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ASSOCIATION



FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE!

© Issue No. 649 Aug. 4, 2025

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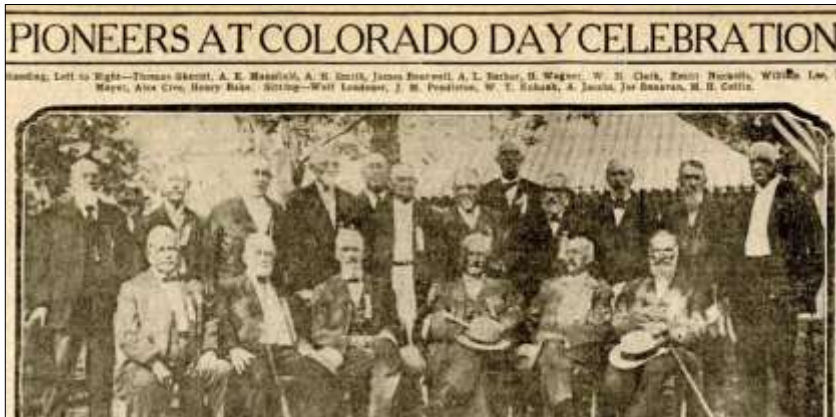
COLORADO DAY, THEN AND NOW

By Bob Cox

COLORADO-Last Friday, August 1, 2025, marked the 149th anniversary of Colorado's entry into the United States, becoming the 38th state to do so.

There was not a huge recognition of the day. In fact, one could observe only a few Colorado flags being flown on non-governmental sites. The most common mentions of the day were notices reminding people of the closing of banks and government offices.

The first official Colorado Day was celebrated in 1907, after the state legislature officially declared it a holiday in March of that year. This day, August 1st, commemorates the date in 1876 when Colorado officially became the 38th state in the U.S. While it was initially a



Clipping from the August 2, 1910 Rocky Mountain News showing the pioneers that gathered to recognize Colorado Day. One of the pictured is Joe Donovan, reputed to be the only living white man to have visited the area that is now Denver prior to 1859. Courtesy image-Bob Cox.

[Continued pg 14](#)

MONTROSE MAIN STREET OPEN FOR BUSINESS!



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- With historic structures, friends old and new, and plenty of fresh ideas, Downtown Montrose is a fine place to browse, shop, and make the most of a summer day. This past week the *Mirror* stopped in at several Downtown businesses, to check in with local entrepreneurs and see what's happening in the heart of the city.

Our first stop was at Mosaic (21 North Cascade Ave.), where Owner Leanna Johnson greeted us. "We've had a great summer so far," she said when asked how business is going. "Although for the last week or so (as tours of the Black Canyon have been paused) we have definitely noticed the difference." Mosaic is a gorgeous space, with mix of crafts as well as works of art--the mantra here is "Sip, Shop, Create."

Johnson and her husband

[Continued pg 28](#)

At 443 East Main Street, *Elevated Vinegar & Olive Oil (EVOO)*, owned by Doug and Diane DeShazo, offers high quality olive oils and balsamic from around the world.

[Your Brain on Nature: Teen Identity:](#)
[By Dr. Lauren Hall Rudell, PhD!](#)

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

[Columnist Gia Pirelli:](#)
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[Cartoon by Tim Jones!](#)
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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror



Fresh news for busy people

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

Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Harry Switzer

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

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Coffee & Conversation

**August 16, 2-3 p.m.
Library Meeting
Room**

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MONTROSE REGIONAL
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MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS: HELP WANTED

.HELP WANTED-

The Town of Nucla, Colorado located between 50 and 100 miles from Grand Junction, CO, Moab, Utah, Telluride, CO and Montrose, CO is looking for its next Town Manager/Clerk

The Manager/Clerk position is appointed by the Town Board of Trustees and is responsible for carrying out Town policy as enacted by the Board. The manager is the primary point of contact for approved program implementation and flow of information between individuals, organizations and the town including department leaders and staff of all departments. The clerk serves as the records manager, treasurer and local liquor licensing authority for the Town. The work is essential and requires alertness, accuracy, versatility and endless patience. Starting pay range is between \$27 and \$35 per hour, DOQ a 4-day work week, health, dental and vision insurance, paid PTO vacation and federal holidays. A list of duties and responsibilities will be provided upon request. Please send resume to Town of Nucla PO Box 219, Nucla, CO 81424 or drop off at Town Hall 320 Main Street, Nucla, CO

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PROJECT 7 ARTICLE: CLARIFICATION

PROJECT 7 REFINES RESILIENCY STRATEGY (CLARIFICATION)

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-The Cost Allocation Study presented to the Project 7 Board at the July 24, 2025 meeting lists the total cost allocation for 2025 for the three options presented as \$7,775,480, which was reported.

However, for clarification, the total estimated cost of the Resiliency Project (second water treatment facility) stands at:

Plan & Design Total - \$ 44,490,901

Construct Total 125,256,511

Other Total 1,555,256

Total Cost of Project \$171,302,668



Photo at right by Gail Marvel.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CELEBRATE COLORADO'S 149TH ANNIVERSARY BY VISITING STATE PARKS FOR FREE ON AUG. 4

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — To celebrate Colorado Day and the state's 149th birthday, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is offering free entry to all Colorado state parks on Monday, Aug. 4, 2025.

The state legislature created Colorado Day to mark the anniversary of statehood, granted in 1876 by President Ulysses S. Grant. The state recognizes this annual holiday on the first of the month, and state parks celebrate the occasion with free entrance on the first Monday of August.

This free entry day is an opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the beauty of Colorado state parks and their diverse landscapes. All other park fees remain in effect, including camping reservations, boat and off-highway vehicle registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses.

CPW urges all state park visitors to act as stewards of our state's land, wildlife, and water. By balancing outdoor recreation with mindful conservation, we can all protect Colorado's natural beauty. Here are some outdoor tips to help you recreate responsibly. Join us in keeping Colorado, Colorado. Get a \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass with your next vehicle registration and support state parks, search and rescue teams, avalanche safety, wildlife conservation, and outdoor education. Learn more at cpw.info/keepcoloradowild and cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RECALL EFFORT SEEKS POLITICAL POWER, NOT CITIZEN SAFETY

Editor:

Just as Kristi Noem and Tom Holman are working tirelessly to make America safe again, so too are Commissioners Mijares and Pond working to make Montrose County safe again.

For 2 1/2 years or more now our Montrose County Sheriff Department has been losing deputies to other governmental entities with higher pay scales and better retirement programs.

During that time our previous commissioners squandered every opportunity to enable our Montrose County Sheriff Department to compete and they flatly re-

fused to do so.

This abject failure exposed their willingness to allow our administrative deep state to continue diverting PSST funds to other projects instead of adequately funding the Montrose County Sheriff Department.

The result has been that public safety in Montrose County has been put at great risk as have the safety of all sheriff road deputies.

It is indeed refreshing to have finally two commissioners in Mijares and Pond, that are strong enough to realize that our public safety should be first and fore-

most. Their adoption of the recently passed PSST Resolution will once and for all clarify accounting procedures that are to be used to finally guarantee that PSSS funds dedicated for the sheriff department will actually accrue to the benefit of that department and enable our Sheriff to finally be able to compete for and retain qualified deputies.

The proposed recall on Scott Mijares has exposed a radical element among us that is more interested in political power and maintaining the status quo that is certainly not in the best interest of our county.

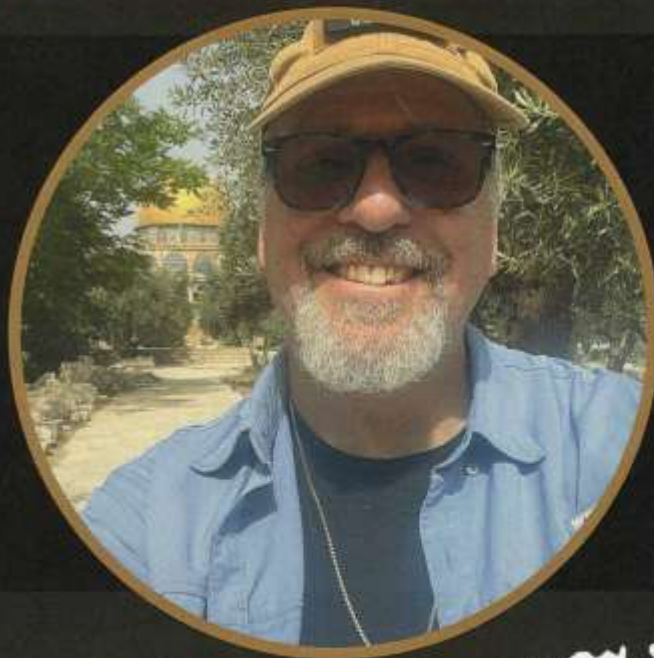
Dee Laird, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

EVERY SIGNATURE MATTERS

Dear Editor,

As the Recall Scott Mijares campaign enters its third week, I feel compelled to address growing concerns within our community.

It has come to my attention that some Montrose County employees are afraid to sign the recall petition out of fear of reprisal—or even losing their jobs. In addition, local businesses that contract with the County have expressed concern that signing the petition could jeopardize those contracts, and with them, the livelihoods

of their employees and their families.

Let me be clear: Every citizen of Montrose County—every County employee—has the right to sign or not sign this petition freely, without fear or pressure. That right is the foundation of our democracy.

The Recall Committee is committed to making this process accessible and respectful. You will find us at the Montrose Library, the Post Office outside the Recreation Center, and every Farmer's Market between now and August 15th. Signing opportunities are also listed on our web-

site: RecallScottMijares.com. Petitions are also available in Olathe and the West End of Montrose County. If you are unable to travel to a signing location, please email us at info@recallscottmijares.com—we will come to you.

Every signature matters. Whether or not you choose to sign is your decision—and it should always be made free from fear or intimidation.

Respectfully,

Phoebe Benziger

Co-Chair Recall Scott Mijares Committee

HONORING COLORADO DAY

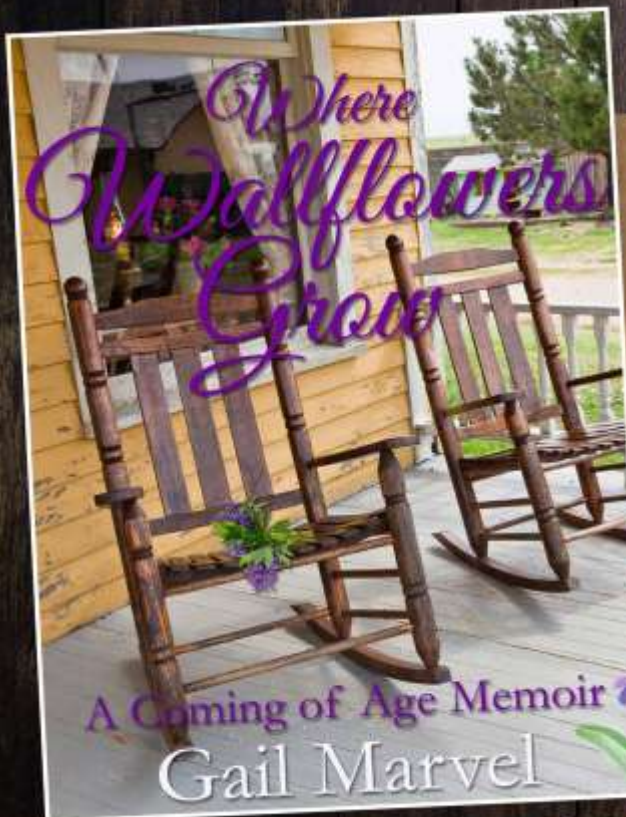
Editor:

On August 1, 1876, Colorado was admitted as a state, maintaining its territorial borders.

Before becoming a state, Colorado was known as the Colorado Territory. It was established on February 28, 1861, by an act of Congress.

Christian Stollsteimer came to Colorado from Germany on July 1, 1863.

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose



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GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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MONTROSE—Madams, Murder, and Mayhem historic walking tour will examine the seedier side of our local history. This historic walking tour will visit the sites of the notorious saloons, jails, and historical buildings. The tales will intertwist the history and legends of the famous and scandalous local characters of the area. This tour is on Aug. 8 starting at 6 pm with limited spaces available. Please RSVP at 970-249-2085. Admission is \$10/person and the tour will be starting at the Montrose County Historical Museum.



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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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COLORADO DAY, THEN AND NOW From pg 1

public holiday, it is now observed as an annual state holiday, with celebrations often including free admission to state parks and other events.

The declaration was largely due to the efforts of a group then known as "The Sons of Colorado." The Sons routinely celebrated the anniversary of statehood. In 1906, their celebration was focused on giving the day the recognition it deserved. In their official publication, the Sons pointed out a tribute, written by Colonel William N. Byers and published in the *Rocky Mountain News* on June 25, 1876. Byers compared the upcoming admission to the Union to a wedding day. His flowery language serves to remind us of that important day. The tribute was lengthy and informative. Here is part of what he said: *Colorado serenely approaches her wedding day. With a magnificent dowry, her inheritance from time prehistoric, and with a trousseau of unknown riches, she calmly awaits the appointed alliance. Conscious of the virgin vigor and power of her grandly molded frame, with its arteries of gold and sinews of iron, her crown of glory piercing the clouds, while her fir feet rest in empyrean vales, her broad gaze reaching far out over the rich and boundless heritage to where her sky and mountains meet in undefined and indescribable beauty, breathing the pure air of the mountain slopes and lofty plateaus, so near to heaven that half the ills of earth fail to reach their happy heights, and proudly conscious of the ripe individuality of her independent maidenhood, Colorado yet welcomes with joy her approach to matronly dignity...*

Each year, for several years, The Sons of Colorado promoted various celebrations and fund-raising events on Colorado Day. On July 7, 1910, they announced a celebration that piqued the interest of all Colorado pioneers. This is part of their announcement:

DENVER FINDS HER FINDER Joe Donovan, First White Man Ever Here, to Lead Pioneers. GIANT CELEBRATION PLANNED Colorado Day in 1910 to Be Biggest in

State's History.

After living for fifty-two years in Colorado, except for four years during his terms of service in the civil war, Joseph B. Donovan, the only living white man who visited the site of Denver before 1859, has been discovered by the pioneers who are promoting interest in the observance of Colorado Day on August 1.

Colorado Day rarely saw the attention given to it in 1910. The events that took place were largely only in Denver. A short piece in an early August 1918 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press* was typical of the limited attention:

This Thursday was Colorado Day and it was being observed in a slight extent in Montrose, principally being celebrated by the festive bill collectors. The public offices were not open to do business, but all hands were on deck to catching up with work which has become delayed.

The following year Governor Shoup made an effort to revive the celebrations. In July of 1919, he issued a proclamation calling on the people of the state to celebrate both Colorado Day and the ending of the war, which meant many young soldiers would be returning home. He encouraged all Coloradoans to conspicuously display the Colorado flag along with the American flag. The next year, the Governor proclaimed August 2nd as Colorado Day. That didn't last.

By 1924 The Sons of Colorado had morphed into a different organization, known as the Colorado Pioneers Association. A large celebration was held in Pueblo, and Montrose residents took a certain amount of pride in the fact that one of their own, Charles J. Moynihan, was to be the keynote speaker. Moynihan was a candidate for the short term as U. S. Senator.

Another organization that routinely promoted Colorado Day is the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. They were a significant part of the 1925 celebration. The following article was printed in several newspapers, including the July 21, 1925 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press*: *DURANGO, July 21—Saturday night. Au-*

gust 1. and all-day Sunday, August 2. will go down in history as the most really enjoyable time ever experienced in the San Juans. On these dates the Elks and their families along with everybody in the community. whether Elks or not, will hold a grand Elks jollification and basket picnic at Pinkerton-In-The-Pines. The affair will be in the nature of a revival of the days of '49. Everyone will be required to dress as near in the spirit of the occasion as possible. Boots, corduroys, overalls, calico dresses, sun-bonnets, flannel shirts and 7-gallon hats will be the order of the day. No "tenderfoot" or "dude" clothes will be tolerated at Pinkerton on Colorado day. Of course, outing togs will be quite proper and, if you can't do better a big red bandanna will fix you all right, but whatever you wear, don't fail to be there. The famous Cowboy Band from the C. L. Ruth has been engaged to help "pop up" the big crowd. The Classy Jazz, an orchestra from Denver, will provide dance music (of course they didn't have jazz in '49, but will have the old pieces too, just for a change.)

While most of the Colorado Day celebrations over the past century were held in Denver and other larger cities, 2026 might well be different. Already, plans are being made in many towns and cities across the state. The year marks the 250th anniversary of the forming of the United States of America. In addition, the year marks 150 years since Ouray was incorporated. Rumor is that Ouray will be planning a year-long celebration to mark that event. Several other groups and organizations are already discussing how they might get involved. August 1, 2026 falls on a Saturday, so we will still likely see those notices of closed banks and government offices, but they will likely be closed on August 3rd to give those folks who are so fond of Monday holidays a three-day weekend; all the better for those of us who will stand up with both the American and the Colorado flags held high. Word of warning: order your flags and mark your calendars early. The Centennial State will be showing off for sure.

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Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION - At approximately 6:45 pm on Aug. 1, 2025, one of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control's (DFPC's) Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA), a Pilatus PC-12 operating as Wildland 27 (N327SF), experienced a mechanical issue with its nose landing gear prior to landing at Grand Junction Regional Airport. The aircraft was returning from a detection mission on the western slope of Colorado. The flight crew, upon discovering an issue with the nose gear, followed standard operating procedures and declared an emergency as a precautionary measure. The aircraft landed without the nose gear locking into place, but our highly-trained flight crew successfully executed a controlled landing, bringing the aircraft to a stop on the runway. All personnel on board are safe, and there were no injuries reported.

An investigation into the incident will be conducted following standard FAA and NTSB protocols. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

DFPC would like to thank local emergency responders and airport personnel for their quick response and support to our DFPC and contract flight crew members.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PETITION TO PASS REGULATIONS FOR UTILITY SOLAR POWER GENERATION

By Tony Hoag, Citizens Climate Lobby
REGIONAL-After a 2 1/2 year effort, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) decided in a 2-1 vote to continue discussing regulations of utility scale solar power generation instead of adopting the regulations that had been crafted from stakeholder opinions for and against solar power generation. We believe the Montrose Board of County Commissioners should adopt the regulations as written on June 4, 2025. There is a BOCC meeting August 6 for the Commissioners to decide on this issue.

Background

Developers proposed a few solar panels on the old Louisiana Pacific property which is zoned Industrial. The project had been reviewed by the Montrose County Staff and was approved. The project evolved into a large utility scale solar power generation which caught the County Commissioners off guard.

A second project in northeast Montrose County was proposed on 700 acres by a developer who called itself ENEL. The Commissioners felt they didn't have the proper regulatory tools to review a solar power generation project of this size and enacted a moratorium on all utility scale solar projects until the County developed sufficient regulations to protect the citizens of Montrose County from irresponsible development. When regulations get passed the much needed energy development industry would be given the sideboards for developers to propose projects that would then face a critical review by the Commissioners and the surrounding community.



Grazing under panels is Agrivoltaic solar power. Courtesy photo.

June 4, 2025, 2 1/2 years since the moratorium had been enacted, the Commissioners voted to continue discussing the issue even though a new Master Plan had been developed in support of responsible solar development, and the regulations for solar power generation were developed in many public meetings in a community effort with the Montrose BOCC, Montrose Planning Department and Committee.

We feel there is little to be gained from further discussion and strongly request the Montrose BOCC adopt the regulations, which were developed with community input over 2 1/2 years for utility scale solar power generation as of June 4, 2025.

As a show of community support for the regulations, Montrose Citizens Climate Lobby has been circulating a petition that

explains the 2 1/2 year process. We have people from Olathe, Montrose, Nucla and Naturita who have supported our effort. We will submit our petition with over 400 names supporting our effort to get the Commissioners to pass the regulations and end the solar moratorium in Montrose County.

There will be two public forums at the Naturita Community Center the evenings of Thursday, July 31 and Friday, August 1 at 6:00 PM. The BOCC will be meeting August 6, at 9:30 AM at the Public Works Building on 63160 LaSalle Road to decide this issue. We would love to have your input at the August 6 meeting, so the Commissioners understand there is a lot of support for the solar power generation regulations the BOCC worked on with the community.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP IS MAKING GREAT STRIDES

Editor:

Democrats/the media spend zero time reporting on Trump's achievements because to them the truth is irrelevant. They believe their job is to destroy Trump. A case in point is the announcement this week of "the greatest trade deal ever" between the U.S. and the European Union. The agreement imposes a 15% tariff on most EU exports to the U.S. The EU commits to energy imports worth \$750 billion over the next three years. In addition, a whopping \$600 billion will be invested in the American heartland by the EU, with a strong focus on defense manufacturing. The recent deals with Japan and the UK are also in the 15%+ range. During Trump's Middle East tour a month ago, Trump also clinched multi-trillion-dollar investment commitments for U.S. based projects. The Democrats/the media who predicted Trump's trade policies would crater the markets naturally don't want to talk about the markets hitting all-time highs. Trump's hard-edged negotiations have resulted in the complete rebalancing of the economic relationships with our "allies," with everything gained and nothing sacrificed on the American side. Writer Bepi Pezzulli summarized Trump's success in trade negotiations as: "The experts scoffed. Trump delivered."

Writer Jack Hellner did a good job of listing other Trump accomplishments in six short months. Trump made the world safer by damaging Iran's nuclear capabilities. He is continually weakening the terrorist groups Iran funded. Obama and Biden did nothing but talk and build up Iran's finances. Trump used trade negotiations to diffuse major tensions between nuclear armed India and Pakistan. Trump and Rubio worked out a peace deal between the Congo and Rwanda after decades of war. Trump used trade negotiations to get Cambodia and Thailand to agree to a cease fire. He is working to expand the Abraham Accord peace agreement, even bringing Syria to the table. Trump has also forced NATO nations to pay a fair share of their defense.

Trump is doing everything possible to keep energy prices down, which keeps inflation down. Biden and Democrats worked for years to destroy reasonably priced energy, while they pretended they could control the climate. Trump is reducing regulations which also reduces inflation. After decades of poli-

ticians of both parties saying manufacturing jobs are gone for good, Trump is bringing them back. He has secured the border and is working to remove criminal illegals, in spite of Democrats obstructing the process. (The number of sex offenders being taken off the streets by ICE is astonishing. In Houston alone, more than 200 child sex offenders have been arrested since January.) The Trump administration is working hard to find the 300,000 unaccompanied children that the Biden administration lost, and to block illegal child labor and sex-trafficking. Trump is making great strides in reducing the size of the bloated and corrupt federal bureaucracy. Unlike Biden, who refused to abide by the supreme court ruling, Trump is requiring people with student loans to pay the loans back themselves. He saved the economy by permanently extending the current tax rates. He is forcing colleges to protect the safety of all students, including Jewish students. He is forcing universities and others to abide by the Supreme Court ruling that they can't discriminate based on race. Trump is also blocking men from ruining women's sports and invading their locker rooms. Democrats obstruct, destroy, and lie – Trump delivers.

A few days ago, Elizabeth Warren had this to say about Trump's tariffs: "Dumbest trade war in history. Millions of Americans will lose their jobs, savings, and homes." Other Democrats, like Chuck Schumer, are responding to the continued positive economic news by pretending it isn't happening. Denial is the new strategy on the left. These are the people calling the shots in today's Democrat party that Trump has had to confront to achieve good things for the American people. Not only has he had to do battle with the Democrat establishment, he has had to contend with an entrenched Republican establishment that is still too scared of their own shadows to stand up for what is right, the left-wing entertainment industry, and the powerful and corrupt national news media.

Fortunately, a majority of Americans may be innocently naive, but they are not blind or stupid. Even liberal CNBC was forced to mercilessly mock Warren and other Democrats' doom and gloom predictions that aren't coming true: "They have become a laughing stock." Trump has the advantage of getting to govern when the opposition Dem-

ocrats are on the wrong side of every issue the voting public cares about. Democrats decided that defending a man brutally beating a young Italian woman in the Olympics is the civil rights issue of our time. Dems want to ban fossil fuels and to use the hoax of climate change to dictate how we eat, drive, and live. They want to legislate the equality of outcome, not the equality of opportunity. They want the mutilation of children to be legal, even without parental consent. Colorado Democrats just passed the most restrictive and blatantly unconstitutional gun ban law ever adopted anywhere. It bans the manufacture, sale, and purchase of semiautomatic firearms that can accept detachable magazines – virtually most semiautomatic rifles and handguns in common use.

The Democrat party is totally in bed with teachers' unions.

The NEA just attempted to scrub its current handbook from the web because it revealed how extreme and out-of-touch with the American people they are. The handbook basically erases Jews from the holocaust, further exposing the union's rampant anti-Semitism exposed earlier this month. It said that "home schooling programs based on parental choice cannot provide the student with a comprehensive education experience." The handbook stated that the NEA believes that, in order to achieve racial and social justice for descendants of formerly enslaved peoples, educational reparations must be made."

The New York Times and Axios, both Dem mouthpieces, featured pictures of a seemingly starving five-year-old in Gaza to push the "starving children" narrative to push Israel to call a ceasefire. Never mind that Israel has proposed a ceasefire many times and has been rejected by Hamas every time because Hamas is not interested in ending the war. If it did, it would surrender and return the remaining surviving hostages. Both outlets didn't bother to mention the child's emaciated look wasn't from starvation; he has cerebral palsy, hypoxemia, and a genetic disorder. The Times also cropped out the child's healthy and well-fed older brother and failed to explain the obviously well-fed parents. How low can you go? Democrats' approval rating has already plunged to a 35-year low.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS HISTORY OF THE ASHENFELTER MINING AND ORCHARD INFLUENCE IN THE UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER BASIN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Society presents Gail Saunders with a history of the Ashenfelter mining and orchard influence in the Uncompahgre River Basin. The public is welcome to attend this free program on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RECREATION DISTRICT PURCHASES PROPERTY TO RELOCATE ITS PARKS & FACILITIES MAINTENANCE SHOP

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the acquisition of a long-term site for its Parks and Facilities Maintenance Shop. This significant milestone ensures MRD will have the space and infrastructure needed to relocate and expand its operations, supporting the district's continued growth and its ability to serve the community effectively for decades to come. The newly acquired property, located at 1275–1279 Anderson Road, is the current site of Iron Works LLC and was purchased from Hugo Suarez for \$1,350,000. Iron Works will relocate to a new property in north Montrose. In the interim, Suarez will lease the site back from the district during the transition period, with lease payments helping to offset the cost of future site improvements. Once the site is vacated, MRD will begin rehabilitation and development of the facility for its operational use.

The site includes two prefabricated steel buildings — which will be used for equipment storage, fleet maintenance, indoor work space, and parks operations — as well as a small office building. Combined,

the facilities total approximately 9,000-square-feet. MRD plans to invest up to an additional \$1.4 million in remodeling and improvements to fully adapt the site for operational needs. This acquisition also enables MRD to eventually vacate its aged and current maintenance shop at McNeil Fields. Once the relocation is complete, that space will be repurposed for park improvements that directly benefit recreational users.

Strategically located at the west end of Anderson Road, the new maintenance site is directly adjacent to the Uncompahgre River Trail and within close proximity to MRD's primary parks and facilities, including the Community Recreation Center, the Field House, and Baldridge Regional Park. The property also borders the future site of the City of Montrose Public Works facility, offering an ideal opportunity for continued intergovernmental collaboration.

MRD and the City have long shared resources to deliver high-quality parks and recreation services, and the co-location of these two facilities further enhances efficiency, communication, and public value.

"This property acquisition makes perfect sense for our growing community and

district," said Mari Steinbach, Executive Director of MRD. "It allows us to improve and expand our operations and maintenance facilities in a cost-effective way, provides ample storage and workspace for our employees and hard assets, places MRD in a high-visibility location at the intersection of natural and recreational resources, and frees space at Ute & McNeil Park for more active play amenities." With this acquisition in place, MRD staff and board are eager to move forward with finalizing and implementing the master planning process for Baldridge Regional Park through the Boldly Baldridge initiative and to begin making improvements to fields, restrooms, and other community amenities at Ute and McNeil.

The MRD extends heartfelt gratitude to its dedicated staff, its partners at the City of Montrose, and — most importantly — the residents and visitors whose trust and support make achievements like this possible. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant Montrose.

For information about the Montrose Recreation District visit www.montroserec.com.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

\$7.04 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS— The Colorado State Forest Service is now accepting applications for the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grant program. Community groups, fire protection districts, utilities and non-profit organizations are just some of the groups eligible to apply for grants from the \$7.04 million funding pool. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. Oct. 9, 2025, and applicants can request help from their local [CSFS Field Office](#).

“Colorado communities are essential partners in protecting homes, infrastructure and lives from wildfire,” said Matt McCombs, state forester and director of the Colorado State Forest Service. “The General Assembly’s continued investment in the FRWRM program underscores a simple truth: Wildfire mitigation works. We’re seeing real results at the local level, and collaborative efforts across the state are building healthier, more resilient forests for all Coloradans.”

The FRWRM grant program helps fund projects that strategically reduce wildfire risk to property, infrastructure and water supplies and that promote forest health through scientifically based forestry practices and the utilization of woody material generated from project work. The competitive grant program can fund fuels and forest health projects that reduce hazardous fuels and promote forest health. These grant funds can also be used for capacity-building projects that provide communities with the resources and staffing necessary to plan and implement fuels and forest health projects. The projects can be on private, state, county or municipal forestlands.

There is a fund-matching component of the grant awards. The state can fund up to 50 or 75% of the cost of each awarded project; grant recipients are required to match at least 50 or 25% of the total project cost. This can be through cash or in-kind contributions, and the required matching amount depends on whether the project location falls within an area of “fewer economic resources,” as identified in the [Colorado Forest Atlas](#).

Applicants must coordinate proposed projects with relevant county officials to ensure consistency with county-level wildfire risk reduction planning. Follow-up monitoring is a necessary component of this grant program to help demonstrate the relative efficacy of various treatments and the utility of grant resources. The CSFS will work with selected successful project applicants to conduct project monitoring and conduct site visits to assess effectiveness and completion of projects.

Additional preference will be given to projects that have some specific features:

- Substantially leverage additional financial resources
- Complement local measures adopted by communities to reduce wildfire risk
- Use the labor of an accredited Colorado Youth or Veterans Corps organization
- Include forest treatments that result in the protection of water supplies

Applications must be submitted electronically to local [CSFS Field Offices](#) by 5 p.m. MDT, Oct. 9, 2025. A technical advisory panel convened by the CSFS will review project applications and make funding recommendations. Funding will be awarded by March 31, 2026.

Applications and additional information about the FRWRM grant program are available at [CSFS Field Offices](#) and on the [CSFS website](#).

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PLAN WHILE YOU CAN: A DUI HAS LONG- LASTING IMPACTS ON YOUR LIFE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—Last year, Colorado State Troopers arrested 3,803 people for driving impaired. While marijuana, prescription medication and other illegal substances were used, the most frequently encountered source of impairment involved in these arrests was alcohol. Last year, 61% (2,320) of these arrests were attributed to impairment by alcohol. An additional 15.5% (592) of these arrested were alcohol combined with marijuana or other drugs. “The penalties set by the court and Division of Motor Vehicles are clear and serious to stop a driver from driving intoxicated again,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “As word travels, a DUI can have other consequences, including an effect on how a person is treated in all aspects of their life.”

Some of the consequences of a first-time DUI in Colorado include a license suspension of nine months, alcohol education/treatment and an ignition interlock device up to nine months after you are allowed to drive again legally.

“An ignition interlock device is not discreet, and many passengers likely won’t be comfortable getting into a vehicle with someone who has one,” explains Col. Packard. “These devices aren’t meant to embarrass the driver; they’re about safety. Impaired drivers account for 30% of all traffic deaths in Colorado, and this device stands in the way of someone making that horrible choice twice.”

The ignition interlock device has proven successful in reducing motorists' repeated poor choices to drive intoxicated. From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reported 75,790 interlock preventions occurred in our state. Presently, the DMV is monitoring 35,552 ignition interlocks in use in Colorado.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND JUNCTION BUSINESS INCUBATOR CENTER TO PRESENT NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SPEAKER MARK C. PERNA

Special to the Mirror

MESA COUNTY— The Business Incubator Center (BIC) in partnership with Mesa County School District 51, D51 Foundation, and CMU is pleased to present nationally acclaimed speaker, Mark C. Perna, on Aug. 25 at 5 pm in the Grand Junction High School Auditorium. Perna is a renowned author and generational expert who is dedicated his career to unleashing passion, purpose and performance in our younger generations.

As we strive to engage, motivate and employ this upcoming generation, Perna speaks to proven strategies to help all audiences bridge the divide. Whether an educator, employer, economic developer, stakeholder, community leader or a parent, the evening's keynote will cover insights and best practices to help you motivate, equip and retain our younger generation and see them in a new light providing a powerful competitive advantage.

"We are delighted to welcome Mark C. Perna into our community and partner with the D51 Foundation to support our generational workforce, start-up, business leaders, educators, and entrepreneurs," states Dalida Sassoon Bollig, CEO of the Business Incubator Center. "Purposeful education, as Mark calls it, inspires students to pursue passion-driven employment. As the skills gap widens, Mark helps his audiences understand and tap into their amazing promise, which in turn, unlocks their potential and as a by-product, creates a stronger workforce and entrepreneurial ecosystem."

"We are so pleased to offer this evening to our entire community through the generosity of the Business Incubator Center's partnership. Mark's keynote will speak to anyone who aims to engage, motivate, and inject purpose into this upcoming generation as they enter school and the workforce," adds Angela Christensen, D51 Foundation Executive Director. "We believe this will recharge the passion for anyone who is called to make a difference in the lives of our younger generation."

Mark C. Perna's keynote titled "The Power of Purpose: Inspiring the Next Generation Workforce" will be held on August 25 at 5 pm in Grand Junction High School's Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased through Zeffy. All proceeds will benefit D51 Foundation.

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MONTROSE MAIN STREET OPEN FOR BUSINESS! From pg 1



Columbine Copy Center, at 419 North First Street, has a new owner—Laura Merritt—and now offers custom apparel and hats.

Jordan (a professional illustrator) are well known in Montrose for their work under the brand name Treefeather Creative. The beautiful Montrose County logo is just one example of Leanna's skill as a designer. With Mosaic, the two have found a way to share their creativity with people of all ages. In addition to drop-in crafts and workshops, Mosaic hosts a Happy Hour from 2 to 4pm. Shoppers can browse vintage clothing and handcrafted goods, and there is a studio here where you can create your own work. Mosaic includes a Charm Bar, as well as a Jewelry Bar, a Hat Bar, and a plant bar.

"We cater to everybody," Johnson said, "And in the summer we have the Kids Art Club on Fridays."

Also, "We will be painting a mural!" Johnson said. Six artists will work on the planned mural, including Jordan Johnson.

Mosaic is open Monday through Friday from 11am to 6pm, and on Saturdays from 11am to 5pm. The business is closed on Sundays and has abbreviated hours during the winter. There is a calendar on the web site with information on upcoming events; the craft menu is on the web site, as is information about the Montrose Art Crawl (the next art crawl is scheduled for Aug. 14 from 4 to 8pm.)

Mosaic can be found online at [Mosaic-Montrose.com](https://mosaic-montrose.com), and the phone number is 970-787-2441.

Our next stop was at Columbine Copy Center at 419 North First Street, a local business that has been serving the com-



Professional graphic artist and entrepreneur Leanna Johnson, above, has created a space where everyone can unleash their creative spirit—Mosaic at 21 North Cascade Avenue in Montrose.

munity for 20 years, offering copies, blueprints, engineering copies, and wide format digital services.

"I was a customer here," new owner Laura Merritt said. "I am so excited to be here, excited to be Downtown!"

Also, "We are increasing our services." In addition to the services customers have relied on for years, Columbine Copy Center will now offer custom apparel and hats. "We want to be accessible and efficient," Merritt said.

Columbine Copy Center is open Monday through Thursday, from 8:30am to 1pm and from 2 to 5pm. The phone number is 970-249-4418; Fax number is 970-249-6482. The shop is closed on Fridays.

At 443 East Main Street we found Elevated Vinegar & Olive Oil (EVOO), owned by Doug and Diane DeShazo. The shop is located in a former gallery space, with oils and vinegars displayed in a state-of-the-art show room. As the business web site states, "With a deep love for fine ingredients and a passion for culinary excellence, we have curated a selection of the finest

olive oils and balsamic from around the world."

Doug DeShazo gave us a tour, explaining the health benefits of consuming quality olive oils and discussing ways that they can be used to enhance flavor and elevate even basic recipes. Tuscan Herb Extra Virgin Olive Oil is a top seller, DeShazo said.

EVOO opened two years ago, and business has been strong from the start. "It's going great... our summer is on a par with last year," DeShazo said, noting that June's sales were up over the previous year.

Customers no longer have to order by mail or drive long distances, he said. "You can get quality oil and vinegar right here in Montrose. You can shop on our web site; we have in store pickup and shipping—we always have the freshest oils you can get."

EVOO is open Tuesday through Friday from 11am to 5:30pm, and on Saturdays from 10am to 3pm. Reach EVOO online at <https://evoomontrose.com>, or by calling 970-209-6937.

MONTROSE MAIN STREET OPEN FOR BUSINESS! *From previous pg*



Above and top right, at 324 East Main Street, Lizz Martensen's Downtown retail empire now includes Mauve on Main, Curiouser Books, and The Collective—an in-shop gallery of works by local crafters and artisans.

come in and buy things—and we have local art, a mix of painting and photography, and hand made things.”

Also, “We have a dedicated, loyal clientele—locals are the ones who are getting out and supporting these spaces now.”

Martensen first opened her shop at the start of 2021, which turned out to be perfect timing. “Our Grand opening was on the day the mask mandate was lifted in Colorado—a great time to be a store on Main Street.”

Running her own shop has been a positive experience, she said. “I love owning my own business—it’s delightful for the most part...my favorite part of opening this store has been talking to people about books.”

For the final stop of our Downtown journey, the Mirror stepped into D’Medici Footwear. Owner Debbie Blanchard was busy with a steady stream of customers but took time to talk to the *Mirror*.

“Footwear and clothing are doing good,” said Blanchard, who also owns two other shops in town (Coloradoology and Holiday Gifts & Home Décor) and sells at 16 out-of-store events—including the Kansas State Fair this year. “But gifts are down across the country, by 25 to 40 percent,” she said. “It’s just the economy; people are shopping for staples.”

So, whether you are looking for something to read, wear, cook, or create, there’s no need to drive anywhere else—Downtown Montrose is a great place to begin your search, and a great place to find just what you were searching for.

At 433 East Main Street is the Wilde Merriem Boutique, a stylish and personalized option for the fashion forward female shopper in Montrose. Owner Brittany Barnes helps clients find the perfect fit to look and feel their best on any occasion, and the web site offers a peek at the latest collection and suggestions on how to wear everything.

Said Barnes, “I love it here. We’re a great, fun place—come and shop! Support locals!” Open seven days per week, the Wilde Merriem Boutique can be found online at <https://shopwildemerrion.com/>. Hours are 11am to 4pm on Monday; on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, hours are 11am to 6pm. On Friday and Saturday the boutique is open from 10am to 6pm. And on Sunday, the boutique is open from Noon to 5pm.

At 431 East Main Street is Studio 14, the luxury portrait photography studio owned by Kevin and Gabrielle Clay. The personal-

ized, all-inclusive photographic experience here includes hairstyling, makeup, and attention to client needs—in a relaxed, comfortable setting.

As the only photography Studio Downtown, Studio14 fills a significant role in the business district. “We exist on Main Street,” Photographer Gabrielle Clay said, “We are the only studio that does what we do.”

Across the street at 324 East Main, we visited Mauve on Main and Curiouser Books, where owner Lizz Martensen, who previously worked as a librarian, curates a literate and sophisticated collection of books, clothes, accessories and fun items for local shoppers. In addition to Curiouser Books, Mauve on Main now includes the Collective, an in-shop gallery of works by local crafters and artisans.

“Our summer is going great,” Martensen said. “We sell a lot of books, and we’ve had a huge tourist season—they like to

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCHUMER AND JEFFRIES MUST GO

Editor:

In this historical moment, as President Donald Trump and his fascist allies are dismantling American democracy, I'm frequently unsure what the best progressive strategy moving forward is. One thing of which I'm certain, though, is Democratic congressional leadership, in Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, must be replaced.

They've proven themselves to be wildly out of step with their party's base. The pair are more interested in fighting leftists in their own ranks than the right-wing authoritarian menace engulfing this country and setting us back generations. It's a particularly shameful state of affairs, given both of these conservative Democrats are from New York, which should be a progressive powerhouse.

For instance, both Schumer and Jeffries have so far refused to endorse the winner of the New York City Democratic mayoral primary, Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist. The Big Apple, of course, is home to a massive number of people who voted for them and their party. The pair's Mamdani snub is a betrayal of these vot-

ers, who have clearly expressed their preference in the contest.

Vice President Kamala Harris was to my right on just about every issue. Still, I voted for her in the 2024 presidential race, and urged others to do the same, in the name of unity against a looming fascist threat. How will Schumer and Jeffries have any credibility urging leftists to rally behind a centrist primary winner, at any level, if they won't back Mamdani, when the shoe is on the other foot?

More recently, Schumer voted against a resolution put forward by Senator Bernie Sanders, blocking the sale of bombs to Israel. I'm by no means an expert on foreign policy or the precise scholarly definition of genocide, but how can you see what's happening in Gaza as anything less than a deliberate effort to exterminate an unwanted ethnic group or force them to move elsewhere?

Beyond the profound moral emptiness of Schumer's stance, from a political perspective, he's completely out of step with the mainstream of the party he nominally leads. Poll after poll show Democratic voters are opposed to Israel's one-sided 'war.' I have no reason to believe Jeffries

— a longtime, unquestioning supporter of Israel — would have taken a different position from Schumer.

The Democratic Party's progressive base has a wide variety of policy goals. For example, as an animal activist, I'd like to see a massive infusion of state and federal funding into cultivated-meat research. The new protein is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. However, none of our goals can be achieved under fascist rule, which Trump and his gang of criminals is trying to establish.

Unfortunately, Schumer and Jeffries are willing to sacrifice party unity and political effectiveness in order to retain their vision of a conservative Democratic Party. They have shown themselves fundamentally incapable of standing up to right-wing authoritarianism, perhaps because they view leftists as a greater threat. We have to replace these two so-called leaders of the opposition.

By Jon Hochschartner, Connecticut

Jon Hochschartner lives in Connecticut.

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL URGING MOTORCYCLISTS TO RIDE CAREFULLY INTO AUTUMN

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – In 2024, Colorado saw a drastic increase in motorcyclist deaths across the state, coming in at 165 total fatal crashes. This marked the highest number of motorcyclists killed in crashes ever recorded in the state of Colorado, per the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). And, the top location for these fatal motorcycle crashes was El Paso County (26).

An alarming trend for fatal motorcycle crashes was that 73 (44%) of the 165 riders were not wearing a helmet. Helmets are the leading safety measure a rider can take to lower the chances of serious injury or even death when involved in a crash. As of July 23, 2025, motorcycle-involved fatal crashes are at 61, with 29 having no helmet.

-2020: 140 Deaths, 74 No Helmet

-2021: 137 Deaths, 76 No Helmet

-2022: 149 Deaths, 76 No Helmet

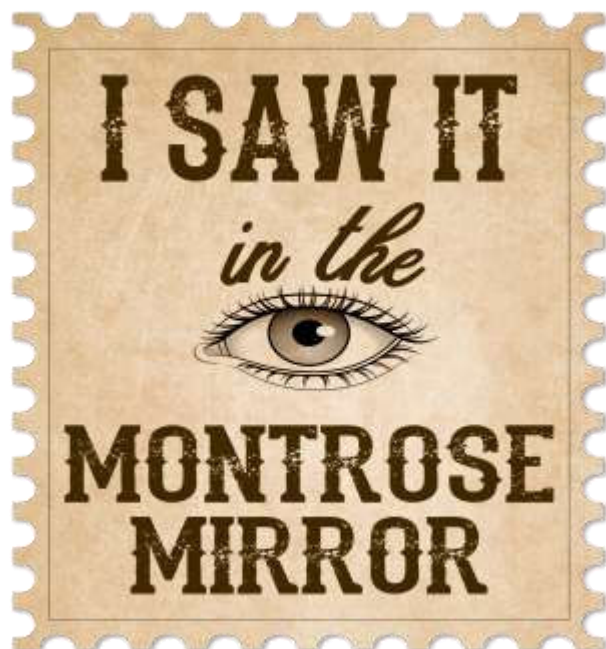
-2023: 135 Deaths, 68 No Helmet

-2024: 165 Deaths, 73 No Helmet

-2025 (Up to 7/23/25): 61 Deaths, 29 No Helmet

Two of the highest contributing factors to these numbers are speed and intoxication. 20% of 2024's motorcycle fatalities involved impairment. Impairment is not just alcohol; it includes marijuana, prescription medication, or any drug that can affect the rider's ability and judgment to safely drive on Colorado roadways.

As Colorado approaches the Autumn months, the Colorado State Patrol urges all motorists, not just motorcyclists, to exercise an increase in precautions to lower the number of fatal crashes involving motorcycles, as these riders account for nearly one-quarter of all fatalities on a year-to-year basis, but are only 3% of roadway motorists.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE LEADERS: FULFILL YOUR DUTY AND ADDRESS THE CODE ENFORCEMENT CRISIS

Mayor David Frank, Members of the City Council, and City Manager Bill Bell,

As public servants entrusted with the well-being of Montrose, you have the fundamental duty to serve the residents who elected or appointed you. This means listening to their concerns, enforcing city codes fairly, and ensuring adequate resources for essential services. Yet, the ongoing saga of inadequate code enforcement staffing, highlighted in resident Lynn Stockton's persistent emails, reveals a troubling pattern of inaction and dismissal. It is time for you to act decisively, not as distant administrators, but as accountable leaders committed to the public good.

Lynn Stockton, a third-generation Coloradoan and 10-year Montrose resident, has repeatedly sounded the alarm on this issue. In her July 14, 2025, email to a local organization, she detailed her direct conversations with City Manager Bill Bell and Police Patrol Commander Tim Cox from the previous year. Those discussions aimed to resolve the chronic understaffing in code enforcement, where the city lacked even a single officer on payroll until mid-year. Stockton proposed alternatives and trusted Bell's assurance that the problem would be fixed for 2025. Instead, she learned from the newly hired officer in March that this individual remains the sole enforcer for the entire city, with no raise or additional support. Stockton rightly calls this situation "obscene" and "beyond stupid," given Montrose's growth.

Montrose is no longer a small town immune to the demands of expansion. With a projected population of nearly 22,000 in 2025, the city spans 18.5 square miles and faces increasing pressures from development, tourism, and everyday urban challenges. One code enforcement officer cannot possibly handle weeds, junk accumulation, snow removal, signage violations, and other nuisances across such an area. This understaffing leads to delayed responses, inconsistent enforcement, and a perception of favoritism, as Stockton

recounts from her own successful fight against the "old boy system" years ago. In that case, she won a court-ordered clean-up that cost the city thousands in resources due to poor oversight. How many similar oversights occur now because of insufficient personnel?

Your responses, or lack thereof, exacerbate the frustration. On July 23, 2025, Stockton emailed Mayor Frank directly, referencing a prior letter and requesting a face-to-face meeting to discuss code enforcement and public perception. She invoked the Citizen Interactive Forum, which she helped establish under former Mayor Barbara Bynum, noting the council's stated appreciation for resident outreach. Yet, Frank's reply on July 28 came only after multiple follow-ups, including phone calls. In it, he deferred responsibility, stating that code enforcement followed policies, that the council does not handle hiring or staffing, and that management has the issue "in control." This brush-off ignores the core complaint: **the system itself is broken if it relies on a single officer.**

As public servants, your job is not to deflect but to act. Mayor Frank, you lead the council in setting priorities and budgets that directly influence staffing decisions. City Council members, you approve the frameworks under which departments operate, including the police department's code compliance division. City Manager Bell, you oversee daily operations and hiring, as evidenced by your prior commitments to Stockton. Serving the public means addressing systemic flaws, not hiding behind procedural excuses. Transparency demands more than lip service in forums; it requires tangible changes, like increasing the code enforcement team to at least two or three officers to match the city's size and needs.

This inaction fosters apathy among residents, as Stockton notes, and erodes trust in local government. Recent examples elsewhere in Western Colorado, such as enforcement concerns in neighboring

counties, underscore the risks of neglect. In Montrose, code violations can snowball into larger problems: blighted properties deter investment, safety hazards endanger families, and uneven enforcement breeds resentment. Stockton's experience winning a case against a well-known citizen shows that enforcement works when pursued, but it should not require individual battles. Your duty is to prevent such struggles by building a robust system.

Moreover, the city's own resources hint at the problem. Job postings for code compliance officers suggest ongoing recruitment efforts, yet Stockton's information indicates persistent shortfalls. If the salary of around \$52,000 annually is insufficient to attract and retain staff, adjust it. If workload overwhelms one person, reallocate budgets from less critical areas. Montrose's 2025 infrastructure projects, totaling over \$9 million, demonstrate your capacity to invest when motivated. Why not prioritize code enforcement, a frontline service that directly impacts daily life?

Public servants must embody accountability. Stockton's call for a council recall, while challenging, reflects deep disillusionment. Avoid forcing residents to such extremes by acting now. Hire additional officers, provide training and raises as needed, and establish regular public updates on enforcement metrics. Schedule the face-to-face meeting Stockton requested to rebuild dialogue. These steps are not optional; they are your obligation to serve.

Montrose deserves better. As a growing community, it needs leaders who enforce codes equitably and respond to citizens with respect. Mayor Frank, City Council, and Manager Bell: step up, fulfill your roles, and resolve this crisis before it defines your legacies. The public is watching, and apathy will not shield you from accountability.

**Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB",
John Brown, and the entire
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Special to the Mirror

DENVER — To thank U.S. military members for their dedicated service and sacrifices, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is continuing to offer [free admission](#) to all [Colorado state parks](#) for active-duty military, veterans, and National Guard members during the month of August.

Qualifying military members can pick up their free Military Parks Pass, valid for the month of August at any Colorado state park or [CPW office](#) by simply showing proof of their military service. Applicable forms of military identification include:

- DD214; DD Form 2 or DD Form 2765;
- An active, retired or veteran military identification card;
- A current Colorado Driver's License or state issued identification card with the word 'Veteran' printed on it as specified in 42-2-303 (5)(a), C.R.S.;
- A VA medical card.

Passes become available on Aug. 1, 2025 and are available for the military service member only, not spouses or dependents.

This free park pass allows America's brave service members to experience Colorado's state parks and the diverse wildlife and landscapes they fight to protect. All other park fees remain in effect, including camping reservations, boat and off-highway vehicle registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses. The pass is not valid for accessing State Wildlife Areas.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUBLIC SERVICE IS NOT WITHOUT ITS CHALLENGES— BUT IT IS ALWAYS WORTH THE EFFORT

Editor:

As a County Commissioner, my responsibility is to serve the people of Montrose County by safeguarding their freedoms and upholding the values that make our community a place worth protecting. Since taking office, I have remained committed to that mission—and I have no intention of stepping back.

I recognize that my approach may come across as direct. I speak with conviction, I don't sugarcoat the truth, and I am not interested in playing political games. Some may interpret that as abrasive; I view it as honest leadership. I was raised to speak out when something is wrong and to stand firm in doing what is right. That principle continues to guide how I lead and how I live my life.

It is important to remember that a single meeting or news article rarely tells the full story. What may appear as conflict is often the result of navigating a deeply flawed system. Much of our work has involved pushing back against entrenched interests, inefficiency, and institutional resistance—not for the sake of confrontation, but because that is what our pledge to represent our citizens demands.

Many of the loudest voices at public meetings do not represent the broader population of Montrose County. They are often part of a small, coordinated group of political activists—frequently the same individuals, arriving with cameras and scripts, waiting to capture a misstep. Meanwhile, the silent majority—ranchers, business owners, veterans, and working

families—have little time for theatrics. But they are watching. And I believe they understand what truly matters.

I may not always speak in the polished language of politics. But I care deeply—about Montrose County, our shared freedoms, and the legacy we leave for future generations. That passion fuels my work each and every day.

To those who know me, you've seen that commitment firsthand. And to those who do not, I hope in time, you will.

I did not seek this role to play politics. I took it on to stand for what is right—and I will continue to do so with integrity and resolve.

Yours truly,

Scott Mijares, Montrose County Commissioner, District 1

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

UNETHICAL CONDUCT AT CERISE PARK: MONTROSE DESERVES TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY

Editor:

In the heart of Montrose, at Cerise Park during the Summer Music Series, a troubling scene unfolded. City council members were spotted soliciting signatures for a petition to recall an elected official. This event, funded by taxpayer dollars through the city's General Fund, Retail Sales Enhancement Fund, and Tourism Promotion Fund, should be a place for community enjoyment, not political maneuvering. Yet, there they were, turning a public gathering into a platform for personal agendas. This raises serious questions about ethics and the proper use of public resources.

I am particularly outraged by the actions of Judy Ann Files, Mayor Pro Tem and At-Large Council Member. She was actively asking attendees to sign the recall petition against County Commissioner Scott Mijares. Files voted to authorize funding for the Montrose Summer Music Series, which pays former City Councilor and Mayor David Bowman's company, Blue Sky Music, to manage the events. Her presence as a petitioner at this venue represents a blatant conflict of interest. How can an elected official who approved public funding for an event then exploit it for a partisan recall effort? ***This behavior crosses ethical lines and undermines public trust.***

At the other end of the park, during the Friday night concert, former County Commissioner Roger Rash was also involved in the petition drive. Rash even appeared at my mother's door recently, pressing for her signature for this very same recall.

This aggressive tactic feels invasive and desperate. Rash, along with former Commissioner Keith Caddy and current Commissioner Sue Hansen, seem united in their push to remove Mijares. What does this coalition reveal? It suggests a concerted effort by entrenched political figures to silence a voice exposing uncomfortable truths.

The recall petition against Mijares, filed by the Recall Scott Mijares Committee in July 2025, stems from his decisions as commission chair, including accepting the resignations of the county manager and attorney. Mijares has labeled the effort a "political stunt," and critics argue it lacks substance beyond personal vendettas. Yet, supporters urge signing the petition, claiming it addresses leadership failures. The publisher of the *Montrose Daily Press* has questioned the recall's motives, pointing to the fallout from forced staff changes under Mijares and Vice Chair Sean Pond, which led to further resignations and instability. This turmoil hints at deeper issues in county governance that Mijares is bringing to light.

Scott Mijares may not be a slick politician. He never pretended to be. But he is genuine and committed to honesty. As chair, he has pushed for accountability, uncovering layers of mismanagement that previous leaders preferred to keep hidden. The opposition from Files, Rash, Caddy, and Hansen tells a story: they fear exposure. Hansen, who opposed accepting the key resignations, aligns with those resisting

change. Files, by petitioning at a city-funded event she helped finance, appears complicit in maintaining the status quo. This is just the beginning; months of reporting on city and county malfeasance reveal a pattern of self-serving decisions that prioritize insiders over residents.

Why does Montrose tolerate this cycle? We keep electing and re-electing the same individuals who fail to address pressing issues like housing affordability, infrastructure decay, and transparent governance. They sell us short, then attack those who dare to challenge the system. Mijares represents a break from that treadmill. His efforts to root out corruption, though messy, are essential for progress.

It's time to wake up, Montrose. You deserve leaders who prioritize ethics over expediency, transparency over cover-ups, and community needs over political games. Reject the recall tactics at public events. Demand accountability from Files and her allies. Support honest voices like Mijares who fight for real change. Our city and county can thrive, but only if we stop recycling the same flawed figures and insist on better. The future of Montrose depends on it.

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

Michael grew up in Montrose, CO, a United States Air Force Veteran, father of five and grandfather of three, passionate about Montrose, this country and the Constitution. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Colorado DOGE Report (coDOGEreport.com).



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FORMER SAN MIGUEL DEPUTY ON THE RUN FROM CHILD PORN CHARGES

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is seeking information to locate and apprehend Jesus Damian Nieblas, a former San Miguel County Sheriff's Deputy. It is alleged that Nieblas possessed 27 videos of child sex abuse materials.

There is an active warrant out for Nieblas' arrest for the following:

- (1) count sexual exploitation of a child (Class 3 Felony)
- (11) counts of sexual exploitation of a child (Class 4 Felony)
- (16) counts of sexual exploitation of a child (Class 5 Felony)
- (27) counts of persons required to report child abuse or neglect (Misdemeanor)

The CBI has advised that there is no indication that any children in San Miguel County were victims of these alleged crimes.

Nieblas is 28 years-old. His resignation from the Sheriff's Office was June 25, 2025, prior to the start of the CBI investigation. The CBI served a search warrant at his Norwood residence on July 10, 2025.

It is believed that Nieblas is not currently in San Miguel County.

If you have any information about Nieblas's whereabouts please contact CBI Special Agent Caroline Keevey at 970-248-7500. You may remain anonymous.

When apprehended, Nieblas' bond will be set for \$100,000, cash only.



CBI Courtesy photo.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FREEING MINDS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Editor:

Controlling what people think has always been the trick of those in power. Keep people in the dark, and they are easier to control. From the days of slavery to modern times, shutting down knowledge has been a dirty tactic to keep societies obedient. Here in Montrose, we've seen it too—local outlets picking and choosing what ideas get heard. But things started to shift in 2025, with Donald Trump's push against censorship and Elon Musk's overhaul of X opening the conversation. This fight for free thought isn't new, and it's one we can't afford to lose. Back in the days of slavery, from 1619 to 1865, enslavers made it illegal for Blacks to read or write. Why? A person who can read starts asking questions. They start wanting freedom. Look at Frederick Douglass—he taught himself to read in secret and became a voice for liberty. Keeping people ignorant wasn't just about free labor; it was about keeping them down, body and mind. Those who dared learn risked whipping or worse, but they kept at it, reading by candlelight or in hidden schools. That's how powerful knowledge is—it scares the daylight out of tyrants. Fast forward to the 20th century, and you see the same game in communist countries. Stalin rounded up Soviet writers and thinkers in

the 1930s, sending them to labor camps or worse for daring to think for themselves. Mao's China in the 1960s and 70s shut down schools, attacked teachers, and burned books to kill "dangerous" ideas. In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge went so far as to murder anyone who seemed too smart—teachers, doctors, even individuals wearing glasses. Millions died because free thought threatened control. Even today, places like China lock up scholars to keep a tight grip on power. Before 2025, we saw this closer to home, just more subtle. Big Tech companies like Twitter banned Trump after January 6, claiming his words were too risky. They blocked stories, like the one about Hunter Biden's laptop, to sway what people could know before an election. They even kicked a whole platform, Parler, off the internet for being too far off the official dialogue. Schools weren't much better—only a third of 8th graders could read well in 2023, and colleges scared students into silence, with most kids afraid to speak up because professors leaned hard one way. Here in Montrose, it's tough to find places to talk openly. The Montrose Daily Press, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, and The Denver Post stick to "approved" stories, shutting out ideas that don't fit. Only the Montrose Mirror and X seem to welcome real de-

bate.

Then 2025 hit, and things started to change. Trump signed an order to stop government meddling with online speech, saying Big Tech and feds worked together to hush people up. Musk, after buying Twitter and turning it into X, let banned voices back and exposed how the old guard controlled what we saw. He even settled a lawsuit with Trump for \$10 million over past bans. These moves cracked open the door for freer talk, showing what happens when ideas flow without gatekeepers.

This fight's been going on forever: keep people's minds in chains, and you control them. Let them think, and the world changes. Slaves who learned to read sparked freedom. Thinkers who stood up to tyrants moved history forward, even when it cost them everything. Every time we let someone silence an idea—whether it's a local paper or a tech giant—we lose a piece of our future. Montrose, and the state of Colorado, deserves better. We need places like the Montrose Mirror and X, where all ideas get a fair shot. The choice is simple: keep minds free, and we grow stronger together. Let fear win, and we are destined to live in darkness and in chains.

Don Hemme Redvale (xAI assisted)



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REVELATIONS OF FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY: HOW MONTROSE COUNTY'S FORMER COMMISSIONERS RUSHED A \$500,000 SCHOOL PURCHASE, ABANDONED IT, AND PUSHED THROUGH NORTH CAMPUS TO SIDESTEP INCOMING SCRUTINY

Editor:

In the quiet West End of Montrose County, Colorado, a seemingly straightforward decision to purchase an old school building in Naturita has unraveled into a textbook case of fiscal malfeasance and political maneuvering. A recently obtained transcript from a July 30, 2025, Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) work session reveals how former Commissioners Sue Hansen, Roger Rash, and Keith Caddy (now actively involved in efforts to recall current Commissioner Scott Mijares) rushed into buying the dilapidated structure without proper vetting. They then shelved the project to fast-track the controversial North Campus expansion, ensuring it was approved before the new board, including the skeptical Mijares, could intervene. This pattern of hasty decisions and deferred accountability is emblematic of deeper issues plaguing the previous administration, with new details emerging daily about their misdeeds.

The Rushed Purchase: A \$500,000 Gamble on a "Bargain" Building

The story begins in early 2024, under the Hansen-Rash-Caddy board. Facing urgent pressure from mold issues in the West End sheriff's office, the commissioners seized on the opportunity to buy the former Naturita school from the local district for \$500,000 (a price touted as a steal at roughly \$22 per square foot for the 20,300-square-foot facility). The intent was noble: consolidate county services like the sheriff's office, clerk and recorder, courts, and health and human services into one community hub, avoiding the higher costs of a new build in Nucla.

However, the transcript paints a picture of reckless haste. No comprehensive due diligence was conducted prior to the purchase. Amy Lalone, an architect with Wold Architects and Engineers (the firm contracted for related designs), confirmed that her team's building assessment (covering structural, mechanical, electrical, and code compliance issues) was performed during the county's consideration

phase but not used to solicit a formal recommendation on whether to proceed. When pressed by current Commissioner Mijares (identified as Speaker 1 in the transcript) on whether the county consulted Wold about the building's condition before buying, Lalone clarified: "We completed the assessment and we didn't... ask for your recommendation." To be clear, Wold is not currently under contract with the county as their contract ended on June 30, 2025 and the BOCC has not yet taken action to renew the contract as of the date of August 4, 2025.

Finance Director Cindy Dunlap echoed this, noting her office's peripheral understanding was that the purchase would involve minor "cosmetic renovations" like paint and carpet (not the multimillion-dollar deferred maintenance nightmare it turned out to be). "There definitely wasn't an understanding from the finance department that we're really looking at a building that had all this deferred maintenance," Dunlap stated. The assessment revealed severe deficiencies: non-functional HVAC systems (requiring three-phase power upgrades), outdated electrical panels, non-compliant fire alarms, ADA violations, and potential asbestos abatement. Initial estimates from FCI Constructors pegged bare-bones fixes at \$4.6 million, with full renovations potentially pushing costs to \$8 million or more, a figure that is likely to exceed the original \$9.4 million estimate for a new Nucla facility.

Commissioner Sue Hansen defended the urgency, citing the sheriff's mold crisis: "Had we waited for a brand new building, we wouldn't have had a place to move the sheriff into immediately." Yet, this "sense of pressure" led to a purchase without geotechnical studies, full drawings (only partial 1996 addition plans were available), or a long-term capital plan. The result? A building with "good bones" but riddled with problems, now straining the county's budget as departments like the sheriff's office limp along with window AC units and makeshift evidence storage.

Abandoning the West End: Pivoting to North Campus to Preempt the New Board

The transcript exposes how the previous board abandoned the West End project mid-stream to prioritize the North Campus (a \$24+ million endeavor that had drawn criticism for its scale and cost). In October 2023, with designs for the Nucla new build 40% complete (costing the county \$287,570 in fees to Wold), the Hansen-Rash-Caddy board halted work, instructing Wold to "focus just on North Campus so that we can get that project out for bid." This pause, per Lalone, was to redirect resources, but it conveniently aligned with the upcoming January 2025 board transition.

Incoming Commissioner Mijares had publicly expressed skepticism about the North Campus during his campaign, viewing it as an overreach amid tight budgets. By rushing North Campus approvals in the lame-duck period (finalized just before the new board convened), the previous commissioners ensured the project was locked in, preventing Mijares and others from voting it down. Facilities Director Jennifer Murray confirmed the timeline: "In the fall of 2024... the county came to us and said we would like Wold to really focus just on North Campus... and let's slow down a little bit on the West End."

This either/or dilemma (West End vs. North Campus) was ignored, as Dunlap noted: "We choose projects, not do all the projects." Yet, the pivot left West End in limbo, with the school purchase becoming an afterthought. Current discussions reveal a county now grappling with phased renovations amid budget cuts, as departments like the clerk's office endure "computer lame" outages from unreliable San Miguel Power and makeshift voting setups in libraries.

The Recall Connection: Misdeeds Coming to Light

The former commissioners' actions on West End and North Campus are part of a broader pattern of fiscal irresponsibility, fueling their push to recall Mijares (who

REVELATIONS OF FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY From previous pg

has been vocal in scrutinizing these decisions). Hansen, Rash, and Caddy are actively working with a recall committee, but as the transcript suggests, their motivations may stem from fear of exposure. Mijares' questions during the session (probing the lack of vetting, budget awareness, and contract details) highlight the accountability the previous board sought to evade.

This isn't isolated. Other revelations include:

-CRS Violations in Public Health Director

Ahmed's Appointment: The previous board bypassed Colorado Revised Statutes in appointing a key official, raising questions of procedural impropriety.

-Ignoring the Either/Or on Courthouse/

North Campus: Despite warnings, the board pursued both major projects without a funded plan, echoing the West End fiasco.

As Dunlap warned, "We really just don't have any long-range capital plan... this project is significant." With budgets "staggering" and departments facing cuts, these "shallow-end transgressions" hint at deeper issues. Imagine what's lurking beneath: unchecked contracts, ignored assessments, and political gamesmanship at taxpayer expense.

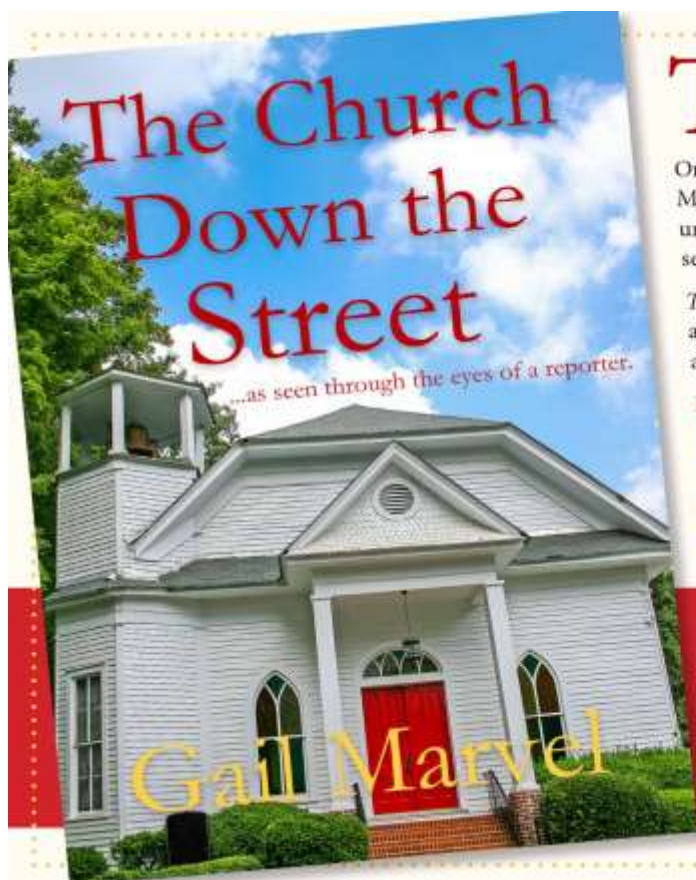
A Call for Accountability

Montrose County residents deserve transparency. The Hansen-Rash-Caddy era's rush jobs have left a fiscal mess, with West End services in disarray and North Campus

as a fait accompli. As the new board, including Mijares, navigates these revelations, one thing is clear: the recall effort against him may be less about governance and more about silencing scrutiny. Voters should demand audits, a robust capital plan, and an end to the cycle of abandonment and haste. The deeds of the previous board are coming to light, day by day, revelation by revelation.

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

Michael grew up in Montrose, CO, a United States Air Force Veteran, father of five and grandfather of three, passionate about Montrose, this country and the Constitution. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Colorado DOGE Report (coDOGEreport.com).



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RECALL COMMITTEE NEEDS TO GATHER 4,500 SIGNATURES

Dear Editor:

When carpetbagger County Commissioner Scott Mijares is called out on his misconduct, he is often heard to trill: 'but I have a mandate, I was elected by 18,000 people'. One minor factor that Scotty fails to mention is that he ran unopposed.

Scott Mijares is from Florida, by way of Hawaii. It's not difficult to trace his travels because of the trail of destruction he left behind. In case number 96-1043 Civ-Ord-19, Mijares entered into a consent decree that resulted in a permanent injunction prohibiting him from engaging in any SEC trading, using any means of communication or transport to sell securities, and engaging in any fraud (well, duh).

That seems like ancient history when compared with the chaos he has sown since taking office as a County Commissioner. In what appeared to be an unconstitutional move, Mijares, acting in concert with his sycophant, Sean Pond, asked for the resignations of the County Manager, Frank Rodriguez, and County Attorney Marti Whitmore, and refused to fix a clerical error in the hiring of the county health officer, Mizra Ahmed, resulting in the termination of his contract. (They relented on this after the public went ballistic and allowed Ahmed to remain as "interim health officer"). (The greatest irony of this racist appearing move is that Mijares, pronounced with a hard J, is of Peruvian descent and has a complexion that can only be described as swarthy)

Montrose is a county where the partisan divide runs deep, but where civility and respect have been the rule of the day. After the county commissioners hired a locally known rabble rouser, David White, as "interim county manager", Don Gladwell, Republican former Mayor and

city council member of Montrose, wrote a letter to the editor of the local paper, decrying the actions of Scotty.

Luckily the recall effort was already underway; Recall Commissioner Scott Mijares, a bipartisan recall effort, was launched July 15, 2025, the first date that Scotty was eligible to be recalled. The grounds cited in campaign literature include lack of transparency by making decisions in secret meetings as prohibited by 24-6-402 C.R.S.; poor fiscal responsibility including pointing out that half a million dollars has been spent on severance packages backfilling vacancies and unnecessary outside legal fees; and violation of the public trust by limiting public comment, and often closing public comment completely, on important issues; sowing chaos; and creating a toxic and fearful workplace. The last of these items has resulted in the loss of two long term employees, Emily Sanchez, assistant county manager, and, most recently, Lesley Quon's resignation as interim county manager, although she kept her job as HR director. Ms. Quon is quoted as saying she had been harassed and that she feared retaliation.

The Recall Commissioner Scott Mijares movement is moving along at warp speed. The committee reports that they are 55% of the way to their goal in the first two weeks of gathering signatures, and that they are on the fourth printing of the petitions. By statute they must gather signatures constituting 25% of the total votes cast for a candidate in the previous election. Using Scotty's declaration that he received 18,000 votes, the committee needs to gather 4,500 signatures. Circulators have been active, and the committee has presences at all public events. More information on the committee's efforts

can be found at recallscottmijares.com, including calendars of places and times to sign.

Scotty is not taking the challenge to his "mandate" well. At a public event he was seen confronting one of the circulators, and haranguing people trying to sign. At the July 17, 2025 commissioner's meeting, he began defending himself against the allegations in the recall petition, during public comment time.

When fellow commissioner Sue Hanson tried to speak up, saying "It's not appropriate to talk about a recall in the county meeting,"

Mijares, the body's chairman, began tapping his gavel. "We have rules," she said as Mijares declared her out of order. Hansen turned to the county attorney for a ruling. Despite the County Attorney's caution that the item had not been noticed, Scotty's tantrum continued, where he blamed everyone but himself for the current situation, ironically not seeing that he was demonstrating the behavior that brought this all about.

While the video of the meeting is being widely shared as an example of Mijares' tantrum like behavior, to me, as someone who started out as a public defender/criminal lawyer, it shows something different, and far more sinister. This is a man who does not believe he has to conform to any rule or moral imperative. Who, in fact, is willing to use his public position to his own benefit, using the rules not for the purpose intended but to restate his unsupported positions.

For more information on this issue be sure to visit recallscottmijares.com.

Sincerely,

*Peggy Carey
Montrose, CO*



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MONICA NICOLS TREADWAY ***December 3, 1931 — July 26, 2025***



MONICA NICOLS TREADWAY "GRANDEE," passed away peacefully at the age of 93. She had a heart of gold and lived a life full of love.

Mom was an exceptional amateur astronomer, fantastic cook, an avid gardener and reader, was a talented seamstress, and loved to travel.

She was a wonderful loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and aunt.

Monica is survived by her daughter Kim Treadway Kardel (Mark), son Paul Dean Treadway, son Dennis Alan Treadway Schafer, granddaughters Erika Treadway Warner, Liz Raivio (Matt), Dani Treadway, and Great-Grandchildren Devin, Rena, Cameron, and Noah. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Monica was preceded in death by her husband James Cecil Treadway, son Ralph James Treadway, and grandson Matt "Nemo" Treadway.

We will miss her beautiful smile and vibrant personality.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your charity of choice

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MARSHA SUE SATTERFIELD HELLE

November 28, 1948 — June 11, 2025



MARSHA SUE SATTERFIELD HELLE passed away June 11, 2025, in Montrose Colorado. Marsha was born November 28, 1948, to Albert and Rosemary Satterfield. She grew up in Muncie, Indiana and then moved to Florida, where she graduated from Dixie Hollins High School in 1966. In December 1970 she met and fell in love with Mitchel Helle, and the two married August 7, 1971. They had two children Mitch (1973) and Jennifer (1977). They moved to Colorado in 1979 where they raised their children. The family moved to Louisiana and then back to Colorado over a span of 25 years. After losing her husband after 30 years of marriage, she retired and settled in Montrose, Colorado. She loved doing all sorts of crafts, Sci-fi and listening to stories about the Amish.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, granddaughter Peighton and younger brother Larry. She is survived by Son Mitchel (Tami) Helle II, Jennifer (Kim) Helle Simonsen, eight Grandchildren (Brett, Raynee, Zachary, Jonathan, Cassondra, Donovan, Sophia, and Jagger), and seven great Grandchildren. All whom she loved very much.

DIMITRI S. AXARLIS

April 8, 1958 — June 4, 2025

DIMITRI S. AXARLIS passed away on June 4th, 2025. A father, husband and friend. Dimitri was a great man and always knew how to make everyone in the room laugh and light up.

Born April 8, 1958, in Khartoum, Sudan.

Dimitri was a dedicated family man. A father to three daughters Gabriella, Sophie and Marissa. He spent his weekends camping, hunting, fishing and being with the family no matter what. He always had something for the family to do. Dimitri was an avid outdoorsman. Whether it was even just going out for the day to fish or just to take a drive out of town.

The family will not be doing a public service.



Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DANNY GRAY "DG"

December 19, 1949- July 22, 2025



DANNY GRAY, "DG" to those who knew him, was born December 19, 1949, in Ada, Oklahoma to Jack & Wyleta Gray. DG galloped into glory on July 22, 2025, at home with MJ, Pearl and Tuf by his side.

DG and horses were synonymous. From a very young age, when his grandpa Gray brought home his first pony in the backseat of a 1950 Chevy, he was hooked. Horses were his passion, joy and true love. He finally met his match with Casper, his outstanding rope horse, who had the heart, talent and attitude, and I do mean attitude, to match his own. DG was an obsessed team roper, horse tack collector, cowboy, hunter, fisherman, and loyal friend.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Gray of Phoenix AZ, his beautiful daughter Alexa Stegmann of Phoenix AZ and Daisy, his small but formidable and, as my sister Susan liked to refer to her as "The Jaws of Death," Jack Russell.

DG is survived by:

His mother is Wyleta Gray of Phoenix, AZ, brother Mike Gray of Tucson, AZ, and his son Joshua (Nikki) Gray of Littleton, Colorado, and Anne Smith of Haltom City, TX.

Brother Stanley (Connie) Gray along with their children, Carle (Henry) Sargent, along with their fishermen Grayson, Wesley and the lovely Lilly. Jake (Sydney) Gray along with their children, the lovely Charlotte and the newest fisherman, Bennett "HC" Gray of

Phoenix, AZ.

Wife MJ, her son Paul (Ahnies) Miller, along with their children Elliott and Hayden of Minot ND.

Sister-in-law Sherry Floding of Boardman, Ohio.

Sister-in-law Susan Whiteley and the Wasilla Alaska tribe, Sarah, Scott, London, Jesse Pete, Lucas, Mason & Kat.

Brother-in-law is Michael (Sharon) Eddy of Sharpsville, Pennsylvania.

Heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Pastor Jim Greenfield, his wife Judi, and their entire family.

Scotty & Nancy Kenton for their love and enduring friendship.

Jack & Michelle Palumbo for the never-ending laundry list of things.

No public service is planned.

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A lot more interesting than bein alone.

A pard shares your dreams, your coffee, your beans

Pert near everything, or so it would seem.

Helps with directions whether needed or not

Tries not to laugh when you're hopelessly lost.

Pards don't criticize, lie, or place blame

Always offer a slicker if it looks like rain.

A helping hand when you need one or a well-placed shove

All in the name of true pard love.

Pards find a way to end each day with a smile

Even if it means going that extra looong mile.

A true pard is a treasure bestowed on just a few

Cherish your pard, be loyal and true.

After all, your pard has to put up with you.

MJ

For DG

Written a looong while back

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DOLORES URRALBURU *May 28, 1929-July 10, 2025*

DOLORES URRALBURU, 96, of Montrose, Colorado passed away on July 10, 2025 in Arlington, Virginia with the same joy for life, devotion to God, and love for her family and friends that always showed through the bright smile on her face. Her final wish to be surrounded by love created a beautiful final day when she even glowed as sunset's rays shone on her peaceful face.

Dolores Garcia was born on May 28, 1929 in Clayton, New Mexico. Dolores always fondly recalled family life there before her parents moved to Montrose in 1937, and she went on to make many more beautiful memories during nearly 90 years in Western Colorado. She is survived by her daughter Ann Margaret Urralburu of McLean, Virginia, her sister Viola (Doug) Short of Craig, Colorado, brother David (Cindy) Garcia of Montrose, Colorado, and numerous nieces and nephews. Dolores was preceded in death by her husband Benedicto Urralburu, her parents Monico and Rose (Lujan) Garcia, and her brothers Alfred C' de Baca, Loyd Garcia, Leo Garcia, Pat Garcia, Orlando Garcia, and Billy Garcia.

After graduating in the Montrose County High School Class of 1946 and attending Barnes Business College in Denver, Dolores returned to Montrose to work as a bookkeeper for Hilltop Dairy. She met her future husband, Benedicto—a Basque sheepherder and later miner—in 1956 and they married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in November 1958. They became active as a couple in the Parish during the 1960s and felt strongly that Vatican II was a blessing that opened new opportunities for lay people to take part and minister to one another. Together, Dolores and Ben were part of the Cursillo retreat movement and ministers at many liturgies. As a Benedictine oblate and lifelong lover of joyous liturgy, Dolores headed St. Mary's Liturgy Committee for 10 years, and was a longtime Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and facilitator of the Bread-baking Ministry for each weekend Mass. She served as President of St. Mary's Parish Council and was the first Hispanic woman to be President

of the Council of Catholic Women for the Grand Junction Deanery.

Together over 50 years, Dolores and Ben visited his family in Spain many times, sparking a love of travel and openness to the world that shaped Dolores in countless ways. They fostered that same international love in their daughter, Ann Margaret, who was born in 1974. Dolores often commented on how lucky she felt to have visited so many international wonders, and she kept up that traveling spirit alongside Ann even after Ben's death in 2007. Dolores had an undeniable natural connection with young people that she lovingly shared as a caregiver for several nieces and friends' children, in addition to her beloved daughter. Dolores channeled her gift for working with youth while teaching catechism for more than 20 years at St. Mary's Catholic Church, and she helped the Academic Booster Club honor students across Montrose County schools during the 1980s-90s.

Ever a practical and well-informed citizen, Dolores loved the United States and had a strong sense of civic duty. She was committed to doing her part for the community and served as a Montrose County election judge for 40 years. A member of the Montrose County Republican Women for many decades, Dolores always appreciated when her fellow members praised the time and thoroughness she put into giving reports that were rich in facts and shared topics from across spectrums. Dolores also created the group's scholarship program, which she saw as encouraging civic mindedness in the next generation.

Family care was always at the center of Dolores' life, and she was renowned for excellent baking skills, especially bread, and her delicious cooking. She had a green thumb and loved plants, along with being an excellent seamstress. And she never failed to take care of her little girl's every need, which returned to Dolores with much love throughout her final years.

Dolores and Ann Margaret lived together from 2020 until her passing, splitting time between homes in Colorado and Virginia.



Dolores loved to join Ann in most any outing, but her greatest gift in the East was being welcomed into the loving community at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington, DC. A Jesuit parish with a nod to Basque roots—which the Urralburu family always honors too—the parish's mission to "Accompany one another in Christ; Celebrate God's Love; and Transform Lives" came to life for Dolores via vibrant liturgies and the loving way fellow parishioners offered her peace and joy. She loved going to Mass each week and looked forward to seeing all those who became beloved friends. And she was called home to Heaven with the words of that Parish Community's love and prayers paving the way.

Dolores will be celebrated for her final burial with services at St. Mary Catholic Church in Montrose, Colorado. There will be a Vigil of Remembrance at 7pm on August 5, 2025 and a Funeral Mass on August 6, 2025 at 10am. She will be interred at Cedar Creek Cemetery immediately following and then friends and family are invited to a reception at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Dolores's name to Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington, DC, to St. Mary Catholic Church in Montrose, Colorado, or to the American Heart Association.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CATHIE ANN BLACK ESKEW ***September 17, 1942- July 24, 2025***



CATHIE ANN BLACK ESKEW of Montrose, Colorado, went to be with the Lord shortly after sunrise on the morning of Thursday, July 24, 2025. She was 82.

Cathie was born in Oakland, California, on September 17, 1942, to Catherine and Lane Black. She married Charles "Joe" Eskew, her husband of 62 years, on March 16, 1963, with whom she had three precious children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Known for her endearing laugh and love of Jesus Christ, Cathie was a true woman-of-the-country, happiest when fishing, on long drives through the countryside, or socializing with and serving others. One of her favorite pastimes was reading the Word of God and witnessing to the grace and righteousness found in Christ.

Cathie is survived by her husband, Joe; her beloved sons, Lane and John Eskew; her loving daughter, Elizabeth Wisdom Rogers; seven of her precious grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She has gone to join her late grandson, Tyler John Eskew; her younger brother, Philip Lane Black; as well as her late parents, among many other brothers and sisters in Christ, in Heaven.

A memorial service for Cathie will be held at Grace Community Church on Saturday, September 27, at 10 a.m. Donations in her name can be made to Grace Community Church.

JOHNNY JARVIS HARRIS ***June 30, 1938- July 14, 2025***

JOHNNY JARVIS HARRIS passed peacefully in his sleep on July 14, 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 Deborah 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.



Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 533 Aug. 4, 2025

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – TEEN IDENTITY



Greetings Mirrorites!

I recently saw an article about a new Australian policy concerning social media access. At the end of this year, the big firms such as Facebook and Instagram, among others, will not be allowed to provide services to users under the age of 16 years. How this will be enforced is anybody's guess right now, but the spirit of the law is to protect the developing teen brain from algorithms that encourage young people to feel bad about themselves. This caused me to reflect upon the horrors of being 15 years old, either now or back in the Stone Age. I know I would never want to be that age again -- 17, sure, but not 15.

I was obsessed with my acne problems and having braces on my teeth. It made me anxious and irritable, especially at home. I felt I just couldn't measure up to those beautiful cheerleaders who seemed



Photo of teens celebrating mask free time in nature after Covid courtesy of Freepiks

so popular. These issues faded during wilderness outings, and when riding my horse for hours in uncharted areas, disappearing completely until the next school day. I could imagine myself as the hero of my own story, rather than a pimply high school loser whose grades might be great, but whose popularity was sketchy except among other brainy losers. I survived, but if I had been exposed to social media at that age, I'm not sure that would be true.

The teen brain is very different from the adult brain. It's not just a matter of 'maturity,' but rather an actual lack of

gray and white matter in the prefrontal cortex. At age 15, only 80 percent of the adult brain mass has been achieved. What is burgeoning at that age is construction of self-identity and image. Differentiating oneself from one's natal family is normal and healthy, if troubling to one and all at times. Risk-taking increases exponentially for many, but that is not the developmental aspect of that stage of life that interested me about Australia's actions.

Self-identity formation happens in the blink of an eye, it seems, at that age. Overexposure to 'the beautiful people' on

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – TEEN IDENTITY *From previous pg*

social media can be overwhelming and drives a sense of futility about ever measuring up. Depression and warped body image issues can result.

The teenage brain matures from back to front. The posterior regions, especially those above the spinal column, are largely responsible for motor control. Their earlier maturation helps account for the quick acquisition of locomotion and other movement skills, such as sports. The maturing of the forward regions of the brain, particularly the frontal lobe, doesn't occur until late adolescence or early adulthood; some researchers say the region's maturation may not be complete until age 30. I can absolutely confirm that this was true for my neurodiverse daughter, who would wholeheartedly agree with this assessment!

Teens want very much to differentiate themselves from their families, but are equally dedicated to fitting in socially with their peers. This is also healthy and helps them to acquire social skills that will ultimately help them to survive and thrive in adult life by building networks and attracting appropriate mates. Social media is able to hijack these desires and twist them into something dark and dangerous. In 2021, Frances Haugen, a former data scientist for Facebook, leaked thousands of confidential internal documents to the press. Among them was Facebook-funded research that found:

-17% of teen girls said that eating disorders worsened after using Instagram.

-32% of teen girls said that they felt bad about their bodies after using Instagram. I can guarantee you that I would have been in that second group, if given the right negative feedback. "The algorithms aren't designed with kids' brains or development in mind," says Nusheen Ameenuddin, M.D., a Mayo Clinic pediatrician. "They're designed to keep kids scrolling and clicking for ongoing engagement, regardless of quality, accuracy, or safety of the content itself."

As I experienced during the wonder years, this too shall pass, and nature can be supremely helpful. Weeklong backpacking expeditions twice a year in high school improved my confidence and self-image. My identity slowly formed as an adventurer who was pretty bold and competent in challenging circumstances. By the time I was a senior in high school, I found myself to be quite popular among the 'normies' and had numerous suitors.

This transformation is now known to be pretty typical for teens that age.

A 2016 seven-day outdoor-based program related to adolescents' identity awareness investigated potential changes in participants' identity perceptions. The results indicated that participants felt positive identity-related changes at the end of the week. The study showed that most campers' identity awareness increased not only through structured activities but more so through opportunities for self-reflection and spontaneous interaction with others. Analysis of responses indicat-

ed that unstructured time for personal reflection and social interaction in a natural setting had been more beneficial for positive self-identity formation than the structured activities.

This finding probably bummed out the researchers who were interested in programming efficacy for children with physical challenges and chronic illnesses. The magic was getting the teen brain into nature in the company (the actual physical company) of peers with similar challenges. Good programming is only the frosting, time in nature with friends is the cake. So, a word of advice to us here in Colorado, a land of spectacular natural resources, and those lawmakers, teachers, parents, and counselors Down Under. Just taking away that social resource won't solve the target issues without substituting something more meaningful, something we evolved to flourish in. Get those hormonal kiddos outdoors with their friends to help them build healthy self-images of who and what they are and what unique contributions they might make to society and the planet in the future. What better way to foster hope and inspiration and fuddle the demons of depression and self-hate.

Going out to the garden now to reconnect with my inner master gardener after a challenging few days.

Onward to conquer the flea beetles and earwigs!

Best as ever,

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

POETS FEATURED AT TELLURIDE ARTWALK POETRY AUG. 7 AT 6 PM

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-With a wealth of poet/performers in the region, Talking Gourds is happy to feature two duos and a solo for Telluride Artwalk Poetry Thursday Aug. 7 at 6 pm at the Telluride Arts Headquarters across from the Wilkinson Public Library.

Former San Miguel County Poet Laureate Peter Waldor and newcomer Susan Entsminger will be one team, Peter's son Gabriel Waldor and Plum Sanico will be the youth team, and appearing solo will be local writer and poet Karen Bellerose.

In their own words: "Gabriel Waldor and Peter Waldor live on the wild eastern shores of Trout Lake where they comb the forest for rare fairy slippers and pixie horns. One is the father and one is the son. Which is which they both ask. The child is the father of the man but what does that mean in this detestable age of binary gender identification? The two make art day and night. Come hear their current projects."

Susan Entsminger is a writer, ecologist, and book artist. She is an art framer at Frame Telluride and studies bookbinding at the American Academy of Bookbinding. Her poetry has been published in *Main Street Rag*, *Mudfish*, and *Sal: A World Poetry Book*; her books written with Gary Lee Entsminger intertwine fiction, philosophy, poetry, and art. Editor of Pinyon Publishing, she has a Ph.D. in biology from Dartmouth College.

In their own words: "Plum Sanico does not like card games, team sports, or going fast. Plum Sanico is in love. Plum Sanico is strongly ambivalent about finding the lightswitch. Plum Sanico likes the designs on boxes of tinned fish. Plum Sanico waits for fizzy drinks to become flat. Plum Sanico eats art. Plum Sanico is happy about pumpkins. Plum Sanico takes great pride. Plum Sanico has lost things and will continue to lose things. Plum Sanico could really touch on something."

Originally from Central Illinois, Karen Bellerose has lived and written in San Miguel County since 1995. In January 2024, she launched Spruce and Sagebrush, a blog of essays and poems influenced by living in and exploring the Colorado Plateau and the Southern Rocky Mountains. Her writing is rooted in place, but raised in modern life and reflects the tension of trying to hold the connection of the natural world and the human one.

Her essays also have appeared in *Telluride Magazine* and the just released *Western Colorado Voices: An Anthology of Poetry, Fiction and Essays*.

"I find in nature so many lessons about life, even modern life," says Bellerose. "I notice something on the outside that takes me inside to see life in a different way. The natural world is my greatest teacher and through writing is how I understand the lessons."

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program has teamed up with Telluride Arts to offer live poetry on Artwalk

Thursdays in Telluride for the summer and fall. Performances began June 5 at the Telluride Arts Headquarters on 135 W. Pacific St. with Scot Razor of Placerville, Elle Metrick and Art Goodtimes of Wrights Mesa. On July 3 Suzanne Cheavens (the Electric Angel) of Lawson Hill performed with Mary Hearing of Rico and Lee Taylor also of Lawson Hill. On Sept. 4, Rose-merry Wahtola Trommer of Placerville will be featured along with Ruth Duffy & Mike Olschewsky of Nucla.

The series will continue on first Thursdays at least through October and hopefully once a month year-round after that. Featured guests will give a 15-20 min. presentation each from 6-7 pm. As this is during Artwalk and TA's headquarters also functions as a gallery, there won't be any passing of the gourd opportunities associated with the performances.

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

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

For more information on poetry contests and the many Talking Gourds programs, visit the website

www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds. For questions about the event, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at art@tellurideinstitute.org



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

AUG 31 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR FISCHER POETRY PRIZE CONTEST

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE- The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program celebrates its 29th year of honoring the late Telluride poet and attorney Mark Fischer.

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

The Fischer Poetry Prize began in 1996 in memory of the late Mark Fischer, who died tragically in his 40s while skiing the slopes of Telluride. His wife, Elaine Cantor Fischer, a revered local political leader, champion of the arts and painter, helped start the Fischer Poetry Prize with the Talking Gourds poetry program and supported it until her own death a decade ago. The Cantor Family continues to support both contests.

The Fischer Prize contest is open to English language poets of all ages living anywhere on any topic in any style, although contestants are wise to review past winners on the Talking Gourds website. The first place winner receives \$1000, plus there are five \$250 outstanding finalist prize winners. Foreign winners need to cover any costs of transferring prize money out of the U.S. to their home abroad.

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

Base fee to enter the contest is \$12 per poem. The third poem of three gets a \$6 discount. Thus, 2 poems are \$24, 3 poems are \$30, 4 poems \$42, 5 poems are \$54, 6 poems \$60, et cetera in that sequence

Final judge for this year's contest is Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes. Deadline for submissions is August 31, 2025. Visit the website for details: tellurideinstitute.org/fischer-cantor

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



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WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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

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: Tuesday - Thursday 9 am - Noon and by Appointment

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

Pastor: Interim Pastor Ian Hyde
Services Sunday: Worship 10:30 AM, Discipleship Hour: 9:30 AM. Discipleship Hour has classes across all age groups. Nursery for children UNDER 3 is available during Worship.
Mission Statement: Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

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

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?





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The Satisfied Woman

THE BOUNDARIES ISSUE: SAYING NO WITHOUT GUILT.



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

At 40 and beyond, many women find themselves at a crossroads. You may be balancing career ambitions with caregiving duties, maintaining friendships while managing aging parents, or navigating romantic relationships with new clarity.

Amid all of this,

one skill becomes essential—not just for survival, but for thriving: setting boundaries.

Yet for many women, especially those conditioned as caretakers or “peacemakers,” setting boundaries feels wrong. It triggers guilt. Shame. Fear of being labeled selfish, difficult, or unkind.

But here’s the truth: boundaries are not barriers to love or connection. They are the conditions for both.

Dr. Brene Brown, renowned researcher on shame and vulnerability, put it this way: “Daring to set boundaries is about having the courage to love ourselves, even when we risk disappointing others.”

In her research, Brown found a profound link between boundaries and compassion. Contrary to what many assume, the most compassionate people she studied were also the most boundaried. They knew their limits and were clear about what was okay and what wasn’t.

Women over 40 have often spent decades putting others first. While this may have served certain seasons of life, it can become a pathway to burnout, resentment, and even health issues. Saying

“yes” to everything may look noble, but it frequently means saying “no” to your own needs, desires, and peace.

Guilt is often mistaken for a moral compass, but as Brown writes in “The Gifts of Imperfection,” shame and guilt can be deceptive.

“When we fail to set boundaries and hold people accountable, we feel used and mistreated. This is why we sometimes attack who they are, which is far more hurtful than addressing the behavior choice.”

When you say no out of self-preservation, guilt is a natural reaction—but not a truth. It often stems from social conditioning that equates kindness with self-sacrifice. But kindness without boundaries is not kindness—it’s martyrdom.

Practical Strategies For Setting Boundaries Without Guilt:

1.Start with clarity, not emotion. You don’t need to justify a boundary with an emotional plea. “I’m not available this weekend” is enough. You are not required to apologize or explain.

2.Use “I language.” Instead of blaming or accusing, focus on your needs: “I need time to recharge, so I won’t be able to take that on.”

3.Anticipate the pushback. When you change the rules, others may resist. Stay calm. Their discomfort is not your responsibility.

4.Practice with safe people. Set smaller boundaries with trusted friends or coworkers to build confidence before tackling more difficult situations.

5.Affirm your right to peace. Brene Brown reminds us that “boundaries are a function of self-respect.” You are not selfish for protecting your energy. You are wise.

In the workplace, women often overextend to prove worth or avoid conflict. But over-functioning is not a badge of honor. It’s a fast track to burnout and resentment.

If you’re regularly picking up the slack, staying late, or tolerating disrespect, it may be time to ask yourself: “What am I saying yes to? And what am I sacrificing by saying it?”

Boundaries at work might sound like:

— “I’d love to help, but my plate is full right now.”

— “Let’s revisit this at our next scheduled meeting.”

— “I’m not comfortable with that tone.

Let’s continue when we’re both calm.”

These are not confrontations; they are conversations rooted in self-respect.

The shift from guilt to grace doesn’t happen overnight. But every time you say “no” to what drains you, you say “yes” to a life that reflects your values.

You are not here to be everything to everyone. You are here to be authentically you—with needs, limits, and the power to honor them.

So the next time you feel guilt creeping in after setting a boundary, please ask yourself: “Am I betraying myself to please someone else?”

Then remember what Brene Brown says: “Compassionate people ask for what they need. They say no to what they need to, and when they say yes, they mean it.”

You are allowed to say no. You are allowed to mean it.

No guilt. No shame. Just truth, wisdom, and the courage to honor yourself, your voice, and your own needs.

You’ve earned the right to your peace. Protect it. Own it. No apologies.

During Ridgway Rendezvous

ART by the PARK

Art, Jewelry, Clothing, Home Decor, and More



Featuring work by
Kate Burke
Southwest Courtyards



Kate will be demonstrating Pet Painting
2-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday, Aug 9 & 10
Bring your pet or a pet picture, and she will paint it for you.
Sign up for her August 28th Pet Painting Class at Mosaic
during event for discounted tuition.



On the Boardwalk

Across from the Park, Next to the Ice Cream Shop

RIDGWAY

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Versatile Barndominium in Coal Creek Valley

— Equestrian Potential & Endless Space

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

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\$1,129,000.00

2 BEDROOMS 2

BATHROOMS

9.18 acres



CONTACT: LESLIE GORE



19702753195

lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com

<https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

\$189,000

5% Down/25 Year Term

BRAND NEW SKYLINE HOME



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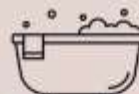
3 Bedroom



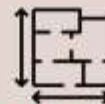
2 Bathroom



**Electric Tile
Fireplace**



Garden Tub



1344 SF

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per month***

(\$1,599.00 mortgage plus
\$676.00 lot rent)

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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. 6-The Montrose County Historical Society presents Gail Saunders with a history of the Ashenfelter mining and orchard influence in the Uncompahgre River Basin. The public is welcome to attend this free program on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.

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 Videlock 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. 8--Madams, Murder, and Mayhem historic walking tour will examine the seedier side of our local history. This historic walking tour will visit the sites of the notorious saloons, jails, and historical buildings. The tales will intertwist the history and legends of the famous and scandalous local characters of the area. This tour is on Aug. 8 starting at 6 pm with limited spaces available. Please RSVP at 970-249-2085. Admission is \$10/person and the tour will be starting at the Montrose County Historical Museum.

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. 9-Granny's Attic Fundraiser for the United Women in Faith, Aug. 9, 2025 from 8 am to Noon, 19 S. Park Ave, Montrose.

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. 16-Youth Appreciation Day at the Montrose County Historical Museum 11am to 3 pm.

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.

MIRROR IMAGES: SNEFFELS RANGE



Photo of Sneffels Range over treetops is by Harry Switzer.

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