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ASSOCIATION



FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE!

© Issue No. 652 Aug. 25, 2025

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HENDERSON ASKS COUNTY TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER, SAYS PREVIOUS BOCC EFFECTIVELY DEFUNDED SHERIFF'S OFFICE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The regular meeting of the Montrose County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) was held Wednesday, Aug. 20. BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond opened the meeting, which began at 9:09 due to technical difficulties. Pond and Commissioner Sue Hansen were present in person, BOCC Chair Scott Mijares attended virtually.

There was no invocation. After calling the meeting to order, Pond read the rules for public comment and opened the floor to those wishing to speak.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ray Langston spoke. "I just wanted to thank Commissioner Pond and Commissioner Mijares for helping to make the recall effort a success."

Next, Ron Henderson spoke. "This morning reminded me of a Jonathan Winters skit, the comedian of 40 years ago, who was portraying an astronaut," Henderson said. "Getting in the rocket--and that's when the rockets had a lot of red

Continued pg 4



Henderson compared recurring technical issues at county meetings to a comedy skit. Meeting screenshot.

RED HAWKS RUMBLE OVER DEMONS 35-14



Getting ready for Durango. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The 2025 high school football season kicked off last Friday evening with the Montrose Red Hawks picking up where they left off last season, thumping the Durango Demons 35-14 in Durango. The Red Hawks Head Coach, Brett Mertens, turned loose the running game and scored five rushing touchdowns while giving up only two.

The Red Hawks won the toss and trotted out their defense to start the game. The Red Hawks forced the Demons into three running plays and their first punt of the contest.

The Red Hawks then unleashed their vaunted running game, moving 64 yards in 8

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[Kate Burke Book Review:
Joe Zenni's "Promise!"](#)

[Citizen Asks City of Montrose to provide more
Information on Proposed Changes to Charter!](#)

[Lady Red Hawks Win
Softball Opener!](#)

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

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror



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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

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

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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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Crafternoon at the Library

**Thursdays 11 AM,
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MIRROR LEGAL NOTICES

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Colorado Storage Partners LLC dba
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239 N 9th street, Montrose. A sale will be held to collect on the landlords lien on the following units:

D29 Ryan Munroe
69905 Hwy 50 #23, Montrose
Lawn mower, canoe, tool box, household items.

E25 Christian Iheukwumere
21488 E Briarwood Dr, Aurora CO 80016
Household items, mattress, coffee maker, boxes and bags.

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HENDERSON ASKS COUNTY TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER *From pg 1*

glare, they didn't often work--and as he was getting into the rocket, Jon said, in one of the remarkable voices that he was able to emulate, "It isn't ready ! It isn't ready!"

"That's what it was like viewing the process, which seems to be a regular situation whenever you start your meetings—you really don't have your technology together..."

Henderson continued. "We've had a lot of serious upheaval in our community lately, and I came across this last night, that I thought I'd like to share.

'Tradition means giving votes to the most obscure of all classes, our ancestors. It's the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about.'

"In a lot of ways, there's been much to do about nothing...the fact of the matter is, what do we have going on here in Montrose County...the previous board of county commissioners have effectively defunded...the Montrose County Police Department, our Sheriff, and that's caused a good deal of legitimate controversy...without a doubt the county needs to get its act together with its finances...what are we going to do with the Nuclea School..."

Next, Zachariah Greenfield spoke, commenting about the FPPA, [Fire and Police Pension Association](#). "...the FPPA was originally introduced to this board on August 23rd, 2023. And at the time the legal opinion was that it was a voter decision that had to be approved before the board could take on that multi-year fiscal responsibility for FPPA..."

Greenfield shared some legal opinions regarding implementation of FPPA, and offered to make his sources available. "...I believe it would be a significant help to

the recruitment and retainment of the officers..."

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager David White asked to remove Item F-1 from the agenda, as "Delta has requested some additional work." Item F-1, from Public Health Director Mirza Ahmed, concerned the Department of Health (see below):

"Public Health, Mirza Ahmed, Public Health Director

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood presented a [proclamation](#) declaring August, 2025 as Child Support Awareness Month in Montrose County. Keaton Skudneski read the proclamation into the record; commissioners voted to issue the [proclamation](#); a photo was taken.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Adjustment for a public hearing on the [Cattail Zoning Variance \[ZV25-003\] Proposal for Variance Request](#) to build 15 feet from the property line where 20 feet is required at Parcel 399302106004. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the variance request.

They then left session as the Montrose County Board of Adjustment and reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Health. Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond presented the [Roy Residence Zoning Variance \[ZV25-002\] proposal](#) to add a second septic system to a 1.31 acre lot where only one septic is allowed at Parcel 399323300006.

The Public Health Director had voiced no concerns with approving the variance, Richmond said, and had voiced that other jurisdictions require only half an acre for OWTS.

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked where the leach field would be located, and about capacity. After further discussion and hearing from the applicant, Commissioners voted to approve.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the [Ranger Ranch Campground Special Use \[SU22-003\]](#) proposal to develop a campground at Parcel 399318210004.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Finally, the BOCC entered Executive Session with the County Attorney, County Manager and Public Works staff pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a),(b) and (e) for legal advice and direction for negotiations pertaining to the Kinikin Road project. Following Executive Session the meeting was adjourned.

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BROWN ASKS CITY TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHARTER AS CITY APPROVES NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURE



Constituents join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the City Council meeting on Aug. 10.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor Dave Frank opened the Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 19 and asked those present to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilor Ed Ulibarri was absent; all other councilors were present.

There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Frank read the rules for public comment, and said, "If you wish to make public comment, we give you three minutes, I will let you know when you have 30 seconds left. If you would please, line up, starting at the front here and going back..."

First to speak was John Brown. He said that Rep. Hurd had commented that the Federal Government should not fund cities that are sanctuary, let alone states that are sanctuary.

Brown asked Council to make a written declaration of the city's non-sanctuary status, to avoid any loss of federal funding. "...once it's in writing, it becomes fact, it becomes true..."

Brown said that all funds that come to the city come from the taxpayers. "All of this is our tax dollars...not yours...we the people have been asking you for over a year now to make this statement in writing...put it in writing, whatever you're saying. That's how we know that you're earnest."

John Connell spoke.

Connell recalled a discussion he had with City Engineer Scott Murphy about the

pond at Waterfall Canyon and installation of an outlet structure. "...Where in the zoning law do you find the ability to carry out an operation of this type, a heavy industrial operation within a residentially zoned area...how do you document the addition of a structure in 2024 when it wasn't installed until July of '25...the outlet structure was only installed after repeated complaints from Waterfall Canyon..."

"Your time is up sir," Mayor Frank said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the August 5, 2025, regular City Council meeting as presented.

MONTROSE COUNTY ELECTIONS INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

City Attorney Chris Dowsey introduced the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). All four councilors voted to approve the Montrose County Elections Intergovernmental Agreement between the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder and the City of Montrose, for the placement of a Charter amendment ballot question on the November 4, 2025, General Election ballot.

ORDINANCE 2690-SECOND READING

Council considered Ordinance 2690 on Second reading, for "submitting to a vote to the registered electors of the City of Montrose **proposed amendments to Article I Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, Article II sections 2, 4, 9, Article III Sections 1, 4, 7, Article IV Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, Article V Sections 5, 19, Article VI Sections 3, 5, Article VII Sections 1, 2, 3, Article VIII Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, Article IX Sections 3, 5,**

6, and Article X, Section 1 of the Charter of the City of Montrose and additions of Article IV Sections 24, 25, Article VIII Section 9 to the Charter of the City of Montrose; and setting a ballot measure for the November 4, 2025, Coordinated Election."

City Attorney Chris Dowsey said that the number of amendments listed in Ordinance 2690 was "a mouthful" and he would not go through each one individually. The changes were discussed at the May 19 council work session, Dowsey said. Among other changes the amendments would remove gender specific language and clarify the City Attorney's position.

"If this is approved, there will be two copies put onto the web site," he said. "One will be a red-lined version, as well as a clean version, if all of these amendments are accepted by the voters.

"...This would really just get us up to date," Dowsey said.

Mayor Dave Frank said that most of the items were "housekeeping" items to keep the city in compliance with state and federal laws, and best practices.

John Brown spoke to Council.

"Is there any way that...the measure is going to be on the Internet in a place we can get to it. All of this information that we have in our agenda today is very confusing. It has absolutely no meaning other than, look at all these things they want to change...we need to know, what does this one mean...I can see that you want to consolidate all of the changes that you want to make, but we need to know what all of those individual changes are, before we can honestly come to the polls and say we agree with you, or no, we don't agree with you...you need public input...it would really be good if you guys could put something in writing...or something on the Internet that we can print off at home and read it, so we would know..."

Dowsey said the information is in the meeting packet, also, "...We do have the charter available...if you go onto the City Web Site you can find our code of ordinances...it has everything there...I'm happy to download anything and forward it on to any citizen."

Ordinance 2690 was adopted by all four councilors on second reading.

RESOLUTION 2025-14

Continued next pg

CITY APPROVES NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURE *From previous pg*

Council voted to approve Resolution 2025-14, setting October 7, 2025, as the hearing date for the annexation of the Mitchell Addition.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CHANGE ORDER #2

Council voted to approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Change Order #2 authorizing pre-purchase agreements for long lead items in the amount of \$1,085,472. The meeting agenda states, "the 2025 Sewer Fund budget includes \$3 million for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. The proposed plan is to develop plans and finalize costs for completing the project and issue bonds or loans to fund the construction beginning in 2026."

2025 LANDFILL AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Public Works Director Jim Scheid said that the Landfill Agreement with Bruin Waste has benefited the city. "...It's helped shorten our routes, changed a little bit of the wear and tear on our vehicles, and has changed some of the way we operate. We've seen a lot of benefits from it, and that includes tipping fees..."

Council voted to approve renewal of the agreement with Bruin Waste Management for Landfill Services.

WATERFALL CANYON SUBDIVISION FILING NO. 6A FINAL PLAT

Prior to consideration of the Waterfall Canyon Subdivision Filing No. 6A Final Plat, Councilor J. David Reed recused himself from the discussion and the decision, and left Council Chambers.

The Waterfall Canyon Subdivision Filing No. 6A Final Plat dedicates a 5.09 acre tract to the City of Montrose for use as a public park, as well as associated rights-of-way.

Documents are included in the meeting packet. Staff recommended approval of the subdivision, Planner William Reis said. A number of citizens stepped forward to speak.

Aaron Ranstrom asked when the City would take ownership, and who would be responsible for maintenance.

Reis said that once the plat is approved and fully executed, the land does become

the City's land and the City will take over maintenance of the 5.09 acres.

Laurie Cannell said she looks forward to the park. "It will be a wonderful amenity to our neighborhood...this park will be our community's central gathering place. We need this... a well-maintained green area with a pond will have a positive impact...thank you, thank you so much...what are your plans...what will it look like...what is the timeline of the full project..."

Mayor Frank said that City will need to develop a timeline.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid said some improvements have been planned, including trails and benches. Future improvements will be budgeted, he said.

Susan Krull raised concerns over the fact that Blue Lake Drive is the only entry point into the subdivision. "...There is a tremendous amount of traffic on Blue Lake Drive...people seem to believe it's more like the Indianapolis 500...right now that's our only way in and out...if this becomes a public park...the traffic will become intolerable..."

Deb Stayner asked about future phases of the park. "Will we, as residents...have an opportunity to request and suggest some things we'd like to see in this park?"

Her question was answered with "Yes." Scheid said that little or no design work has been done for the park space.

Linda Zeman spoke, "...I think the whole idea of approving a piece of land for a development...without actual plans...is a bit preposterous...that's like buying a car online...I'm very surprised that we don't have something laid out so the residents can see what this final product will look like..."

John Connell asked whether he would still be able to fish there.

Scheid said that there are no fish in the pond, to which Connell asked once again, "Will I be able to fish there? They're really small..."

"I don't know," Scheid said. "I would assume so, yes."

Next to speak was Christel Pizzarusso. Noting that she has children and grandchildren in the city, she asked that an ar-

chitectural plan be drawn up. "...It affects...the whole city, because there will be children coming from different areas of Montrose...I find it preposterous that someone would even consider giving a plot of land to the City without there being some kind of ...an architectural plan...I think it's only natural to do that...it's ridiculous. You wouldn't send your children to school without a plan for them for the whole year...put out a plan, call in the architects, come to an agreement with the city whether they would have a right to back out of this plan in the future or not. There's no guarantee. The people need more of a guarantee. This is just like shooting the wind here..."

Katherine Luce asked if there would be restrooms at the park. "Because the restrooms at Taviwach are outhouses, and I really don't want outhouses in my subdivision...and I also need it to be handicapped accessible, because I myself am handicapped...if it's open to the public, where are they going to go to the bathroom?"

City Manager Bill Bell said that the only plans for the near future are for a soft surface trail and seating areas; any future developments will be driven by the community, he said.

Susan Krull stood in the aisle to comment on the type of gravel.

Following comments from the public, the three councilors voted to approve the Waterfall Canyon Subdivision Filing No. 6A Final Plat.

WATERFALL CANYON FILING NO. 6B FINAL PLAT

Councilor Reed remained recused for the final action item, consideration of the Waterfall Canyon Filing No. 6B Final Plat to create 32 residential lots, as well as associated easements, rights-of-way, and open space, subject to the Cascade Estate Homeowners' Association.

Following a brief presentation by Planner William Reis, the floor was again opened for comment.

Susan Krull asked where water would come from for the planned residential

CITY APPROVES NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURE *From previous pg*

lots.

Laurie Cannell said that the Cascade Estates HOA will face the same problems that Waterfall Canyon has faced. "...I hold you, the City of Montrose, accountable for these issues...you allow a developer to open up each HOA with the same CC and R's (Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions) ...those CC & R's make it virtually impossible for the HOA community to ever vote on anything. You know that 72 percent of our community has to be at our yearly meeting for a vote to take place. This is pretty much unattainable. Also, the

CCR's have a clause stating the developer can quit claim to the HOA certain pieces of land...parcels he has no use for so he gives them to the HOA's...Waterfall Canyon has spent close to \$100,000 on two areas...that were quit claimed to us...and we have more to come...I also hold you accountable for the gravel pit that we have on the south side of our development...the majority has been trucked to Bear Creek and destinations unknown...the developer started crushing and mining gravel again about two weeks ago..." She asked how the City could dis-

courage such circumstances. "...when will you enforce the code..."

Murphy then spoke about water resources. "We have a water resources Master Plan...right now we're using about 40 percent of our available water resources...quite a bit of room to grow..."

He discussed water allocations; there is no basis to issue a moratorium on water taps, Murphy said. "As a city we're sitting really well...our water resources are set...we are seeing water use per capita going down..."

Planner William Reis discussed the question about HOA CC & R's.

With no further discussion, Council voted to approve Waterfall Canyon Filing No. 6B Final Plat, with three votes and one abstention.

Following the vote Councilor Reed returned to chambers.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker delivered the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Collection Report for June, by collections and by area.

SECOND QUARTER BUDGET REVIEW

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Second Quarter Budget Review.

VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT UPDATE

Public Works Director Jim Scheid provided an overview of the Veterans Memorial Project, next steps, and City contributions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Frank said that the MADA Fiesta was held the previous weekend, and was a lot of fun. The Montrose Police and DART teams were there to represent the City and did a great job, Frank said. He thanked Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler for putting together paper pinatas.

With no further business, Frank adjourned the meeting.

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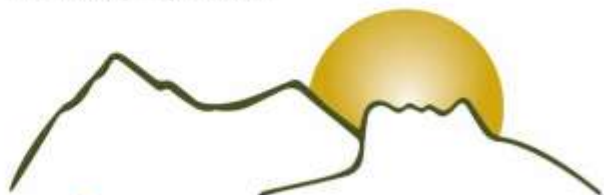
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC LANDS: HISTORY AND FUTURE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On September 11 Join the Black Canyon Audubon Society for a special presentation on **Public Lands: History and Future** to learn about the value of these lands to all of us. This special community event will be at 7 pm at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose, Free, blackcanyonaudubon.org.

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The History & Future of America's Public Land

Discover the Untold Story of America's Public Land

Public lands belong to all of us - recreation users, hunters, motorized vehicle users, fishermen, as well as farmers and ranchers. How important are our public lands to you and what is their future?

Join Walt Dabney—former National Park Service Superintendent and Texas State Parks Director—for a talk on how America's public lands came to be, why most are in the West, the economic value of these lands, and what we all stand to lose if they are taken from our common ownership.

7:00 PM, Thursday, September 11
Ute Indian Museum
17253 Chipeta Rd, Montrose

These lands belong to all of us. Learn how and why that matters now more than ever.

Sponsored by the Black Canyon Audubon Society

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE TRIBUTE TO AVIATION SEPT. 13-14

Dear Editor:

In continuing our efforts to raise funds for our beautiful veterans memorial, this quilt will be offered by the **Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition**. It will be displayed at the Colorado Tribute to Aviation in Montrose Sept. 13-14 at the airport <https://www.tributetoaviation.com/>.

The quilt is simple piecing surrounding a beautiful panel quilted perfectly by Artistic Quilting by Denise! of Montrose. The panel was donated by a disabled patriot who supports veterans across the country.

Please stop by our booth, say hi and learn more about the quilt.

We also will have t-shirts with outstanding graphics for sale at the Tribute. (We'll include a picture of the t-shirts in an announcement closer to the event).

On behalf of all our supporters and the BOD,

Les Williams, MVMC BOD President

J Bob Brueske, MVMC BOD Chair



Flag Quilts for Colorado Tribute to Aviation.
Photo is by Denise Betts, Montrose





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

I'M LUCKY: TIME TO RETURN THE FAVOR

Editor:

I'm lucky. I was born white Caucasian. I was born in America. I was educated for free. I had a job that gave me the ability to support myself. I'm grateful to be an American citizen.

Now I have the opportunity (obligation) to return the favor.

Please participate (everyone) in our republic. We have elected senators and representatives to vote for us in Washington and in the state house in Denver. Mike Johnson and John Thune could care less how we vote. They don't depend on our votes for their reelection.

But Michael Bennet (202-224-5852) and John Hickenlooper (202-224-5941) and Jeff Hurd (202-225-4676) do depend on our votes for their reelection. They will pay attention. Their job is to represent us - their voters. Let them know what will get your vote.

Likewise for Larry Suckla (970-570 5850) State representative for district 58 and Marc Catlin (303-866-5292) State representative for Senate District 5.

You, me, all of us have to find a way to participate in this republic or we will lose it.


Jo Clugg, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UPCOMING @ RIDGWAY STATE PARK

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Join us at Ridgway State Park for our Summer Program Series! Events this week are as follows: Friday Aug. 29, "Mountain Search and Rescue" by member Sean Hart. Come learn more about outdoor safety. Dutch Charlie Entrance at the Visitors Center from 7-8:30PM Saturday Aug. 30, Come enjoy a Live Music performance by multiple barbershop quartet groups. Dutch Charlie Entrance at the Overlook from 7-8PM.

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RED HAWKS RUMBLE OVER DEMONS 35-14 From pg 1

plays with senior Elijah Womack running the rock into the end zone from one yard out. Womack then ran the 2-point conversion successfully to lead 8-0.

The ensuing kickoff turned into a huge play for the Demons. Running back Seth Tripp took the football at his own 5-yard line and went the distance for what appeared to be the tying touchdown. But alas, a yellow flag was spotted at midfield. Tripp's effort was nullified, the points taken off the scoreboard and the Demons began their drive back at their own 21-yard line.

The Red Hawks continued their bend-don't break defense as they limited the Demons offense to 31 yards and another punt as they again turned the football over on downs.

The Red Hawks offense quickly rumbled 51 yards as Junior Quarterback Cade Saunders faked a handoff and then ran four yards for his first touchdown of the season to make the score 14-0.

The Demons then started a drive of their own moving from their own 20-yard line to the Red Hawks 43-yard line. Chase Mehan, who plays both offense and defense for the Red Hawks, intercepted an errant pass and turned the ball back over to the Red Hawks.

The Red Hawks overcame a critical holding penalty en route to their third touchdown of the evening as Chase Mehan, after his interception, took a pitchout and

rambled 38 yards for the Red Hawks third touchdown to advance the score to 21-0.

The Demons then went on their longest drive of the half, moving the football from their own 17-yard line into Red Hawk territory as time in the half was running out. The Demons set up for a 37-yard field goal but the kick went wide and the half time score remained Red Hawks 21, Demons 0.

The Red Hawks opened up the second half in similar fashion to the opening quarter as they drove 80 yards for their 4th touchdown. Chase Mehan ran 26 yards on the opening play of the drive to set the tone. Quarterback Cade Sanders finished the drive with his second touchdown of the night to make the score 28-0.

The Red Hawks had a couple of errors as they twice kicked the ball out of bounds, giving the Demons good field position at their 40-yard line. The homestanding Demons then moved to the Red Hawks 4-yard line and finally scored from one yard out on fourth down to make the score 28-7.

The Red Hawks were not done as they marched the football 80 yards in six plays to increase the score to 35-7 as Elijah Womack rumbled 23 yards for the 5th and final score in the Red Hawks victory.

The Demons opened the 4th quarter by putting together a 60-yard drive that resulted in a 6-yard touchdown run to close the score to 35-14. The two teams exchanged possessions to the end of the 4th



Red Hawks Head Coach, Brett Mertens

quarter without further scoring.

The Red Hawks were called for 9 penalties in the contest while the Demons committed only 5. The Red Hawks offense rushed for over 450 yards in the contest while their defense held the Demons under 270 yards of total offense. Three of the Red Hawks offensive drives resulted in 80 yard scores. Next up for the Red Hawks will be a visit from the Greeley West Spartans on Friday, Aug. 29th with the kick off scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Montrose Football Stadium.



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LADY RED HAWKS WIN SOFTBALL OPENER

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-Head Coach Lily Westbay's young Red Hawks softball team played host to the Cowboys from Gunnison on Wednesday, Aug. 20 in the opener for both schools. The Red Hawks prevailed by the score of 14 – 4 in a game that lasted only five innings due to the 10-run rule.

The Red Hawks wasted little time in putting their mark on the contest as they pushed across three runs in the bottom half of the first inning. The Cowboys put up a single run in their half of the second inning while the Red Hawks scored 2 runs to increase their lead to 5-1.

The Cowboys scored 3 runs in the next couple of innings, led by Mchayla Singer, a freshman who connected on a home run to pull the Cowgirls closer to the Red Hawks who led 6-4 after four frames.

The Red Hawks shifted their offense into high gear in the bottom of the Fifth inning, scoring 8 runs to make the final score 14-4 in favor of the home town team. Four Red Hawks each pounded out 2 hits: Bray, Hall, Schiller and Abby Siegel, who connected on a round tripper along with three runs batted in. The Red Hawks struck out twice and had five bases on balls to keep lots of traffic on the base paths. The Red Hawks also stranded 15 baserunners while scoring 14 times.

Schiller handled the pitching chores for the Red Hawks. She pitched all five innings giving up 4 runs (only one earned run) while striking out 10 Cowboys.

The Red Hawks hit the road for a trip to Durango for a pair of games. Saturday start times will be 11AM and 1 PM on Aug. 23.

COFFEE WITH A COMMISSIONER



FEATURING: SCOTT MIJARES

WHEN: AUGUST 29, 2025

TIME: 8:30AM – 9:30AM

WHERE: THE CABIN

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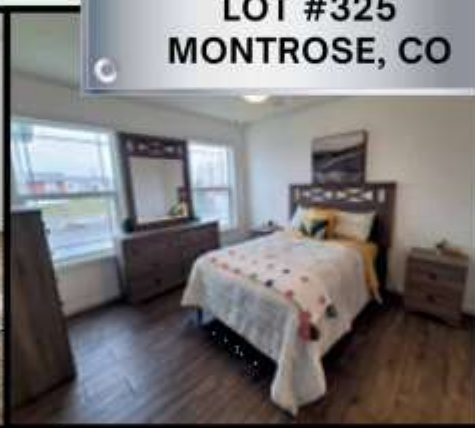
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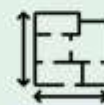
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

NOT WASTING TIME WITH LETTERS FROM OUTSIDE OUR COMMUNITY

Editor:

It's getting easier and easier for me to read your weekly newsletter! While I certainly enjoy reading most of your content, I have learned to quickly scroll to the end of the opinion letters to see whose opinion I am about to read. I won't even waste my time if it is not from someone who actually lives in our community! It baffles me that someone who lives in Granby, Connecticut or Portland Oregon would choose to submit a letter to the editor in little ole Montrose! It baffles me even more that they think that most of us (or at least 50% of us) even care what they think! Then we have the former Montrose resident who is a regular contributor as well. I guess being a "former resident" is supposed to give you enough clout that we might care about your opinion. I guess on slow news weeks you could fill the pages with hundreds of opinions from people from across the country that we residents could really care less about!

Gaye Lynn Brashers, Montrose Colorado

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO —The Colorado Department of Transportation reminds motorists of scheduled closures, maintenance operations and wildfire activity that will impact travel along the San Juan Skyway (scenic byway routes US Highway 550 and Colorado Highway 145) Aug. 25 to 28. US Highway 550 Coal Bank Pass (Durango to Silverton)

US 550 between Durango and Silverton will experience full road closures in both directions Aug. 25 through Aug. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., each day. Northbound motorists will be stopped just north of the Coal Bank Pass overlook (Mile Point 56.6). Southbound traffic will be stopped at An-

draws Lake Road (MP 63). This daily four-hour closure will allow crews to safely and efficiently install a new culvert under the roadway near the summit of Coal Bank Pass. Access to the Pass Creek/Engineer Mountain trailhead parking area, the Coal Bank Pass overlook, and restrooms will remain open.

CO 145 Lawson Hill (Telluride to Mountain Village)

Maintenance crews will perform three-day paving operations on CO 145, between Society Drive (MP 70.5) and continuing south of Mountain Village to Wagner Way (MP 69.3). Motorists should plan for 15 to 30 minute delays, Monday through Wednesday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m..

Paving operations are weather-dependent.

CO 145 Stoner Mesa Wildfire Activity

The Stoner Mesa Wildfire is still active and burning west of CO 145 between Rico and Dolores.

There continues to be a large presence of firefighters working on and near both CO 145 and Montezuma County Road 38, approximately 12 miles north of Dolores. Motorists are urged to slow down and remain alert in these areas for their safety and the safety of firefighters. For more information, visit the [Stoner Mesa Fire Information Facebook Page](#).

Motorists are encouraged to check the most current traffic impacts on [COTrip.org](#)



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE AND MONTROSE LIFESTYLE MERGE EVENT CALENDARS



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Stone House
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Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227



Beer Barn II
970-249-5550



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is taking a major step toward its goal of creating a single, go-to source for community event listings. Starting this week, the event calendar on visitmontrose.com will merge with the calendar on montroslifestyle.com, making it easier than ever for residents and visitors to find and post local events.

Once the change takes effect, the [Visit Montrose](http://VisitMontrose) calendar page will link directly to montroslifestyle.com. Anyone already submitting events to Montrose Lifestyle will see no change in the process. Those who previously posted events on the Visit Montrose calendar will need to create a free account on montroslifestyle.com to submit future events.

"This move has been a long time in the making," said Rob Joseph, founder of Montrose Lifestyle. "It's all about making it easier for people to see what's happening in Montrose and to connect with their community."

To ensure the calendar reaches as many people as possible, Montrose Lifestyle and the city will promote it through social media, printed flyers, cards, and other materials.

With this streamlined approach, residents and visitors alike will be able to easily explore concerts, classes, markets, festivals, and other happenings in one convenient place.

For more information or to submit events, visit www.montroslifestyle.com.

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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AMERICA IS THRIVING, MARKETS ARE BOOMING, WAGES ARE RISING

Editor:

The Democrat party is hemorrhaging voters. A recent study by the New York Times revealed that between 2020 and 2024, in the 30 states that track voter registration by political party, Democrats lost 2.1 million registered voters while Republicans gained 2.4 million. Democrats have lost all credibility with the American people. They can't rationally expect Americans to believe the people who for years lied to them about Trump being a Russian asset, the origins of Covid, Biden's mental capacity, the border invasion, Biden's inflation, and most everything else. Democrats lost their grip on the working class and their race-based coalition is slipping away. They now expect voters to somehow be insane enough to accept the party's increasing reliance on the most radical fringes of their party, like AOC, Jasmine Crockett, and Sohran Mamdani, whose politics are slightly to the left of Lenin.

As Democrats devolve more and more into self-destruction, they have developed a disturbing pattern in reacting to Trump's actions that will ensure their continued decline. It goes like this: Trump proposes a policy change or takes an action. Democrats/the media predict imminent doom and destruction. Trump's decisions turn out to be totally correct. Democrats ignore the results and simply move on to their next lie. Voters naturally conclude Democrats are not only irrationally anti-Trump, but also anti-common sense and anti-American. Several letters from liberals in last week's Mirror illustrate both my point that Democrats' responses to Trump are illogical and that they are also relying on their radical fringe. It is obvious that many Democrats are actively rooting against Trump in his pursuit of peace around the world. In just the last six months, Trump has brokered peace deals between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Cambodia and Thailand, Egypt and Ethiopia, nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, Rwanda and the Congo, and Israel and Iran. That is in addition to his first term successes of the Abraham Accords and peace between Serbia and Kosovo. Our current president has done more for world peace than virtually any other president ever. Currently Trump is doing everything possible to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine – a formidable task. Ridiculously, Democrats (and one of the Mirror writers, a former Montrose resi-

dent) want you to believe that Trump is somehow beholden to Putin for setting up a meeting with Putin on U.S. soil. They are aghast Trump would treat another world leader like a world leader. They also relentlessly attack Trump for not immediately emerging with a final agreement – trying to claim that the president had failed. Actually, Trump's meeting with Putin and his follow-up calls and meeting with Zelensky and European leaders was highly productive and successful. Trump's detractors are the same people whose record is nothing but endless wars, trillions of wasted taxpayer dollars, and dead Americans, but they still have the audacity to try and lecture Trump about peace.

The Trump-hating left is incapable of self-reflection. Democrats have accused Republicans of being Nazis / fascists / racists so loudly and for so long without an iota of evidence that no one takes their narratives seriously anymore. Another Mirror writer calls Republicans fascist and wants Democrats to use raw force to lock them all up to prevent a right-wing totalitarian dictatorship. Let that sink in. A fascist totalitarian probably wants a bigger and all-powerful federal government. They will probably first want to disarm the citizenship to eliminate all political dissent. They will probably want to destroy the family unit to insure absolute loyalty to the state. They will want to control the universities, the press, and the courts – and of course they will want to lock up the opposition. Hmmm. Trump is the one trying to downsize the government and protect our constitutional rights to bear arms and free speech. He is the one trying to sever the dependence of NPR and PBS on the federal government. Trump is the one trying to change the fact that our universities are the last place you want to be if you want an open discussion of ideas and where only left-wing ideas are tolerated. The writer, an extreme animal rights activist from Connecticut, is the one that wants to pack the Supreme Court, abolish the Senate, add D.C. and Puerto Rico as states, eliminate the Electoral College, move toward socialism, and “reform” the evil capitalist system. That's after locking up the opposition, of course. We have to rebuild America to prevent totalitarianism, right? The most nefarious political scandal in American history, the Obama/Biden big lie of the Russian collusion

hoax, has now crumbled beneath a flood of declassified documents pouring into public view. Despite that attempted coup, the same writer talks about Biden taking “the high road” after an attempted coup against him? As I recall, it was his own party that negated that party's primary results and undemocratically installed Kamala as their candidate.

Another liberal Mirror writer, an academic from Portland State University, wants us to believe that pro-lifers are the real threat to life. He attempts to connect a shooter in Minnesota to the pro-life movement, and provides further “evidence” that pro-lifers “support the life-threatening side” because they support radioactive material (like uranium mines, power plants, bombs, etc.), and big oil, assault weapons, war, and other bad things. Somehow, in that writer's sick mind, wanting to preserve our 2nd amendment rights or wanting affordable energy or affordable gas at the pump is more of a threat to life than aborting millions of babies. That 80-year-old grandma silently praying near an abortion clinic is a real threat to life, right?

Unlike Democrats, Trump offers solutions rather than narratives. He doesn't have to tell a story because voters get the picture whenever they go to the grocery store, watch leftist violence on the news, or hear about men destroying women and their sports. In a short period of time, Trump has unleashed a surge of growth that few thought possible.

America is thriving, markets are booming, wages are rising, and factories are humming again.

His trade policies have redefined the global playing field. Global investments confirm America is again the preferred destination for capital, with major commitments from foreign partners like Qatar, Japan, and Saudi Arabia totaling \$3 billion in just a few short months.

The three Mirror writers revealed themselves as just another part of the radical fringe. Voters have no problem choosing between conservative candidates -- who stand for less crime, border security, and balanced trade policies that promote prosperity -- and Democrat candidates -- who reject common sense solutions, but think they can talk a good narrative.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MADAMS, MURDER, AND MAYHEM HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Special to the Mirror

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 special tour will be the last for season and will be on Aug. 29 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.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH US SENATE CANDIDATE (D) KAREN BRESLIN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Community Conversation with Karen Breslin, running for the US Senate. Learn how Karen wants to bring bold leadership for a better tomorrow back to Washington, for Colorado. Join us in Montrose on Sept. 7, 5 - 7 p.m. Location provided upon RSVP (by Sept. 2) to montrosewomenmarch@gmail.com. Hosted by Montrose Women March. To learn about Karen Breslin, go to breslinforcolorado.com

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CLERK & RECORDER: RECALL PETITIONS DEEMED SUFFICIENT

Montrose County Clerk & Recorder Tressa Guynes

MONTROSE-Regarding: Petition to recall Scott Mijares from the office of County Commissioner, District 1 filed in the office of the Clerk & Recorder as the Designated Election Official (DEO) on Monday, August 18.

Pursuant to C.R.S.1-12-104, the number of required eligible electors' signatures necessary to recall a county officer is twenty-five percent of the entire votes cast at the last preceding general election for the office which the incumbent sought

to be recalled occupies. The 2024 General Election, Commissioner District 1; Total of 18,158 votes cast at 25% requires at least 4,540 valid signatures for the Petition to recall Scott Mijares to be deemed sufficient.

Pursuant to C.R.S.1-12-108 (8), after review of the 181 Sections submitted, please consider this official notice from the DEO that the number of signatures validated is at least 4,540. At this time, we have accepted 4,924 valid signatures.

As such, the Petition to recall Scott Mijares from the office of County Commissioner, District 1 is sufficient.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS OF WESTERN COLORADO WILL MEET AUG. 28

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, Aug. 28, at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Denim is our theme of the month. Wear your jeans and show off your coolest projects using denim. After the meeting, Caroline Ellermann will present a mini-workshop on Sharon Shamber's machine applique technique. Cost for the workshop is \$10. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.



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Thursday, August 21

Evening Salon

5pm Private Home in Ridgway

Saturday, August 23

Festival Concert

7:30pm Wright Opera House in Ouray
Reception Following Concert

Sunday, August 24

Free Children and Family Concert

2:00pm United Church of the San Juans in Ridgway
Part of the UCSJ "Sunday Sundaes" series



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DAILY CLOSURES BEGIN NEXT WEEK ON US 550 COAL BANK PASS

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO —The Colorado Department of Transportation reminds motorists of scheduled closures, maintenance operations and wildfire activity that will impact travel along the San Juan Skyway (scenic byway routes US Highway 550 and Colorado Highway 145) August 25 to 28.

US Highway 550 Coal Bank Pass (Durango to Silverton)

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Sidelines Sports Bar
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Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
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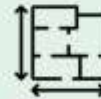
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COMMON SENSE PREVAILS IN CENSUS REFORM

Editor:

A Bold Step Toward Fairness

In a bold move that resonates with the foundational principles of American democracy, President Trump has directed the Department of Commerce to initiate a new census focused solely on legal residents and citizens.

This policy, announced via Truth Social, emphasizes "modern day facts and figures" and explicitly excludes those in the country illegally from the count. It's a long-overdue correction to a system that has inadvertently diluted the voice of lawful Americans. By prioritizing those who abide by our laws, this initiative restores fairness to representation, funding allocation, and electoral integrity.

Constitutional Foundations and Executive Authority

The U.S. Constitution mandates an enumeration every decade to apportion congressional seats and electoral votes based on population. However, the document's language in Article I, Section 2, and the 14th Amendment refers to "persons" in each state, a term that has been interpreted broadly over time. President Trump's action aligns with historical and legal understandings that grant executive discretion in how the census is conducted and how apportionment is calculated. This is not about erasing people; it's about ensuring that political power reflects those with a legitimate stake in our republic.

Key Legal Precedents Supporting Exclusion

Critics may claim this violates constitutional norms, but legal precedents support the president's authority to refine the apportionment base. In *Franklin v. Massachusetts* (1992), the Supreme Court affirmed that the president has significant discretion in determining how population figures are used for apportionment, including decisions on including or excluding certain groups based on policy considerations. The case involved the inclusion of overseas federal personnel, and the Court held that such methodological choices fall

within executive purview, as long as they are not arbitrary. This precedent underscores that the census is not a rigid count of every body present but a tool for equitable representation.

Similarly, in *Trump v. New York* (2020), the Supreme Court declined to strike down a similar effort by President Trump to exclude undocumented immigrants from apportionment counts on the merits. Instead, the per curiam opinion dismissed the challenge on procedural grounds of ripeness and standing, effectively allowing the policy to proceed without declaring it unconstitutional. Justices noted that disputes over census methods do not automatically invalidate executive actions, providing a clear pathway for refining counts to exclude those without legal status. This ruling builds on earlier cases like *Utah v. Evans* (2002), where the Court upheld the use of statistical adjustments in census data, affirming flexibility in achieving an accurate and fair enumeration.

Historical Context and Practice

Historical practice further bolsters this approach. From the first census in 1790, certain categories of individuals, such as foreign diplomats, transient visitors, and aliens in transit, have been excluded from the count, even though they were physically present. Undocumented immigrants, by their very status, resemble these transient groups; they are subject to removal and lack the permanent ties that define inhabitation under the law. The 2020 presidential memorandum on excluding illegal aliens from apportionment explicitly drew on this history, arguing that including them creates perverse incentives for states to harbor unlawful populations for political gain.

Practical Benefits and Countering Criticisms

Beyond legal grounding, the policy makes practical sense. Including millions of undocumented individuals inflates population figures in sanctuary states, leading to disproportionate congressional seats and

federal funding. This distorts democracy, giving undue influence to areas that flout immigration laws at the expense of heartland states where citizens bear the full weight of civic responsibilities.

For instance, resources for schools, hospitals, and infrastructure are misallocated, punishing law-abiding communities. President Trump's directive corrects this imbalance, ensuring that representation aligns with citizenship and legal residency, the bedrock of our social contract.

Opponents argue that the 14th Amendment's "whole number of persons" mandates inclusion of all, regardless of status. Yet this ignores the amendment's context, which aimed to count freed slaves as full persons, not to reward illegal entry. Moreover, the Supreme Court in cases like *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) recognized undocumented persons for certain rights but did not extend that to political apportionment. The census is a mechanism for governance by the people, for the people; those who enter unlawfully should not skew that process.

Addressing Modern Realities

This policy also addresses modern realities. With border crossings at record levels, relying on outdated 2020 data ignores the influx of illegal migrants. A new census based on current facts ensures accuracy, preventing electoral manipulation. It's not xenophobic; it's pragmatic, safeguarding the integrity of our institutions.

Empowering Citizens

President Trump's census reform embodies common sense. By citing precedents like *Franklin* and *Trump v. New York*, it stands on solid legal footing. This move empowers citizens, promotes fairness, and reaffirms that America is a nation of laws. It's time to count what truly counts: those committed to our shared future.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a United States Air Force Veteran, father of five and grandfather of three, passionate about this country and the Constitution. Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S BEEN A GOOD RUN

Editor:

79 years ... that's how long it's been since the USA, and our NATO allies were able to hold the ugly face of fascism down. This period was accompanied by unprecedented freedom and prosperity. But now we enter a new phase, where many of our citizens appear to have had enough of democracy, and are willing to live under the authoritarian rule of one man who promises safety, prosperity, security for all ... just as Hitler did in 1930's Germany.

These people see a decline in "American values", along with decreased opportunity and prosperity; while the rest of the world, previously poor, have started catching up to our productivity and wealth. U.S. Citizens, once the richest in the world, are now having to compete on a global scale. In the long run, this is healthy trend; as "a rising tide lifts all boats." This relative loss in prosperity compared to the rest of the world has turned many against our own government. They elevated a man who promised to "fix everything on day one" of his presidency; but who has obviously failed miserably, and is trying to turn attention away from his failures.

But, back to fascism. There is no official definition of it, but it's generally agreed to include these facets:

Extreme nationalism, by and for a particular racial group; and vilification of "others", based on their origins and racial groupings.

The absolute power of one man rule.

Using the police and the military to control all opposition.

Suppression of all dissent and criticism from individuals and media.

The looting of the national treasury by the regime.

Censure of dissent, closing down news organizations; and replacing them with propaganda sources.

Censure and closure of universities, and imposing content matter in all schools. Book prohibition and burning.

Coopting all governmental agencies, and subverting them to suit his personal goals, rather than serving the citizenry.

Coopting religious organizations, and demanding subservience from them.

Going after critics of the ruler, imprisoning, exiling, or attempting to destroy them.

Cowardice amongst ruler's subjugated followers; they're afraid to question him.

In the past few months, we've seen our felon president use all of these methods, and government institutions, to consolidate his personal power, and use it to silence his "enemies". He weekly threatens to jail opponents. This week, his own former Trump national security advisor, John Bolton, was targeted by a subservient FBI head, Kash Patel. Trump is using the FBI and Justice Department as his personal police forces; bent on going after his enemies, rather than protecting our citizens from crime. He has called up the National Guard, untrained in law enforcement, and

sent them to Democratically governed cities, against their will, on Trumped up charges of unacceptable levels of crime, even when the crime rates had been falling in those cities.

This is being done to divert attention away from his 15 year close friendship with the most egregious pedophile in U.S. history. He is using our military against our own citizens, no doubt hoping for a bloodbath during protests that would suit his plans for totalitarianism. He is accepting bribes through his crypto schemes, and gifts from countries that have business interests in our country. His wealth has more than doubled in the 8 months of his presidency.

It's not hard for any student of history to see that the instigators of Trumpism are using the fascist playbook, and testing every safeguard put in place over the last 250 years of our democracy for signs of weakness. Trump does this every week; overturning heretofore solid pedestals of our democracy. There are many parallels to Germany in the 1930's; but it appears that as much as half of our citizenry do not understand the similarities, do not know this history, do not see clearly ... or just don't care. Millions died the last time fascism reared it's ugly head; will we as a citizenry sit back and let this happen again, only this time, in the USA? Is fealty to the Nation's Con Man worth that price?

David Congour, Montrose



UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

THIRTY CHARGED IN SWEEPING FEDERAL CASE TARGETING TREN DE ARAGUA MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING, MURDER-FOR-HIRE, AND FIREARMS CRIMES

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Colorado
DENVER – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announces two federal indictments that charge 30 individuals, including several alleged leaders and members of designated foreign terrorist organization Tren de Aragua (TdA), with drug trafficking, murder-for-hire, and firearms offenses. TdA has been linked to brutal offenses including murder, kidnapping, extortion, and human and drug trafficking. Many of TdA's members have unlawfully entered the United States, bringing the gang's violence to American communities, including in Colorado.

A federal grand jury has charged 28 individuals after a nine-month investigation which began by targeting criminal activity at an apartment complex in the Denver metro area that had experienced an increase in violent crime and drug activities. The 39-count indictment charges defendants with firearms trafficking; using firearms to commit drug trafficking crimes; possession of firearms and ammunition by illegal aliens; and trafficking controlled substances including methamphetamine, cocaine, and "Tusi"—a narcotic drug originating in Venezuela which contains a variety of controlled substances including ketamine, methamphetamine, and MDMA (Ecstasy), and is typically manufactured to be pink in color. The indictment also charges five of the defendants with conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire. ATF officers recovered 69 firearms through this operation, including automatic machineguns. Many of these firearms have been linked to shootings in Denver and Aurora, including carjackings, robberies, and drive-by shootings.

A separate indictment charges Luis Fer-

nando Uribe-Torrealba, 29, and Luis Henriquez-Charaima, 29, with six counts including a conspiracy to traffic firearms, a conspiracy to traffic controlled substances, carjacking, and a conspiracy to commit murder for hire. Colombian authorities arrested Uribe-Torrealba and Henriquez-Charaima in Colombia on July 30, 2025, pursuant to a provisional arrest warrant the United States had requested based on charges in this case. They remain in custody in Colombia pending further extradition proceedings.

Of the 28 defendants in the United States, 24 are in federal custody. The investigation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations also participated in the investigation. Several other law enforcement agencies made significant contributions to this case, including Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, the Aurora Police Department, and the Denver Police Department. Also, the Colombian National Police and the special response element of its Anti-Extortion Division (GAULA Elite) provided critical investigative support. The Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs and the Criminal Division's Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section's Office of the Judicial Attaché in Bogotá, Colombia, provided additional significant assistance in securing the arrests of Uribe-Torrealba and Henriquez-Charaima.

The Violent Crime and Immigration Enforcement Section of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado is handling the prosecution, along with

members of Joint Task Force Vulcan (JTFV).

JTFV was created in 2019 to eradicate MS-13 and now expanded to target Tren de Aragua, and is comprised of U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country. Those include Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; Eastern and Western Districts of North Carolina; Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia; Southern District of Florida; Eastern District of Texas; Western District of Oklahoma; Northern District of Indiana; and the District of Nevada, as well as the Department of Justice's National Security Division and the Criminal Division. Additionally, the FBI, DEA, HSI, ATF, USMS, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons are essential law enforcement partners with JTFV.

This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Justice Department to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and protect our communities from the perpetrators of violent crime.

Operation Take Back America streamlines efforts and resources from the Department's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETFs) and Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN). In February 2025, Tren de Aragua was designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

The charges contained in the indictments are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Case Numbers: 25-cr-0063-SKC, 25-cr-233-RMR, and 25-mj-114-KAS.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: A DUI CAN IMPACT YOUR DATING LIFE AND MARRIAGE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—Last year, Colorado State Troopers arrested 3,535 people for driving impaired. While being arrested and going to court, were the initial consequences of making a reckless choice to drive intoxicated, long-lasting impacts like a strain on relationships and dating are often overlooked. “If a household is already struggling financially, a DUI only adds increased stress and bills,” explains Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “There are fines and fees associated with the consequences of this crime. Taking time away from work will likely happen and some people will ruin their chances of gaining employment. Of the motorists the Colorado State Patrol arrested in 2024, the majority were between 22 and 39 years old. These ages often include relationships, marriage and the start of families. Meeting someone and creating a positive first impression can be just as hard as dealing with the tension a DUI can cause in an existing relationship. Some of the Negative Impacts Reported by DUI offenders include:

- Relationship Strain: Additional stress and tension develop in existing relationships surrounding finances, concerns about substance abuse, and other changes to lifestyle or routine.
- Questions about Judgment: First impressions can be challenging, as others may question a person’s character and judgment, causing them to distance themselves or hesitate to get to know you.
- Emotional Impact: A DUI is stressful and can cause embarrassment, shame, guilt and even fear. These emotions can further complicate dating and relationships.
- Social Stigma: Knowledge about DUI can spread quickly or the use of an interlock ignition device. This makes it harder for someone to feel comfortable and confident in dating and other social situations. It also makes it harder for the person meeting you. “If a person is truly remorseful for a DUI, it likely is a moment he would like to keep private,” stated Col. Packard. “However, a conviction of drunk driving is available with a background check for employment, housing or security clearances. And the penalties are also often recognized by people in your life whether you talk about it or not.” The best way to avoid the devastating changes to a person’s life due to a DUI conviction is not to get one in the first place. Make a plan for a sober ride before taking impairing substances outside your residence.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR DAVE FRANK

Mayor Frank:


I was before the city council encouraging the council to declare Montrose a Non-Sanctuary city on August 19th as I have done since March of 2024. You and the previous mayor have stated that public comment is one of the ways that you hear about the needs and wants of the citizens of Montrose. I have put up with most of the city councilors looking bored or ignoring myself and other citizens exercising our right to express our selves. This past week during my time to express myself to you, Mayor Frank, you sat in your seat moving your head back and forth in a negative fashion as if to say NO. How can you sit there being so rude to me and potentially any other constituent. Granted you verbally stated that Montrose is and always will be a Non-Sanctuary city at the end of your first city council meeting as mayor yet refuse to put it in writing. The previous mayor, J. David Reed, stated on numerous occasions to the Montrose Daily Press that Montrose was Non-Sanctuary by default due to documents that have never been produced. There are only 5 councilors including you, Mayor Frank. I know that two councilors would and have in the past voted to make Montrose Non-Sanctuary. Now that you have made it known that you will keep Montrose a Non-Sanctuary city why not publish a declaration or proclamation stating this. Most of the Western Slope communities have done so without any retribution or lawsuits. If you or two other city councilors are apprehensive to make such a declaration let the people of Montrose, make their own decision by bring forth a yes or no ballot issue.

(Should the voters of the City of Montrose declare Montrose a Non-Sanctuary city? Yes, or No?)

You have until Friday the 29th to put forward such legislation. Then again, I guess the council likes to see my smiling face at the podium at just about every meeting. Do the right thing for Montrose citizens and the city of Montrose and take this one small step to show that you, Mayor Frank, have the wherewithal to take a stand for justice and need. I really don't need to bring up all the facts that I have stated over the last year because I trust that you have heard all these discussions presented. Make a written statement declaring Montrose a Non-Sanctuary city before it is too late.

John Brown, Montrose


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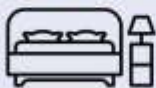
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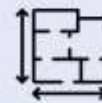
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BOYS IN GIRLS SPORTS? BOYS IN GIRLS LOCKER ROOMS? BOYS IN GIRLS RESTROOMS? COLORADO SCHOOLS IN CRISIS!

Editor:

In Colorado schools, policies allowing biological boys to participate in girls' sports, access girls' locker rooms, and use girls' restrooms continue to fuel outrage. Proponents label these as inclusive and progressive. However, evidence shows they endanger girls, destroy fairness, and expose children to harms once considered unthinkable. Advocates for such measures are not promoting diversity; they are advancing a deranged ideology that sacrifices safety for delusion. Colorado girls require protection, not vulnerability.

Unfair Competition in Girls' Sports

Biological males possess clear physical advantages in strength and speed, advantages that hormone therapy does not fully erase. Colorado law, via the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, requires schools to permit transgender students to compete in sports matching their gender identity. This has triggered resistance. In May 2025, Colorado Springs School District 49 became the first in the state to ban transgender students from sports teams aligning with their gender identity, citing risks to fairness and safety. The district sued the state, claiming the policy infringes on students' constitutional rights by pitting girls against boys. Parents and officials highlight injury risks from mismatched competition. Nationally, transgender athletes have inflicted concussions on girls, a danger Colorado could mirror without safeguards. President Trump's February 2025 executive order condemned such participation as dangerous, pressing states like Colorado to shield female athletes. Yet, Colorado's stance endures, inviting lawsuits and discord.

Privacy and Safety Risks in Locker Rooms

and Restrooms

The encroachment on private spaces heightens dangers. Guidance from One Colorado urges facility access based on gender identity, including restrooms and locker rooms. In Jeffco Public Schools, policies assign overnight trip rooms by gender identity without parental notice if unsafe. This led to a federal investigation in June 2025 over privacy breaches. Denver Public Schools faced scrutiny in January 2025 for converting a girls' restroom to all-gender, eliminating exclusive female spaces and prompting a U.S. Department of Education probe for discrimination. Critics contend this compels girls into distressing scenarios. A 2013 state ruling permitted a transgender girl restroom access, establishing precedent.

Spotlight on Montrose County School District

In Montrose County School District, as of August 2025, there are no reported specific controversies or recent policy changes regarding transgender students. However, the district adheres to Colorado state laws under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, which mandates access to sports, locker rooms, and restrooms based on gender identity. This alignment with state guidelines exposes girls in Montrose to the same vulnerabilities seen elsewhere, without local bans or protections. Parents have voiced general concerns in board meetings about safety, but no formal actions have been taken to restrict access. The absence of district-specific safeguards highlights how statewide deranged policies permeate even rural areas like Montrose, putting girls at risk in sports and private spaces.

Policy Failures and Legal Battles

These policies dismantle longstanding protections. Districts like Boulder Valley and Poudre enforce access by gender identity, including locker rooms. The Colorado GOP in July 2024 urged schools to defy state law on bathroom access, citing secrecy in gender issues. In rural Montezuma-Cortez, the board removed LGBTQ protections in July 2025 and joined a lawsuit against state transgender athlete policies, aiming to ban participation matching gender identity. Federal Title IX changes in 2024 recognized denying transgender access as harmful, yet critics argue it imperils girls. The Supreme Court in August 2024 blocked protections for transgender students temporarily.

The Human Cost to Colorado Girls

This deranged approach inflicts real damage. Girls evade facilities, endure anxiety, and forfeit opportunities. In 2025 reports, transgender sports bans' impacts included heightened risks for girls. Parents decry biological males seizing girls' achievements. Who considers this normal? It is not progress; it is a sickness exploiting youth, luring predators under inclusion.

Time for Change

Colorado must pivot. Embrace bans like District 49's, enforce sex-based separations, and focus on girls' welfare. Support initiatives for parental notifications and restrictions. Lawmakers: implement safeguards now. Parents and communities: mobilize. Our girls merit security, not ideological sacrifice. Act before further suffering.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a United States Air Force Veteran, father of five and grandfather of three, passionate about this country and the Constitution. Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FRUITA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL MONUMENTAL LIGHTS GALA

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA – The Fruita Foundation is proud to announce its inaugural Monumental Lights Gala, set for Friday, September 5, 2025, at Monument Vista Place. This elegant evening will bring the community together in support of education, cultural preservation, and outreach programs designed to strengthen Fruita for generations to come.

For \$100, each Shared Ticket Experience includes entry for two guests, a gourmet Italian pasta bar by Berna B's Classic Cuisine, a commemorative glass, and a complimentary beverage. The night will be brought to life by the Mesa Winds Quintet of the Grand

Junction Symphony Orchestra, featuring flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and French horn. Their curated program spans timeless Mozart to contemporary favorites, performed by principal players in their respective sections.

Guests will enjoy the stunning backdrop of the Colorado National Monument while connecting with community leaders, neighbors, and supporters.

Proceeds from the Gala will directly benefit:

- Operational needs and startup costs for Foundation programming
- Cultural preservation efforts in partnership with the Fruita Historic Preservation Board
- Educational initiatives highlighting Fruita's unique heritage
- New community programs, including youth engagement and small business grants

"The Monumental Lights Gala is more than an elegant evening," said Kayla Bowers, President/CEO of the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate our local culture, support student scholarships, and fund programs that empower small businesses and youth engagement. We can't wait to share this unforgettable evening with our community under the stars."

Event Details: Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm Location: Monument Vista Place, 1785 Broadway, Grand Junction, CO 81507 Attire: Cocktail attire Tickets: \$100 for a Shared Ticket Experience (includes two guests) – Reserve Now at fruitachamber.org/fruitafoundation Limited seating is available.

This inaugural gala promises to be a monumental evening of elegance, entertainment, and community impact. Don't miss your chance to share this unforgettable experience with a guest under the breathtaking Colorado sky.

About the Fruita Foundation Founded in 2022 by the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fruita Foundation builds on the Chamber's scholarship program to expand educational opportunities, cultural preservation, and community outreach in Fruita and the surrounding area. Through partnerships, grants, and community engagement, the Foundation strives to create a lasting impact for generations to come.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY FAIR BEEF DONATED TO WEST END FAMILY LINK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE COUNTY-Commissioner Sean Pond showed support for local agriculture and youth at the San Miguel County Fair by purchasing a steer at the recent live-stock auction. After processing, Commissioner Pond picked up the ground beef in Delta at Homestead Meats and delivered the beef to West End Family Link, where it will help provide meals for local families.

Many Montrose County youth from the West End of our county participate in the San Miguel County Fair through 4-H and FFA, and we are especially grateful for their dedication and hard work in raising these animals. Their commitment keeps our agricultural traditions strong while making a real difference in the community.

A heartfelt thank you also goes out to the volunteers, families, and community members who make the fair and programs like these possible. Your efforts ensure that the spirit of agriculture, youth leadership, and community giving continues to thrive.



Courtesy photo Montrose County.



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HONORING THE AMERICAN SUFFRAGE - WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE - 19TH AMENDMENT



Montrose Republican Women - Jody Dewey, Diane Carabetta, Kerri Catlin, Marti Barnes, Cherie Whiteford, and Roena Frank. Thank you to Montrose County Historical Museum for the backdrop. Courtesy photo.

Submitted by Kerri Catlin

MONTROSE-August 26, 1920, Women were officially granted the right to vote in America. The Nineteenth Amendment of the Constitution was ratified by Congress after 42 years of intense campaigns, marches, protests and court battles. The Suffrage movement made its way from Europe to America with the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in New York. For 70 years organized women pursued this issue. The Amendment made it illegal to deny a citizen the right to vote based on sex. Suffragettes were empowered by the fact that all citizens should have the right to participate and have a voice in our great Republic.

Decades before the national women's right to vote, Colorado became the first state to grant women's suffrage through a referendum that amended the state's constitution in 1893. Our Montrose Republican Women (MRW) were one of the first eleven Chapters in the United States to be organized in 1936 through Congressional oversight. MRW continues to flourish in its efforts to promote the education of women in good governance, to be actively engaged in political discourse and directly participate in government. Find more information about the Colorado Federation of Republican Women (CFRW.org) and Register to vote at GoVoteColorado.com.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

EVERY NATION HAS ITS LAWS WHICH COMMAND RESPECT AND OBEDIENCE

Dear Editor,

Lawlessness, dissipation and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide.

No error accepted by the United States of America strikes more boldly against the authority of the Constitution, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground that common sense law is no longer binding among men.

Every nation has its laws which command respect and obedience; no government can withstand without them; and can it be conceived that the creators of the Constitution have no law to govern the beings it was created to govern ?

Suppose that the founders were to publicly teach that the statutes which govern their land and protect the rights of citizens were not obligatory, that they restricted the liberties of the people, and therefore ought not to be obeyed ; how long would such men be tolerated ?

But is it a graver offense to disregard the laws of states and nations than to trample upon these precepts which are the foundation of all governments ?

It would be far more consistent for nations to abolish their statutes and permit the people to do as they please, than for the rulers of the country to annul the law, and leave the world without a standard to condemn the guilty or justify the obedient.

Would we know the result of making void

the laws of the land? The experiment has been tried. Terrible were the scenes enacted in all countries when socialism and atheism became the ruling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which law and morality has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruelest of tyrants.

When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the purveyors of evil to establish power.

Wherever the common sense precepts are rejected, wrong ceases to appear sinful or righteousness desirable. Those who refuse to submit to the uniform common sense are wholly unfitted to govern themselves.

Through their pernicious teachings the spirit of insubordination is implanted in the hearts of children and youth, who are naturally impatient of control; and lawless, licentious State of society results.

Those who teach the people to regard lightly the rule of law sow disobedience to reap disobedience.

Let the restraint imposed by the law be wholly cast aside, and all human laws would soon be disregarded. If the law were not binding, why should any fear to transgress ?

Life itself would not be respected. Such is the disease of America.

The civilized world is on the fast track to become a house of robbers and assassins ; and peace, rest, and happiness will be banished from the earth.

These are the Modern Doctrines of which

I speak and they apply to political parties, branches of Government, unelected officials and bureaucrats. You know who you are, so do I.

By order of iniquity importance in its abject damage ; most of these almost unfathomable just a generation ago.

Governmental deep state players.

Governmental lawfare schemes.

Immoral governmental leadership.

Insane hatred human on human, derangement syndrome.

Immoral unprofessional mainstream media disinformation.

Far left insane agendas imposed on innocents.

Manufactured fake intelligence.

Executive mental state unfit to lead but shielded by coverup.

Pathological liars in positions of lawmaker authority.

Retribution upon retribution.

Churches embracing unethical and unbiblical dogma.

Dysfunctional moral compass in national leadership.

Courts unfaithful to the Constitution.

So I admonish you to understand. Already the doctrine that men are released from obedience to common sense requirements has weakened the force of moral obligations and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the United States of America. You still have the power to tip the scale upright with a common sense vote

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose



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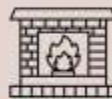
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRESTONE ENERGY FAIR RETURNS FOR 36TH YEAR

Special to the Mirror

CRESTONE, — The Crestone Energy Fair (CEF) — one of the nation's longest-running sustainability fairs — returns Sept. 11–14 for its 36th year, inspiring connection, education, and celebration in the San Luis Valley. This year's theme, "Nurturing Resilience," invites participants to explore practical and creative strategies for cultivating solidarity and forward-thinking leadership to navigate change with purpose.

The event kicks off Thursday evening, Sept. 11, with a community potluck, followed by three full days of presentations, home tours, hands-on workshops, live music, wellness activities, kids' programs, and entertainment. Attendees can learn about renewable energy, natural building, regenerative food systems, land stewardship, rural economic development, community resilience and so much more.

Highlights include:

- Presentations & Panels on topics such as building sustainably in the age of codes and capitalism, land sovereignty, food security, rural economic development, communal mutual support, and regenerative land management. Natural & Sustainable Home Tours offering an inside look into some of Crestone's most unique, alternatively-built homes.
- Hands-On Workshops in earthen plasters, hempcrete, earthships, tire walls, scoria bag construction & strawbale.
- Live Music & Performances featuring Kosmos, Crestown & Sanji.
- Wellness Offerings such as yoga, dance, tai chi, contact improvisation & healing

arts.

2025 Headliners: This year's featured speakers include

- Ronald Rael — Internationally acclaimed architect, artist, and activist born & raised in Conejos County, known for blending ancestral knowledge with cutting-edge technology, including his iconic "Teeter Totter Wall" at the U.S.–Mexico border.
- Lloyd Kahn — Pioneer of the green building movement, former Shelter editor of the Whole Earth Catalog, sharing insights on curiosity, vitality, and sustainable living at age 90, named "King of DIY Dwellings" by the NYTimes.

- George Whitten — Third-generation regenerative rancher from the San Luis Valley, speaking on "Nurturing the Next Generation Through Apprenticeship."
- Sasha Rabin — Natural builder, educator, and founder of Earthen Shelter, known for her work with cob and other earth-based materials and how to navigate modern building codes when working with alternative materials.

- Dustin Freyta — An Indigenous land and water defender from Taos, who leads the revival of traditional "water planting" practices through his work with the Sacred Water Mountain Society.

- Devon Peña — Founder of The Acequia Institute, and a prominent scholar-activist dedicated to indigenous agroecology, food sovereignty, and environmental justice.

- Robin Blankenship — Owner-operator of Earth Knack School in Crestone, where she has taught primitive skills, wilderness survival and sustainable living practices for



over 30 years.

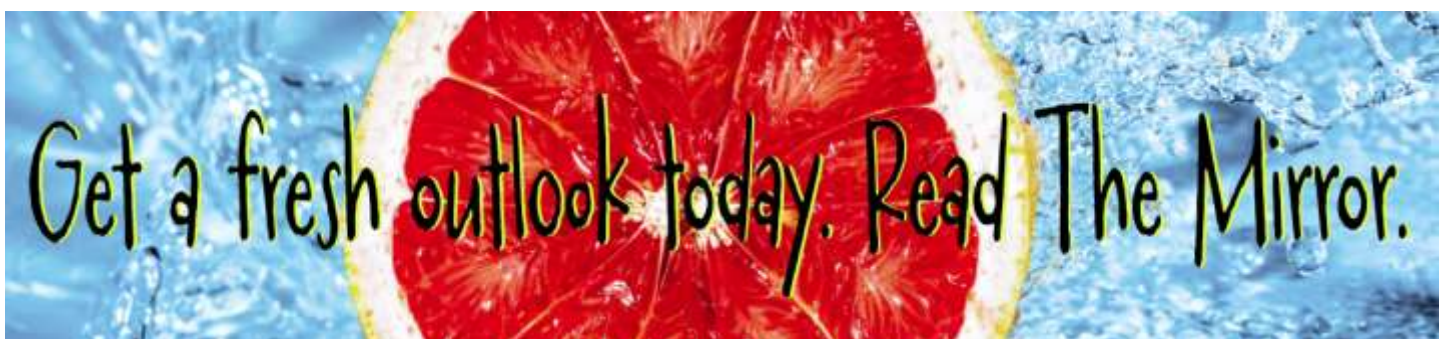
- Paul Kloppenburg — Founder of the Crestone End of Life Project, which received the first legal permit for open-air cremations nationwide.

- Chris Canaly — Longtime director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, credited with decades of successful grassroots campaigns protecting Colorado's lands and water.

The full schedule and lineup is available now at crestoneenergyfair.org/2025schedule.

A Community-Powered, Free Event
The Crestone Energy Fair relies on volunteer support to keep the event free for all attendees, and organizers are seeking volunteers to help with set-up, stage support, hospitality, zero-waste initiatives, and more. Volunteering is a chance to gain new skills, meet new people, and be part of the behind-the-scenes production of beloved high-desert tradition. Sign up at crestoneenergyfair.org/volunteer-signup.

About the Crestone Energy Fair
Founded in 1989, the Crestone Energy Fair promotes sustainable and regenerative living & building through education, demonstration, and community connection. Each year, it draws attendees from across the world to learn, share, and celebrate solutions for a thriving future.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CENTER HONORS SAFETY NET CLINIC WEEK IN NATURITA

Special to the Mirror

NATURITA — The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) celebrated the annual Safety Net Clinic Week (August 17-23, 2025) with a luncheon honoring Basin Clinic in Naturita, Colorado. CRHC provided lunch for clinic staff, community members, and local leaders, who read a proclamation signed by Governor Jared Polis, which highlights the importance of Colorado's rural safety net clinics.

"Safety net clinics are essential points of access for healthcare services in rural communities across the state. In today's environment especially, the importance of quality care that is accessible to those who are uninsured, underinsured, or insured through public programs cannot be understated," said CRHC CEO Michelle Mills. "CRHC hosts Safety Net Clinic Week (SNCW) each year to educate policymakers, healthcare advocates, and community leaders on the necessity of keeping our safety net intact and thriving."

Even though supplemental federal funding is unavailable to them, safety net clinics provide essential healthcare services to rural and underserved populations. While safety net clinics are diverse in their business and practice models, they are comparable in their commitment to providing healthcare services to people in need. They continuously deliver valuable care to their communities despite limited funding to support general operations, workforce challenges, growing reporting and accountability requirements, and changing payment and delivery models.

This year, CRHC hosted a celebratory luncheon for a safety net clinic, local leadership, community members, funders, providers, and other healthcare partners in Naturita on Aug. 20. CRHC chose to honor Basin Clinic for their dedicated service to rural Montrose County, and in light of their recent recognition as a CRHC Top 10 Rural Healthcare Facility for Overall Performance.

"The efforts of Basin Clinic and other clinics like it often go unrecognized," said Mills.



CRHC chose to honor Basin Clinic for their dedicated service to rural Montrose County, and in light of their recent recognition as a CRHC Top 10 Rural Healthcare Facility for Overall Performance. Courtesy photo.

"Showcasing the important work done by our members is what the week was all about. Happy Safety Net Clinic Week!"

"The Basin Clinic is honored to have been chosen as the featured clinic for Safety Net Clinic Week. Our team has been working hard to meet our Mission to provide exceptional, compassionate healthcare. Like all clinics, we do the best we can with the limited resources and dedicated team members to provide healthcare to our communities. Thank you, Colorado Rural Health Center, for your work and dedication to advocate for our clinics," said Christina Pierce, Executive Director at Basin Clinic.

Basin Clinic is a perfect example of a truly necessary piece of the safety net in rural Colorado.

"Speaking as a patient, my life was saved because Basin is where it is. If I had had to be transported 25 miles away, to another town, I would never have survived. That is the case for many of our residents, and for quite a few, the trip to another

town for medical care is not even possible," said Basin Clinic Board President Chris Daniels. "The care delivered by Basin's medical staff, and the professionalism from all those who work there in every capacity, is what makes Basin the clinic of choice."

"The entire team — from Executive Director to clinical staff to administrative personnel to custodial and maintenance — have one goal: to provide the best healthcare possible. That is why I am so proud of Basin Clinic."

Governor Polis also signed a declaration proclaiming Aug. 17-23, 2025 as Safety Net Clinic Week in the state of Colorado. According to the proclamation, "rural primary care safety net clinics, including designated Rural Health Clinics, make exceptional contributions to the health and well-being of Coloradans."

"We express our gratitude to these clinics who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to serving their communities," the proclamation continued.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHEN PERCEPTION CROSSES INTO REALITY

Editor:

The Scrutiny of Public Office

Political officials are not like everyday citizens. Their affiliations and associations face much heavier scrutiny than those of common folk, even in a small town. This holds true in Montrose, Colorado, where **Mayor Pro-Tem Judy Anne Files** was spotted casually on a Friday evening at the summer concert series sponsored by the City of Montrose.

During the event, Judy Anne conversed with disgruntled former County Commissioner Roger Rash, who was gathering signatures for the "Recall Scott Mijares" campaign. This author called her out in an article as part of the effort because **perception is reality**.

Defense, Denial, and the Power of Perception

Her defenders, the recall supporters, rushed to her defense. She denied any involvement when confronted by citizens at the City Council Meeting on August 5. I personally have no issues with Judy Anne. We are personable and have shared many enjoyable conversations. However, perception is reality. As an elected official, Judy Anne, you should know better. When the public sees you at an event with a controversial situation that you choose to insert yourself into, assumptions will follow. You may not like it, but that is the reality.

The Core Issue: Assumptions and Accountability

The fact remains that voters there will see you and assume you support the effort, whether you do or not. That is the core issue. All the hubbub from defenders who called out my supposed "error" misses the

point. Get a life. Files actions as an elected official, much like those of her county counterpart, sitting **Commissioner Sue Hansen** who posted on her own Facebook page in support of the recall, should trigger ethics charges immediately. They should be barred from public office according to Colorado Revised Statutes.

Unconscionable Behavior and Ethical Standards

This type of behavior is absolutely unconscionable and cannot be tolerated from our elected officials. The Colorado Code of Ethics, outlined in **Title 24, Article 18 of the Colorado Revised Statutes**, establishes clear standards to preserve public trust. **Public Trust and Fiduciary Duty (C.R.S. § 24-18-103)**

For instance, **C.R.S. § 24-18-103** declares that holding public office is a public trust and requires officials to act in ways that inspire confidence in government integrity. Engaging in activities that appear to undermine fellow elected officials, such as associating with recall efforts against them, can breach this fiduciary duty by eroding that trust.

Rules of Conduct for Public Officers (C.R.S. § 24-18-104)

Furthermore, **C.R.S. § 24-18-104** sets rules of conduct for public officers and local government officials, prohibiting actions that could be seen as using one's position for improper influence or private political gain. Actively campaigning against another official's recall, or even giving the perception of support through public interactions or social media posts, risks violating these rules by prioritizing partisan agendas over impartial service.

Ethical Principles and Conflicts (C.R.S. §

24-18-105)

C.R.S. § 24-18-105 reinforces ethical principles, advising against official acts that could improperly influence duties or create conflicts. In the case of local officials like Files and Hansen, inserting themselves into divisive recall campaigns against peers directly affects the economic and political interests of their communities, potentially departing from faithful discharge of duties.

Rules for Local Government Officials (C.R.S. § 24-18-109)

Finally, **C.R.S. § 24-18-109** specifically addresses rules for local government officials, where proof of certain acts constitutes a breach of fiduciary duty, including performing official acts that benefit undertakings in which they have interests or accepting benefits that could sway impartiality. Supporting or appearing to support a recall against another elected official while in office can be viewed as such a breach, as it undermines the collaborative governance expected under the law.

Rising Above Disputes: A Call for Accountability

Elected leaders must rise above personal or factional disputes. In Montrose, these incidents highlight why strict adherence to Colorado's ethics statutes is essential.

Violations like these demand accountability to restore faith in our institutions. The real question is what are they hiding?

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a United States Air Force Veteran, father of five and grandfather of three, passionate about this country and the Constitution. Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: CARTOONS



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE LAND BOARD LAUNCHES FIRST-EVER BIOLOGICAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION LEASING POLICY TO BOOST CONSERVATION AND REVENUE

Special to the Mirror

ALAMOSA – The Colorado State Land Board approved its first-ever Biological Carbon Sequestration Leasing Policy, establishing a clear and consistent framework for voluntary carbon capture projects on state trust lands. This landmark policy, adopted at the Board's August 14 meeting, will create new opportunities for carbon credit generation while supporting Colorado's climate and conservation goals — and boosting funding for the state's K-12 public schools.

The policy is part of the Board's new Biological Carbon Program, which enables agricultural and other lessees to partner with Board-approved Qualified Project Developers (QPDs) to design and implement projects that sequester carbon in soils and vegetation. Verified carbon credits from these projects would be issued through carbon registries and then sold on voluntary markets, creating a new, sustainable revenue stream for the trust.

"By creating a dedicated policy for biological carbon sequestration, we're ensuring that Colorado's trust lands are part of the solution to climate change while continuing to fund our public schools for generations to come," said **Deborah Froeb**, President of the Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners.

"This program is a win-win. It helps our lessees adopt innovative land stewardship practices and generates new, market-based revenue for education," said **Dr. Nicole Rosmarino**, Director of the State Land Board. *"Colorado is now positioned as a national leader in integrating biological carbon sequestration into public land management."*

The Biological Carbon Sequestration Leasing Policy was developed in cooperation between the State Land Board's Ecosystem Services Program and Field Operations District Offices, building on a program framework presented to the Board in April 2025. The policy provides staff with guidance on lease terms, environmental attribute transfers, and market engagement, ensuring projects are implemented effectively and with transparency.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

WILNA EDRA STEWART

April 10, 1940 — August 15, 2025

WILNA EDRA STEWART, a lifelong resident of Shavano Valley near Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2025, at the age of 85.

Born on April 10, 1940, to Forest and Mary (Rogers) Stewart, Wilna lived her entire life in the same family home nestled in the Shavano Valley.

She attended Oak Grove School and proudly completed the 8th grade, participating in the school's graduation ceremony.

As a young girl, Wilna enjoyed raising and caring for rabbits, a testament to her gentle nature and love for animals—a love that continued throughout her life. She never married or had children, but she cherished a special bond with her many pets over the years, including her beloved dogs Peppie, Fuzzy, and Tan, and her cat Snowflake.

A lifelong member of Montrose Christian Church, Wilna's faith was a cornerstone of her life. Baptized on July 11, 1954, she expressed her devotion through the remarkable act of copying the Bible several times by hand, a testament to her dedication and reverence.

Wilna was known for her creativity and generosity. She enjoyed crafting, crocheting, sewing, and baking, and she was especially gifted in making handmade dolls and stuffed animals for her nieces and nephews. Her warm presence and quiet joy were a comforting fixture for generations of children in her family, many of whom remember fondly listening as she read stories to them.

Wilna loved a joke and laughed at everyone's goofs, including her own! Wilna enjoyed working jigsaw puzzles - mostly pictures of cuddly animals.

She was preceded in death by her parents Forest and Mary (Rogers) Stewart, infant twin sisters Margaruite May and Marjorie Fay, her brother Robert Lee Stewart, brothers-in-law William J. "Bill" Moreland and Ken Lawton, and sister-in-law Marlene Stewart.

Wilna is survived by her siblings: Sam (JoMarie) Stewart, Bill (June) Stewart, Bettie Lawton, and Janet Moreland, along with numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews who will miss her warm heart and the love she gave so



freely.

The Stewart family extends heartfelt thanks to the PACE program and its dedicated staff, who provided Wilna with 16 years of compassionate care, meaningful relationships, and enriching activities. Their support added joy and comfort to her later years, and their kindness will never be forgotten.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DERRIK "DC" CHARLES ROMERO-EVANS

June 25, 2002- August 11, 2025



DERRIK CHARLES "DC" ROMERO-EVANS, 23, passed away on August 11, 2025, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Born on June 25, 2002, in Grand Junction Colorado, Derrik brought light and laughter into the lives of those around him from an early age.

A proud graduate of Central High School in Grand Junction, Colorado, Derrik was known for his sharp wit and infectious smile. His sense of humor was a constant source of joy to his family and friends, often turning ordinary moments into cherished memories. Whether he was cracking jokes or offering a helping hand, Derrik had a way of making people feel seen and appreciated. Derrik had a deep love for online gaming—a passion that connected him with friends near and far. He was also an avid supporter of the Dallas Cowboys, never missing a chance to cheer on his favorite team. But perhaps nothing brought him more comfort than enjoying his mom's cooking, which he always looked forward to with enthusiasm.

He was a beloved son to Stephanie Wilken and Charles Evans Jr., and a devoted brother to Daniel Romero, and beloved grandson, cousin, and nephew of the family. His presence in their lives was a gift—one filled with laughter, kindness, and unwavering love.

JANICE "JAN" MCCLEMANNS

November 25, 1937- August 16, 2025

JANICE 'JAN' (DOWNEY) MCCLEMANNS of Montrose, Colorado passed away August 16th peacefully at home with her family by her side at the age of 87. She has been a resident of Montrose for 33 years.

Jan was born in Anson, Jones County, Texas on November 25, 1937 the daughter of John Otis Downey and Vera Merle Durham, and was the only daughter of seven children.

The Downey family moved to Lemoore, Kings County, Los Angeles, California in 1940. She graduated from San Pedro High School, Los Angeles County, California in 1954. Jan married her High School sweetheart, Donald Ray McClemons in 1954, they had one son and twin daughters. In 1960 they moved to Garden Grove, Orange County, California and raised their children. Jan volunteered many hours at Stanford Elementary School in Garden Grove assisting with the implementation of a school library, she also volunteered many years as an Elections Worker.

In 1973/1974 Jan and her husband Don became lifetime members of A.A. and Al-Anon, where she volunteered many years doing Al-Anon World Service. With a desire to further her education she attended

California State University, Fullerton, graduating with a Bachelor of Science and a Major in Human Services, with honors and a place on the Dean's List, in 1983.

Jan and Don enjoyed traveling around the world to places like China, Europe, Australia, Fiji, just to name a few. She also loved spending time with her family on trips to Lake Powell and Colorado. Family was very important to her. After retiring they moved to Montrose, Colorado and built their dream home. She enjoyed being a member of the Red Hats and attending water aerobics classes.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Donald Ray McClemons of 66 years, four brothers, Bill, Stan, Bob Downey, David Seaman and her son-in-law, Richard Alford. She is survived by two younger brothers, Danny Seaman (Gloria), Donald Seaman (Marilyn), both of Southern California. Her son, Donald Ray McClemons (Beki) of Washington, daughter Teri Lynn (McClemons) Alford, daughter Sherry Ann (McClemons) Mulvaney (Jack), both of Montrose, CO., Four Grandchildren, Corey McClemons (Tanya), Jacob McClemons (Liara), Madison (Mulvaney) Forsberg (Luke), Ariel (Alford) Buchanan



(Arlin), and seven great grandchildren, Cameron, Jadelyn, Olivia, Makai, Noa McClemons, and Agnes and Angus Buchanan. A Special 'Thank You' to Hope West and Crippin Funeral Home for providing professional and compassionate services. A Celebration of life will be held at Crippin Funeral Home, 802 E. Main Street, Montrose, CO 81401 on Saturday, September 6th at 11:30.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOHN CHARLES ESKEW

May 5, 1973- August 10, 2025



JOHN CHARLES ESKEW, most recently of Montrose, Colorado, went to be with the Lord on the morning of Sunday, August 10, 2025. He was 52.

John was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on May 5, 1973, to Cathie and Charles "Joe" Eskew. Having spent most of his life on the Western Slope in Colorado, nothing was more precious to John than his children. John is the father of four: the late Tyler John, who passed in infancy; Benjamin Logsdon of Castle Rock, Colorado; and Sophia and Greyson Eskew. John is also survived by one grandson, Luka Logsdon, whom he adored.

Others who survive John are his loving father, Charles; and John's siblings, Lane Eskew and Elizabeth Wisdom Rogers. John's mother, Cathie, preceded him in death by 17 days.

A life-long fisherman, foodie and music lover, John's final years were marked by a brave, multi-year struggle with Multiple Systems Atrophy—a rare, progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects the brain and nervous system. In these last years, among John's proudest accomplishments, he achieved sobriety and found comfort in his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

A celebration of life service for John will be held at Grace Community Church on Saturday, September 27, at 10 a.m., in conjunction with his mother's (Cathie Eskew) celebration of life. Donations in John's name can be made to HopeWest (HopeWestCO.org).

SUEANN "SUE" JOHNSON

May 16, 1963- August 10, 2025

SUEANN JOHNSON, 62, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2025. Sueann was born on May 16, 1963, in Montrose, Colorado, to David and Evelyn (Herman) Pace. She grew up in Montrose and spent a short time living in Texas, but Montrose was her home.

Sueann is survived by her daughters, Ashley Osborne, Jessica Johnson, and Makenna (Gerson) Cruz; and her beloved grandchildren, McKenzie Ann and Miles Osborne, Ryleigh Paige Bowen, and Ainsley Rae Cruz. She is also survived by her siblings, Joseph (Tammy) Bosgal, Roseann Bosgal, Elaine (Jim) Rooks, Bryan (Cynthia) Pace, Davine (Steve) Bruno, Mike (Christine) Pace, and Jack (Kristi) Pace, along with numerous nieces, nephews who loved her dearly.

Sueann was preceded in death by her parents, her stepfather Raymond Hadley, her sister Mary Beth Pace, and her nephew Zachary Steven Pace.

Sueann — affectionately known as "Sue" — was an avid reader who could often be found lost in a good book, and she never missed an episode of her favorite Lifetime movies or Law & Order: SVU. Her quiet strength, fierce independence, and selfless nature defined her. She rarely asked for anything and never complained, always putting others ahead of herself.

In her later years, Sue's resemblance to her mother Evelyn became more apparent — not only in appearance but in spirit, resilience, and perseverance.

Her strength, wit, and stubbornness will be remembered and missed every day.



ISSUE 536 Aug. 25, 2025

ART & SOL

PROMISE, A STORY OF HAROLD AUPPERLE AND THE GRAND VALLEY, COLORADO

By Kate Burke

MONTROSE-Promise, A story of Harold Aupperle and the Grand Valley, Colorado, at the turn of the 20th Century and World War I is a finalist in the 2025 Colorado Independent Publishers Association (CIPA) EVVY awards, to be announced September 18th in Boulder, Colorado.

Written by Joe Zeni, Grand Junction, Colo. Published by San Juan Publishing Group, Montrose, Colo. Zeni's book describes the exponential changes in Western Colorado at the turn of the last century and in the Balkans during World War I, when Harold served in the ambulance service. Well-researched with maps, newspaper articles, and over 200 historical photographs. Harold's story is told in the context of the time and places he experienced at home in Grand Junction, while a student at Stanford, and in Eastern Europe. Read more here and download One Sheet book description, <https://sanjuanpub.com/promise>

About the Author

Joe Zeni, a retired educator and historian, is involved with regional historical museums. He is a 3rd generation resident of Grand Junction and became interested in the life and story of Harold Aupperle from neighbors. They had known his younger brother and collected material chronicling the life of a young man, who like his times at the turn of the last century, was filled with Promise—a legacy unfulfilled until Zeni wrote this book.

About the Publisher

San Juan Publishing Group, Inc. (SJPG), has been publishing print books, regional

magazines and newspapers, and digital communications since 1993, with Colorado offices in Ouray, Ridgway, Silverton, Durango, Grand Junction, Montrose, Canyon City, and an Arizona office in Cottonwood.

With a focus on Western history, publisher Kathryn Burke gives history presentations throughout the region. This is the sixth book published by SJPG to win an EVVY award.

Reviews

Riveting. "Promise" contrasts the economic expansion of the American West to post-war recovery in Eastern Europe." — P. Russell, historian.

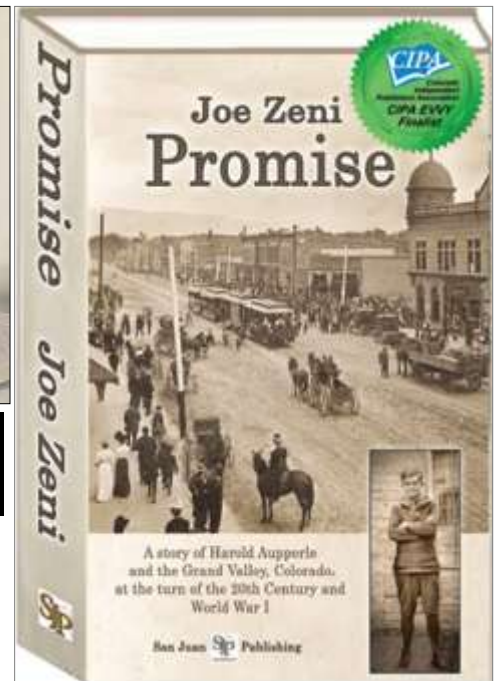
-Accurate. "A well-documented and researched endeavor that makes history accessible." — G. Madden, archivist for *The Government High Line Canal, Newspaper Article Archive, 1904-1910*.

-Vivid. "Young Aupperle embodies the earnest ambitions of his time in this well-researched telling." — L. Davis, PhD. Assistant Professor of Mass Communication, Colorado Mesa University.

-Engaging. "Harold Aupperle was a promising young man who made a long-lasting



Author Joe Zeni and his new book, "Promise." Courtesy photo.



impact on his communities." — B. Silbernagel, author, Daily Sentinel history columnist.

-Insightful. "An incredible and thorough accounting into the life and times of Harold Aupperle and where he lived!" — Priscilla Walker, Palisade Historical Society.

-Fascinating. "Good job, good design, good use of photos. Very well done with excellent research." — D. Fishell, historian, author, KAFM radio host.

-A promise fulfilled. "Leaders at home and abroad promised to establish a memorial to Harold but it was a long time coming. Joe's book completes that promise."

. — G. Brewer, local historian.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

NUCLA'S MIKE & RUTH SHARE FEATURED BERTHS AT TELLURIDE ARTWALK POETRY WITH GLENWOOD SPRINGS POET / ASPEN COLUMNIST SARAH PLETTS THURSDAY SEPT. 4



Sarah A. Pletts. Courtesy photo.



**Mike Olschewsky
Courtesy photo.**

Mike Olschewsky left Cleveland (OH) in 1975, wound up in Nucla (CO). "In Cleveland, you have to



Ruth Duffy. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-Featuring local watershed favorites Ruth Duffy and Mike Olschewsky, Telluride Artwalk Poetry will also include Aspen Times arts columnist Sarah Pletts, poet & performer, on Thursday, Sept. 4th at 6 pm at the Telluride Arts Headquarters, across from the library.

According to Ruth Duffy, she is "a girl from the north country who immigrated to the southwest in the late 1970s with a MA in Creative Writing from the University of Wisconsin -- Beer City." Although published rarely and sporadically, she continues to stash small poems and strange short stories in the bottom right hand drawer of her Goodwill desk.

be tough. Nucla, too," explained Olschewsky. He has an MS in Physics and taught math and science for 11 years in Kayenta (AZ) on the Diné reservation. He taught for 20 years in Nucla after that.

Mike has one poem printed on a cement bridge somewhere over I-80 in Nebraska. Sarah A. Pletts writes, paints, performs, leads workshops and produces for stage and screen. At age 14 she danced with the Miami Ballet Company. She received a BFA from Pratt Institute in NYC for fine arts and dance and her visual art is collected in the U.S. and Europe.

Sarah has performed solo on the RAI2 television in Italy and danced with Native American tribes. Her Off-Broadway

dance/theatre piece "Henri's Letters" played the Stella Adler Theatre in NYC. She led the Native pre-opening for the 2002 Olympics and her dance theatre work "TREETime" premiered in the Teatro National de Nice, France.

Her documentary film "The Phoenix Rises" screened in Monaco, Rome, Cape-town, Maine and Colorado. Her poetry appears in newspapers and journals, and she was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award with a collective of western poets entitled "A Democracy of Poets."

She's an arts columnist for the Aspen Times and she broadcasts her 30-minute show "Sarah Pletts Live" on KAJX Public Radio Aspen.

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MADAMS, MURDER, AND MAYHEM



This historical walking tour will examine the seedier side of local history. This walk will visit the sites of the notorious saloons, jails, and historical buildings. The tales will intertwist history and legends on the famous and scandalous local characters of the area.

August 29th: Limited spaces are available.

Please RSVP at 970-249-2085.

Admission is \$10.00/person.

The walk starts at 6:00 pm

MEET AT THE MUSEUM

21 N. Rio Grande



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CRESTONE POET & AUTHOR PETE ANDERSON TO BE FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ON SEPTEMBER 2

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE—Having most recently directed the Crestone Poetry Festival, poet and author Peter Anderson will be featured presenter for the Tuesday Sept. 2nd Bardic Trails session beginning at 7 pm.

Anderson's books include *Riding the Wheel*, a collection of prose poems and haiku that celebrates the natural world on the edge of the Sangre de Cristos; *Reading Colorado*, an anthology of place-based writings which won a 2024 Colorado Book Award; *Heading Home—Field Notes*, a collection of flash prose and prose poems exploring rural life and the modern day eccentricities of the American West; and *First Church of the Higher Elevations*, a collection of essays on wildness, mountain places, and the life of the spirit.

He lives on the western slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains where he edited and published *Pilgrimage Magazine*, served as poetry editor for the *Mountain Gazette*, taught at Adams State University, and wrote a column for *Colorado Central Magazine*. For more information on his work, check out petehowardanderson.com.

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

October's featured presenter will be Betsy Quammen (formerly a reporter for the old *Telluride Watch* when I was editor) telling ghost stories; November Beth

Franklin of Boulder who runs the Colorado Poets Center will read; and December will bring CMarie Fuhrman of Idaho (and currently heading up the poetry program at Western Colorado University in Gunnison).

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

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

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

Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the West End Stories & Poems series in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library (moving from the third Sunday of every month to the sec-



Poet and author Peter Anderson will be featured presenter for the Tuesday Sept. 2nd Bardic Trails session beginning at 7 pm. Courtesy photo.

ond Thursday at 6 pm), a new live series in Telluride for the summer on the first Thursday of the month Art Walk at the Telluride Arts office across from the Wilkinson Library, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state Cantor Poetry Prize contest (both open for submissions until Aug. 31st), the Western Slope Poet Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction's Center of the Arts (given every two years), the San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte (just awarded to George Sibley of Gunnison), and the MycoLicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.

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This beautifully updated 3-bed, 1.5-bath home in Garnet Mesa is a must-see! Nearly everything is new, including the kitchen (cabinets & appliances), bathrooms, doors, floors, blinds, and fresh paint inside and out. The smart layout features upstairs laundry, and an enclosed front porch ideal as a mudroom or summer sleeping area.

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



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CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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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-](mailto:pgor-don@allsaintsmontrose.org)
don@allsaintsmontrose.org

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-week prayer and communion, Wednesday, Noon, Multi-denominational Community Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical Anglican Church committed to the ministry 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 Sunday service. We would love to welcome you here. Following the service, join us for snacks and conversation. On the third Sunday 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, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

Website: <https://celebrationmontrose.org/>

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration Church makes disciples that make disciples. 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. Montrose, 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 Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

Mission: Christ's Church of the Valley is a loving and welcoming church whose purpose 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 predominately 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 Synod

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, 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 welcoming environment being comforted and encouraged 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 inclusive and accepting world is steadfast, and we will continue to work towards a future

where everyone can live freely and authentically.

Demographics: We are a small congregation 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 Saturdays. 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 predominantly 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

WHY YOU SHOULD DO THINGS THAT SCARE YOU: THE POWER OF STEPPING OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

When was the last time you did something that truly terrified you—not in a horror-movie sense, but in that heart-racing, palms-sweating, “what if I totally choke” kind of way? For many of us, the answer might be “not in a long time.” And that’s just sad.

We humans love safety. We crave the familiar because it feels...well, safe. But here’s the hard truth: comfort can become a cage. When every day looks like the one before, you risk sliding into complacency—that numb state of detached apathy that robs you of joy, creativity, and excitement. Left unchecked, that comfort turns into boredom, and boredom, eventually, to burnout—for which your doctor will likely prescribe a pill, to make you even more numb. I’m not saying you slip into a furry costume on Saturday and try to assimilate with a pack of wild wolves in Wyoming—that actually happened, by the way. Some doofus from Fort Collins almost got himself killed a couple weeks ago. (Look it up. It’s hilarious.) The point is to flex your courage muscle and try things that scare you or challenge you. Maybe something you’ve thought of but were too scared to try. Do that. You weren’t designed to live on repeat.

Familiarity gives us the illusion of control, but it also starves us of growth. When you cling to what you know, you stay the same person you were yesterday. You stick to the same routines, the same hobbies, the same safe conversations. There’s no risk... but there’s no magic either. That spark you felt when you first tried something new? That’s life tapping you on the shoulder, telling you to play bigger.

Doing things that scare you isn’t about recklessness, it’s about evolution. And “safety first” isn’t always the best policy, unless you’re undertaking a technical en-

deavor involving water, fire, flight, chemicals, or things that can literally kill, maim or blind you. Then, sure. Safety first. Otherwise, my boyfriend always says, “safety third!” He’s only sort of joking. But he does have a point. Building your life and habits around safety also leads to crippling fear over time. I’ve seen it, especially in older people—and I bet you have too. People that are obsessed with safety tend to have a tremendous amount of anxiety about being, and remaining, safe. Everything becomes a threat. It’s weird and sad and expands as we get older, until life is about doctor’s appointments, pills, avoiding travel, and finding a favorite chair. I believe it was Jack London who said, “The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time.” Now, granted, he had severe health problems, which ultimately caused his death at around 40 years old, but his perspective is one we could all embrace. Live while you’re here.

Fear is often a signpost pointing toward areas of your life where you have room to grow. The first time you speak in public, try rock climbing, or sign up for that dance class? You might feel exposed, awkward, and wildly out of your depth. But the rush that follows—the moment you realize you did it—is pure gold.

The satisfaction isn’t just emotional; it’s chemical. Overcoming fear triggers dopamine, the feel-good neurotransmitter, and builds mental resilience. It teaches your brain that discomfort isn’t fatal—it’s transformative. With each scary step, you’re training your mind to adapt, to bend without breaking. That’s the essence of mental fortitude.

Pushing beyond your comfort zone also expands your world. You’ll discover hobbies you never imagined loving, skills you never thought you’d master, and people you might never have met otherwise. Life becomes richer, more layered, and infinitely more interesting when you’re willing to lean into the unknown.

One day you’ll look back and realize the moments you feared most aren’t the ones you regret—they’re the ones you cherish. Because they weren’t just experiences; they were turning points. Remember the history professor in the movie “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off?” Standing there repeating, in a flat monotone, “Bueller?... Bueller?... Bueller?...” while no one paid attention? Don’t be that guy. Don’t even be in that room. Be Ferris.

So here’s the invitation: Do one thing this week that scares you—not because you have to, but because you’ll grow if you do. Because it’ll shock you back to life, bringing joy, exhilaration and pure stoke. Strike up a conversation with someone new. Sign up for that workshop you’ve been avoiding. Book the “some day” trip. Try skydiving, or river surfing, do the Via Ferrata. The butterflies in your stomach? They’re not a warning sign. They’re a green light. And they’re telling you to go for it.

Because living your best life doesn’t happen in the safety zone. It happens in the impact zone. It happens where the fear meets courage, and where the unfamiliar becomes the unforgettable.

Gia Pirelli—Former master hairstylist, aesthetician, and salon owner for 25 years, she whipped bodies into shape as a group fitness instructor, and crushed finish lines as a competitive cyclist and triathlete. These days she’s trading blow-outs for balance, and endurance for infinity as a certified yoga and mat pilates instructor, holistic nutritionist, breathwork & meditation guide and metamorphic consultant. She blends physical, mental, and spiritual wellness with creative pursuits like jewelry design. When she’s not guiding clients toward balance and beauty, she’s exploring the world, chasing waves, riding motorcycles, and saying “yes” to life. Real Estate pays the bills, but adventure feeds her soul—and Tank, her Pitbull sidekick, is almost always along for the ride.

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY provides a monthly program on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Montrose Field House, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. blackcanyonaudubon.org

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. 21-Medicare Information Session, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, Montrose Regional Library, 320 S 2nd St. Montrose, CO 81401. www.montroselibrary.org 970-249-9656.

Aug. 22- Paint Garden Rocks at the Senior Center with Kate Burke. Friday Afternoon Art, Montrose Rec District 50+ program, \$40. Signup at MRD <https://comontrose.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/iteminfo.html?Module=AR&FMID=27628197>

Aug. 24- Decorate a Birdfeeder at LaNou Dubois Winery Everything including bird seed provided plus snack and glass of wine or NA drink. Free Wine Tour with Tasting. Senior Discount Available. Instructor, Kate Burke. 67289 Trout Rd. Register at <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/082425In/>

Aug. 28-Paint Your Pet at Mosaic Montrose. Step-by-step instructions and everything provided plus snack and adult beverage or NA drink. Instructor, Kate Burke. 21 N. Cascade Ave. Register at <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/082825m/>

Aug. 28-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, Aug. 28, at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Denim is our theme of the month. Wear your jeans and show off your coolest projects using denim. After the meeting, Caroline Ellermann will present a mini-workshop on Sharon Shamber's machine applique technique. Cost for the workshop is \$10. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

Aug. 29-30-Join us at Ridgway State Park for our Summer Program Series! Events this week are as follows: Friday Aug. 29, "Mountain Search and Rescue" by member Sean Hart. Come learn more about outdoor safety. Dutch Charlie Entrance at the Visitors Center from 7-8:30PM Saturday Aug. 30, Come enjoy a Live Music performance by multiple barbershop quartet groups. Dutch Charlie Entrance at the Overlook from 7-8PM.

Sept. 2-Tuesday Sept. 2nd Citizens/ Climate lobby meets at 5 at Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP) 504 N 1st Street. Non-partisan environmental, local renewable drive. info 970 765 9095, All Welcome.

Sept. 11-Paint Italy at Endless Pastabilities. Step-by-step instructions with template and everything provided plus snack and adult beverage or NA drink. Instructor, Kate Burke. 1544 Oxbow Drive, Montrose. Register at <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/091125pasta/>

Sept. 11-On Sept. 11 Join the Black Canyon Audubon Society for a special presentation on **Public Lands: History and Future** to learn about the value of these lands to all of us. This special community event will be at 7 pm at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose, Free, blackcanyonaudubon.org.

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



The symmetry of haying, with the sadness of smoke in the background last week just off Maple Grove and 5950 roads west of Montrose. Photo by CB Williams.

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