

Need a copy? Download it at **Generation Wild – The List**

(www.generationwild.com/the-list). You'll find that many of these can be done right in your backyard or a nearby park. No need to travel far—just step outside and start exploring!

Try building a worm hotel or planting a sock garden. How about baking s'mores in a sun oven or creating a soda bottle sprinkler? You can find videos and instructions for these clever backyard hacks and more at generationwild.com.

Summer is the perfect time for family fun and making lasting memories in nature. If you're on the hunt for fresh DIY ideas, here are more ways to bond and spark

curiosity through adventure and storytelling—because nothing brings people together quite like shared wonder.

Get creative outdoors:

Craft a bird's nest, build an animal den or bug hotel, design a Lego bird table, or create a mini pond. You could even make a gift for a wild creature!

Experience nature's magic:

Take a nighttime stroll, go on a microscopic animal walk, capture a nature-inspired photo or sketch, or search for natural treasures on a scavenger hunt.

Engage your senses:

Walk barefoot over different surfaces and describe the textures. Seek out interesting smells like flowers, moss, or pine trees. Try guessing objects by touch and scent, listen closely to nature's soundtrack, dip your feet in a mountain stream, and of course—taste a perfectly gooey s'more!

Curious to learn more? Visit **Generation Wild – UK** (<https://generationwild.wwwt.org.uk/activities>).

Activities range from quick 15-minute projects to longer explorations, each with easy-to-follow instructions.

Parents—nature is a powerful motivator!

Getting your kids outside can be as simple as suggesting they climb a tree, splash in a creek, or get gloriously muddy in a puddle. Try creating a nature-themed obstacle course—think log walking, hill rolling, creek running, or rock skipping. You might even earn the title of "coolest grown-up!" Challenge your kids with a nature scaven-

ger hunt or an A–Z search (find something that starts with every letter). A small reward—like a scoop of ice cream—can go a long way!

Blending tech with outdoor play

Technology doesn't have to be the enemy of outdoor fun. When used intentionally, it can help "digital natives" connect with the natural world in exciting ways. Apps like iNaturalist, Seek, and Star Walk invite kids to identify plants, observe animals, and explore constellations. BirdNET and Merlin even let kids identify birds by their calls using a smartphone microphone. Once they get hooked, they'll likely want to spot birds the old-fashioned way—by sight and sound.

Try geocaching!

This modern treasure hunt uses GPS devices to locate hidden containers, or "caches," all over the world. It combines puzzle-solving, teamwork, and exploration, making it a fantastic way to spark enthusiasm for the outdoors.

One of the best things about tech-assisted nature activities is how accessible they are. With just a smartphone and internet connection, even families in urban settings can rediscover local parks and backyards with fresh perspective. By embracing technology as a bridge, we help foster genuine curiosity and appreciation for the outdoors.

Whether it's identifying a bird with an app or discovering a hidden cache in a park, the possibilities are endless.

Nature is powerful medicine—for kids and adults alike.

Time outside boosts confidence, creativity, and imagination. It nurtures a sense of wonder and teaches responsibility. Research shows it even helps reduce stress and fatigue—benefits that grown-ups could use too!

Luckily for us, Western Colorado is packed with outdoor opportunities. We truly have the best backyard in the West.

For more inspiration, check out our blog: **"Tech Meets Trails: Engage Digital Natives in the Outdoors."**

Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) is a one-stop shop for outdoor adventures. We connect families to hiking and biking trails, nature programs, and gear rentals in Montrose, Mesa, Ouray, and Delta counties. You'll also find maps and app links to help you explore like a pro. Visit us at friendsofyouthandnature.org to discover nature programs near you!

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND MESA WRITERS' SYMPOSIUM TAKES PLACE IN CEDAREDDGE AUG. 8-10

Special to Art & Sol

CEDAREDDGE—The first annual Grand Mesa Writers' Symposium is a creative sharing and learning event featuring talented authors and skilled writing teachers. Situated in the small town of Cedaredge at the base of Grand Mesa, the symposium features a trio of gifted writers who have indelible connections to the wild Western Slope of Colorado. Holding forth in the town's Grand Mesa Arts Events Center, novelist Shelley Read, historian Timothy Winegard, and poet Wendy Vidlock will utilize large and small group settings to discuss their award-winning works. And a cadre of working authors and writing teachers will present workshops touching on timely topics related to fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Find out more [HERE](#).

HOPEWEST: MEETING YOU EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL—At HopeWest, our work isn't just about care — it's about presence. That simple idea has shaped how we walk beside people through aging, illness, and grief for more than thirty years.

When you or someone you love needs support, we take the time to understand what matters most to you. We call it "meeting you exactly where you are." And while it may sound simple, it means families trust that HopeWest will show up, listen, and walk alongside them every step of the way.

Kevin Watt, HopeWest Chaplain, knows his role is more than offering spiritual guidance and grief support. He listens without rushing. He provides comfort without condition. He helps families feel supported and safe during the most vulnerable moments of their lives. Kevin often asks grieving families: "What does support look like for you? Is it prayer? Music and laughter? Holding hands?" Whatever the answer, we meet you there.

That same approach is the thread that runs through every part of HopeWest. From grief and bereavement support to dementia, palliative, and hospice care, we've built specialized teams of physicians, nurses, CNAs, social workers, chaplains, therapists, and volunteers that all work together to care for the whole person and their family.

This kind of care is a cornerstone in our dementia support program. We under-

stand that dementia affects more than memory and the person with a diagnosis. Dementia reshapes daily life for entire families. This program offers personalized guidance, education, and resources tailored to each family's unique journey. Whether someone is newly diagnosed or in the depths of caregiving, we help them find peace of mind, confidence, and support right when and where they need it.

Our palliative care program is another way we provide wrap-around care. Palliative care is for those living with serious illness but not necessarily nearing the end of life. Unlike traditional medicine, which often focuses on treating or curing illnesses, palliative care focuses on improving quality of life through symptom management, emotional support and coordination with other providers. Whether someone is navigating complex decisions or simply trying to manage pain or fatigue, our team helps ensure that care aligns with their values and priorities, not just their medical needs.

In our hospice program, patients often tell us what they want most is to be comfortable and surrounded by those they love. Pain management, emotional support, and time well spent take priority. That's not about giving up. It's about choosing to live the way that feels most meaningful. Our philosophy of meeting people where they are has made HopeWest a trusted part of our communities. In fact, a recent family satisfaction survey showed that 94% of families would



HopeWest Chaplain Kevin Watt works with grieving families. Courtesy photo.

recommend HopeWest to others, reflecting the trust and connection that defines our work. Whether you're caring for someone with dementia or someone who wants to remain safely in their home, managing a serious illness, grieving the loss of a loved one, or simply needing support, you don't have to do it alone.

HopeWest is here to support you with compassion, confidence, and care that centers on *you*.



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LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED THROUGH 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.



\$339,900.00

3 BR

1.5 bathrooms

CONTACT: LESLIE GORE



📞 19702753195

✉️ lesliegoreactor@gmail.com

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>

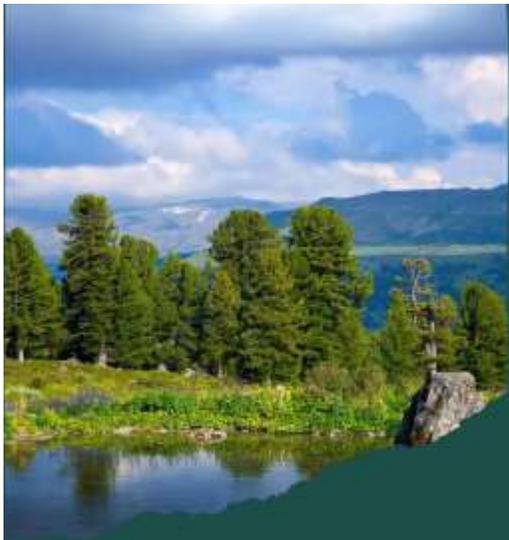


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WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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agescapesnow@gmail.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)

roseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

rose; Everyone is welcome. The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects. People of all ages are welcome.
There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

<p>Church Directory <i>Mirror Editorial Staff</i> 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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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?</p>
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The Satisfied Woman

AGING LOUDLY: WHY THE SATISFIED WOMAN DOESN'T FEAR GETTING OLDER



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

In a world obsessed with youth, smooth skin, and wrinkle-free everything, aging has long been painted as a depressing final surrender—raising the white flag and descending into irrelevance, invisibility, and decline. Women, in particular, have carried the

cultural burden of this narrative, taught to fear and loathe every silver strand and fine line as if they marked a slow erasure from societal significance. But a growing wave of women is choosing a different story—one where aging isn't something to dread, hide, or soften with apologies and Juvéderm. They're aging loudly.

These women aren't chasing the illusion of eternal youth. They're claiming something much richer: satisfaction, clarity, personal power, and freedom. And they're doing it with their chin high and their middle finger even higher.

From a young age, women are conditioned to believe their value lies in their desirability. As the media myth goes, a woman's prime is tied to her 20's and 30's—after that, the story often suggests she becomes background noise. She should cut her hair above her chin, wear shoes with velcro, and adorn herself in stretch pants and self-defeat. But this narrative is outdated, sexist, and increasingly disconnected from reality. What's that old adage? Men age like wine and women age like milk? Yeah, well, not anymore!

Real life tells a different story these days. And maybe it's because the current aging

women are Gen X—a scrappy group of ragtag latchkey kids who were fiercely independent and non shit-giving by the age of 6. We didn't grow up listening to Patsy Cline. Our childhood anthem was Welcome to the Jungle. So it really comes as no surprise that this irreverent group of women, with low estrogen and high self-esteem, rebels against the cultural conformity of aging into oblivion. Ask women in their 50s, 60's, and 70's, and many will tell you they feel more confident, more creative, and more at peace than they ever did in their so-called "prime." Why? Because satisfaction doesn't come from youth—it comes from growth. It comes from hard-won experience and wisdom, and from finally giving yourself permission to drop the weight of other people's judgments.

For many women, aging isn't a decline—it's a release. A shedding of societal expectations, toxic perfectionism, and the relentless need to please and perform. I used to worry about being liked—especially by other women. I worried about fitting in and impressing my superiors when I worked at Universal Pictures. I worried about whether I was pretty enough, thin enough, clever enough to attract a quality man when I lived in LA. Now I care more about whether I like myself at the end of the day. I spent years chasing money, time, approval, recognition, granite countertops and a big house. Now I pursue creativity, flexibility, meaning, and connection. I travel solo, go on yoga retreats, surf in Costa Rica and occasionally mentor younger women. I've never felt more satisfied, grounded or alive. I don't feel invisible. I feel limitless.

Aging brings a kind of perspective that can't be rushed or faked. It sharpens intuition, deepens relationships, and teaches

the art of letting go. Satisfied women aren't afraid of getting older because they know the power of lived experience. There's a particular strength in no longer needing to prove yourself—in knowing your voice carries weight and that your worth doesn't rise and fall with the size of your jeans or the lines on your face. Wisdom doesn't whisper. It roars, laughs, and walks boldly into a room without needing permission. This is why so many older women are rejecting the tired cliché of "aging with grace" in favor of aging with grit.

One of the greatest lies of youth culture is that joy belongs to the young. But true joy—deep, sustained, bone-deep joy—often blooms later in life. With age comes the ability to prioritize what really matters: relationships, creative pursuits, meaningful work, time in nature, and crucially, time with oneself. This joy isn't surface-level or fleeting. It's rooted in hard-earned satisfaction, in knowing what brings peace and not being afraid to pursue it.

To age loudly is to rewrite the story: to push back against the notion that older women should be quiet, less visible, less ambitious. It's about celebrating laugh lines as a life well-lived. It's about refusing to apologize for aging—and instead, embracing it with passion, pride, and purpose.

Aging loudly doesn't mean pretending every moment is easy.

It means showing up, with wisdom, curiosity, and a refusal to be silenced. It's saying no without guilt, and saying yes without fear. It's starting a business at 50, dancing barefoot at 60, or falling in love at 70. It's about joyfully declaring: I'm still here—and I have something to say, and a whole lot left to do.

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CONTACT DETAILS

📞 970-615-9412

✉ manager@thehiddenlakecommunity.com

🌐 www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com

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



LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



Versatile Barndominium in Coal Creek Valley — Equestrian Potential & Endless Space

Welcome to your dream setup in the heart of Colorado's beautiful Coal Creek Valley, in Montrose, CO. This unique barndominium offers over 2,000 sq ft of heated space and the flexibility to create a truly customized home. Whether you're after a spacious primary suite, an expanded living area, or the ultimate craft or hobby studio, this floorplan is ready to adapt. The main living space includes two bedrooms, a 3/4 bathroom, kitchen, dining area, and a convenient laundry center. Three large additional rooms two of which have some cabinetry and sinks (one includes a half bath)—make ideal spaces for guest suites, home offices, or creative workspaces. For vehicle or equipment storage, the oversized attached garage easily fits 5–6 cars or projects. A detached garage handles up to four vehicles or a large RV, trailer, or toy hauler. Equestrian-Ready: This property once produced certified hay and has the acreage, layout, and access to become a premier horse property. Add a barn, riding arena, or paddocks and take full advantage of nearby public lands and miles of riding trails just minutes away.



\$1,129,000.00
2 BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS
9.18 acres



CONTACT: LESLIE GORE



-  19702753195
-  lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com
-  <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SHAKESPEARE COMES TO LIFE IN DELTA: NO HOLDS BARD'S THE MERCHANT IN VENICE

One Night Only – Tuesday, Aug. 5 at the Delta Egyptian Theater

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Delta Egyptian Theater and UpstART Theater are thrilled to present The Merchant in Venice, a No Holds Bard production of William Shakespeare’s timeless play, on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 7 PM at the historic Delta Egyptian Theater, located at 452 Main Street in downtown Delta.

Tickets are just \$15 general admission and free for children ages 6–18 — a perfect opportunity to introduce the entire family to the magic of Shakespeare. Tickets can be purchased online at www.deltaegyptian.com or by calling 970-399-7207.

No Holds Bard is the Shakespeare arm of UpstART Theater, known for electrifying audiences across Ouray County since 2006.

Their signature style? Bold, uncut Shakespeare performed the way it was originally intended: energetic, physical, fast-paced, and bursting with audience interaction.

Their mission is clear — to make Shakespeare fun, interactive, and accessible for

everyone.

“Our shows are more like a great championship sports game than a fusty theater production,” says director John Kissingford. “Shakespeare’s Globe was the multiplex of its day.”

This isn’t your high school English class’s Merchant of Venice.

The company strips away elaborate sets and theatrical pretense to focus on what matters most — the language, the energy, and the human drama. The result is a community-centered, wildly engaging theatrical event.

No Holds Bard first tackled The Merchant of Venice two decades ago when the company was based in Denver. Now, with a renewed vision and a compelling ensemble, they return to this complex comedy that holds a mirror up to both timeless and modern issues: religious prejudice, justice, and the hope for mercy.

“Shakespeare’s Shylock argues eloquently for his own humanity — an argument that resonates especially today, as our world struggles to recognize the humanity of the

‘Other,’” says Kissingford.

This production features returning performers including Skylar Sprague (Chicago), Elizabeth Mueller (Ridgway native, now in Providence), and Dr. Jake Abell, music director and Ouray native now teaching at Baylor University. Rising talents like Nate Kissingford (theater conservatory, NYC), Emery Scott, Elijah Martinez, and Kat Paidoussis also join the cast, alongside local actor Colin Sullivan, a well-known name in regional theater.

Portia, the heroine of the play, becomes the voice of mercy in a world driven by commerce and revenge — a message the cast and company believe is as urgent and hopeful today as it was in Shakespeare’s time.

Don’t miss this one-night-only theatrical event that promises to entertain, provoke, and inspire.

Tuesday, August 5 | 7:00 PM | Delta Egyptian Theater

Tickets: \$15 General Admission | Free for Ages 6–18

www.deltaegyptian.com | 970-399-7207

MADISON CHISM OF MONTROSE EARNS DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

Special to the Mirror

ADELPHI, MD -- Madison Chism of Montrose, earned a(n) Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from University of Maryland Global Campus in spring 2025.

Chism was one of 6,770 students worldwide who earned degrees from UMGC in the spring 2025 term.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

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Featuring
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Shelley Read, Novelist
Wendy Vidlock, Poet



August 8-10

**Visit our website or scan the QR code
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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

Aug. 5-On Tuesday Aug. 5 at 5pm, at Hispanic Affairs 504 N 1st- Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to promote local solutions to climate problems. Nonpartisan, environmental, All Welcome. info 970-765-9095

Aug. 8-9-[FUNC fest 2025](#)-Fun on the Uncompahgre Festival. Riverbottom Park and Montrose Rotary Amphitheater.

Aug. 8-10-The first annual Grand Mesa Writers' Symposium will be Aug. 8-10 in Cedaredge. Holding forth in the town's Grand Mesa Arts Events Center, novelist Shelley Read, historian Timothy Winegard, and poet Wendy Vidlock will use large and small group settings to discuss their award-winning works. Working authors and writing teachers will present workshops touching on timely topics related to fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Find out more [HERE](#).

Aug. 9-On Aug. 9, Harp and Hammer Dulcimer Concert, Saturday, 7 p.m., featuring Nicolas Carter and Joshua Messick. \$20 at the door, children are free and mention the Mirror to save \$5. At the First Presbyterian Church, 1840 Niagara Road. More information, Robin Freed, 970 275 8996.

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 phoebeneziger@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.

ONE MORE FROM THE MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR...



Reporter Gail Marvel took this photo during the Junior Livestock Auction at the Montrose County Fair on Saturday, July 26.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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