



ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION



HAPPY LABOR DAY 2025!

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THE LABORS OF LABOR DAY

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-The first Labor Day was actually celebrated on September 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by the [Central Labor Union](#). This initial celebration paved the way for the broader recognition of the holiday in the years that followed, culminating in its national designation in 1894.

Boris Reinstein, a devout Socialist, wrote in the early 1900s that Labor Day was not what it was intended to be. He said that the Labor Day celebrations were generally taken over by the very people that the workers of America fought against. He opined that it had become commonplace for those who opposed the labor unions to be leading the parades held in various cities. The day morphed into just another day of bank and government office closings, but many cities and small towns found their own way of celebrating. Western Colorado was no exception.

In 1904 the *Silverton Standard* published a detailed article promoting the Labor Day

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The crowd in the Ridgway Town Park is typical of the past celebrations. Large amounts of barbecued beef were taken from the pit and dished out to everyone. For many years the meal was free. The two men in the foreground were identified by a long-time member of the ranching community as Gene Fournier (L) and Lloyd Berryman. Photo courtesy of the Fournier family and the Ouray County Ranch History Museum.

CONSULTANT ASKS FOR CHANGES TO ORIGINAL PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT



During the Aug. 28 Project 7 Water Authority board meeting, D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz used a Power-Point slide with three cakes to make his point. One cake had no frosting, one was frosted, and one was frosted with candles. The unfrosted cake represents where Project 7 is currently; Swartz suggests the best option is the frosted cake with candles, which includes a rate increase to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons and updating the Project 7 MPO (agreement). Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL- The Aug. 28 meeting of the Project 7 Water Authority was called to order by Secretary/Treasurer Randy Meaker. Absent were Chair Jake Foreman, Kevin Carlson, and John McCollum. Alternates Wayne Schieldt (Tri-County), Leroy Foreman (Olathe), and Kathy Calkin (Chipeta) served as representatives. The minutes of the July 24, 2025 meeting were approved; there were no changes to the agenda. Aside from the board, a dozen others attended the almost two-hour meeting.

Public Comment: Participants are given three minutes to speak.

Richard Hill said, "I appreciate the safe water delivered to members. [I question] whether or not this is necessary. Millions are spent on a pipeline. From the July meeting I learned that 25 percent of [the cost] for the project is for Plan and Design. I've just talked to four engineers, and all say that it should be 7.5 percent. Twenty million has already been spent, but the financials are

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[Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD:](#)
[Your Brain on Nature: Sex!](#)

[Friends of Youth and Nature:](#)
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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

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

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Helping Hands Community Gathering

**September 5—9-10 AM
Library Meeting Room**



Do you belong to an organization helping our community? Do you want to connect and collaborate with others who are doing the same? Visit the Library Meeting Room any time between 9-10 a.m. on first Fridays for our Helping Hands Community Gathering. Light refreshments will be provided.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE LABOR DAY SCHEDULE *No Regular Mail Delivery, Retail Services Closed*

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Postal Service facilities will be

closed for retail services, and there will be no regular mail deliveries (except for holiday premium Priority Mail Express) on

Monday, September 1, 2025.

Normal retail, delivery, and collection schedules will resume Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

-Stamps are available at many grocery, pharmacy, and convenience stores.
-For 24/7 access to most postal products and services, go to www.usps.com, where you can look up a ZIP Code, track a package, buy stamps, hold mail, print postage online, submit a change of address, schedule a package pickup and find USPS locations including self-service kiosks.

For a full list of holiday observances please see the [holiday and events page](#) on our website.

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MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INTRODUCES NEW MUSEUM COORDINATOR/CURATOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Society presents a dual program with Mrs. Jennifer Carter, newly hired coordinator/curator replacing retiring Sally Johnson. Mrs. Carter will be introducing herself to the membership and general Montrose community, and her husband, Dr. Brennin Carter with the National Parks Service, will discuss the current state of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison's recovery from the recent fire damage and possible changes in the park as a result. The public is welcome to attend this free program. Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY ANNOUNCES LABOR DAY CLOSURES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday. Police officers will be on duty and responding to calls, however police department offices will be closed, The Black Canyon Golf Course will be

open from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Rusty Putter restaurant, located at the golf course, will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., along with the snack bar.

The city's [trash and recycling collection schedule](#) for the holiday week has been modified:

For trash routes normally scheduled for Monday, Sept. 1, residences south of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50 will receive trash collection services on Tues-

day, Sept. 2.

For residences north of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50, trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

The recycling collection normally scheduled for Monday, Sept. 1, will instead occur on Friday, Sept. 5.

For more information, contact City Hall at 240.1400.

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRAIG PETERSON, MD, JOINS MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH UROLOGY CLINIC *Peterson brings more than 22 years of experience to the new MRH clinic*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Craig Peterson, MD, has joined the new Montrose Regional Health (MRH) Urology Clinic. Peterson is a board-certified physician with more than 22 years of experience treating both male and female urology patients in the Montrose region.

Peterson and the MRH Urology Clinic prioritize the use of the latest medical technology to provide patients with advanced treatments and the highest quality care.

Many procedures incorporate the use of the da Vinci surgical robot, and the clinic also offers Aquablation therapy, which uses the AquaBeam robotic system to treat patients with an enlarged prostate. Peterson also specializes in treating erectile dysfunction and male and female incontinence.

"I'm excited to continue serving the Western Colorado community through Montrose Regional Health's new urology clinic," Peterson said. "Urology has



Craig Peterson, MD. Courtesy photo.

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evolved significantly over the past two decades, and I've worked hard to bring advanced technologies, like the da Vinci and Aquablation surgical systems, to Montrose to improve outcomes and patient care. I look forward to collaborating with providers across the region to deliver comprehensive, evidence-based care that meets the growing needs of our community."

Peterson attended medical school at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. He completed his urology residency with the U.S. Navy at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, and his general surgery internship with the U.S. Navy at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

A Western Colorado native, Peterson graduated from Gunnison High School. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys skiing and snowboarding. In the summer, he spends his time hunting, fishing and golfing.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Peterson, call the MRH Urology Clinic at 970-497-8100.





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THE LABORS OF LABOR DAY From pg 1

celebration in the booming mining town. Their parade certainly epitomized the day. The parade was led by the Silver Cornet Band. Marching behind the band were the Cooks and Waiters Union, members of the U.A. of H.R.E, the Silverton Federal Union, American Labor Union band, the Silverton Miners Union and the Western Federation of Miners (W.F.M).

The two-day celebration was highlighted by several contests, including an eight-pound hammer and hand drilling contest, baseball games, horse racing, and even a greased pole climbing contest. Prizes in some of the contests exceeded \$100.

For the most part, Labor Day did become that beloved extra day off for Western Colorado residents, but there were exceptions.

The Labor Day celebration in Hotchkiss in 1905 was a good example of the determination to celebrate. The *Delta Independent* ran a short description of what happened. This a part of that article: *Although the heavy rains Sunday night and Monday kept many away a fair crowd celebrated Labor Day in Delta, and all seemed to have a good time. Thinking that rain would prevent games, the Hotchkiss ball team did not come down and a game was played with picked players from Cedaredge and Eckert teams, which resulted in a victory for the Delta team.*

The article went on to say that, not even the weather stopped the barbeque, other sporting events, and a very competitive trap shoot.

Silverton held celebrations for a number of years and held on to the tradition of

honoring those employed in the mines. The small town often attracted people from Durango and Telluride, but Ridgway must hold the record for Labor Day celebrations. The small Ouray County town held celebrations for several decades.

The Ridgway celebrations usually consisted of barbecues, street events, horse races and dances. The attendance included people from all around the Western Slope and the local ranchers and townspeople alike worked diligently to make the events successful and enjoyable. Names still recognized today were involved.

On August 11, 1925 the Ridgway Labor Day celebration committee was named. Elmer Israel was named president. The committee named L. F. Orvis to the grounds subcommittee. The barbecue was placed in the hands of A. R. McClure.

Delmar Mash was placed in charge of organizing the horse racing and street sports and novelties fell to the supervision of N. A. Gibson and Graves Corn. G. C. Hufnagle was in charge of advertising and Wm. Mills organized the bucking horse competition. There were many more named as judges and other positions of support.

On that day the committee also announced their plans to add a section each year to the present grandstand until there was enough seating to take care of everyone.

The 1925 Ridgway celebration was a great success. It was reported that a whole trainload of Montrose residents attended. Perhaps that led to the lament of sorts that appeared in the *Montrose*

Daily Press on September 7, 1925:

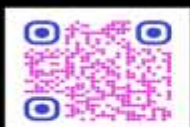
Lord help the poor newsgatherer on a day like this. With all the news sources closed up, what is a reporter to do? Courthouse is locked up; post office closed; Rio Grande freight office not open; all business houses and professional offices also devoid of occupants. Only busy place we saw was the lettuce loading station where the help was busy preparing a car of lettuce for shipment. Also heard noises at the shop where Soil Cushion Potato diggers are being made. However, the farmers are busy taking advantage of the fine weather to get crops harvested. There seems to have been a general exodus of folks to the hills. Many went to Ridgway for the Labor Day celebration there. For the most part Labor Day was being celebrated without labor.

Those in charge of the festivities in Ridgway reported that the entire celebration was a great success. They reported that two beeves were barbecued and there were no accidents of any kind. The *Montrose Daily Press* commented that, " (The) annual celebration is put on every year by the Ridgway people and they know how to entertain."

The huge celebrations in Ridgway are now a thing of the past and there are no trains bringing in celebrants, but the Rodeo, which has, without many exceptions, been held since 1917, is still being held.

It no longer draws the number of professional cowboys it once did, but the event still brings in a decent crowd.

Oh, yes, government offices are still closed for the day.



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RED HAWKS THROTTLE SPARTANS 48-0

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks improved their season record to 2 wins and 0 losses with a 48-0 crushing of the outmanned and outgunned Greeley West Spartans on Friday evening at the Montrose Football Stadium.

The Red Hawks displayed an offense with many moving parts and a defense that gave up less than 150 total yards in addition to shutting out the opposition.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and kicked off. The Spartans held the ball for 7 plays and were forced to punt. The Red Hawks put their first touchdown on the board as Chase Mehan took a pitchout around the left side and raced 83 yards to paydirt for a 7-0.

The Spartans next possession consisted of 3 plays for a loss of 2 yards and another punt. Chase Mehan took a pitchout but this time threw a strike to Aadin Gonzales for a 23-yard gain. The Red Hawks ran three plays that ended with another Red Hawk touchdown including a 4-yard scoring run by Trevor Prock.

Another 3 and out for the Spartans gave the football right back to the Red Hawks. Coach Brett Mertens then showed off the passing game as junior Cade Saunders threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to Chase Mehan, his second touchdown of the game making the score Red Hawks 21, Spartans 0 at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was more of the same. The two teams each saw their offenses stall. At the 6:35 mark of the period Chase Mehan broke another long run, a 72-yard touchdown, but alas, a holding penalty on the Red Hawks nullified the score. The Red Hawks, not to be denied, handed the ball off to Biniyam Kenny who rambled 67 yards for the score. The PAT was missed, making the score 27-0 in the Red Hawks favor.

Chase Mehan played a solid game on both offense and defense. On the next Spartan possess Mehan had a tackle that prevented a first down and forced the Spartans to punt once again. Right on cue Kenny scored his second touchdown, this time from 26 yards out, making the score

34-0 as the first half came to an end.

The Red Hawks took the opening second half kickoff and scored in four plays with senior Elijah Womack scoring on a 22-yard run to make the score 41-0. The fact that the Red Hawks now led by 40 or more points meant that the clock would run continuously until the game ended.

Despite the running clock the Red Hawks put another score on the board; this time junior Lincoln Jones did the damage with a 42-yard scamper to the promised land.

The Jones touchdown advanced the score to 48-0, and a 2-0 record for the Red Hawks

Neither team was able to move the ball during the final quarter.

The Red Hawks were able to play second and third string players for most of the third and fourth quarters, giving much needed experience to many underclassmen.

The next action for the Red Hawks will be a Thursday contest vs the Palisade Bulldogs to be played in Grand Junction with the kickoff scheduled for 7 PM.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP

VOLLEYBALL:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS 0

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team got off to a roaring start at the Fieldhouse on Tuesday evening as they defeated the Eagle Valley Devils in a non-league contest by the score of 3-0. This was the first of 21 matches leading up to a potential berth in the CHSAA state tournament.

The Red Hawks made it into the state tournament last season but were eliminated in the quarterfinal round. Gone are a half dozen seniors who graduated. As Coach Forrest points out, the cupboard is not bare. Outside hitter Maggie Legg,

setter Lilly Nelson, and four experienced seniors will be assisted by seven juniors, all with playing experience.

The Red Hawks won all three matches by fairly close margins: 25-19, 25-18 and 25-21. The home team jumped to a lead that lasted until the Devils tied the score at 18-18. The Red Hawks then kicked their offense into a higher gear and outscored the Devils 7 to 1 to capture the first match.

The second match started out much more tightly played as the Devils led by a couple of points though most of the first half of the match. The tide moved in favor of the Red Hawks when they tied the Devils at 12-12. The Red Hawks out-

scored the Devils 13 to 6, winning the match 25-18.

The third and final match ended up with a 25-21 win for the home team to capture the match 3-0.

Head Coach Shane Forrest talked about the initial game. "Very good. I believe we played a very clean game. All three games we won were close matches, but our overall team strength pulled us through. We played a good game right out of the box, and we got solid performances from our entire team."

Coach Forrest commended the Red Hawks offense: "Our outside hitters, Marcie and Maggie, are the heart of our offense. They really dominated against

Continued next pg

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg

Eagle Valley. I know we are going to rely on them as we play tough competition both inside and outside of our league.”

The coach reflected on this being the team’s first match. “This was our first action of the new year and we played well. Naturally there is always room for improvement, but our team really stepped up and competed. This is a good sign for the future as we tangle with the top teams that will end up in the state tournament.”

Next, the Red Hawks travel to Bayfield to take on the Wolves.

RED HAWKS SOFTBALL:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 10, DURANGO DEMONS 0

With a 7-16 season record hanging over the Red Hawks from last year, Head Coach Lilly Westbay told her team they had no direction to go but up. Seniors Abby Siegel, Jaytli Cannizzo, Alyz Bray and Alexia Garcia form the core of the team with Isabelle Mott, Aubrey Blacker, Cheyenne Whitcomb and Bentley Schiller (a freshman) putting together a good offense and a stout defense. The Red Hawks tried their wings last Saturday as they journeyed to Durango and took on the Demons on their home turf. The Red Hawks wasted little time by scoring 5 runs in each of the first two innings to both set the tone for the season and leave no doubt as to who was in control of this game. The Red Hawks blasted out 10 runs on 10 hits while giving up only two hits to the hometown Demons. Three Red Hawks had 2-hit games: Abby Siegel,

Cheyenne Whitcomb and Freshman Bentley Schiller. Others with base hits included Isabella Mott, Jaytli Cannizzo, Aubrey Blacker and Emry Hall. Mott, Blacker, and Alexi Garcia each drove in 2 runs. Eight of the Red Hawks 10 runs were earned runs. Bentley Schiller pitched a complete 5-inning game, giving up 2 hits and striking out 5. The game was called after 5 innings due to the 10-run rule.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 10, G.J. CENTRAL WARRIORS 2

The Montrose Red Hawks softball team hit the road last Thursday, visited the Grand Junction Central Warriors, and kept their undefeated streak alive with a resounding 10-2 victory. The Red Hawks record now stands at 3 wins and no losses as their season unfolds.

The Red Hawks wasted little time in jumping out to a 3-0 lead after two innings.

The Warriors got their offense in gear as they scored 2 runs in the fifth inning. The Red Hawks then bunched several base hits and scored 7 runs in the 6th and 7th innings to put the game in the win column for the Red Hawks.

Sophomore Aubrey Blacker led the Red Hawks offense with 3 base hits while Freshman Marlow Monson chipped in with two base hits and 2 RBIs. Senior Abby Siegel continued her heavy hitting with 2 base hits including a towering home run. Siegel was also credited with 4 runs batted in. Freshman Bentley Schiller continued her hot pitching streak as she threw a 7-inning gem, giving up 2 runs on

5 hits, 1 base on balls and 8 strikeouts.

The Red Hawks play host to the Rifle Bears on Saturday with the first pitch of the doubleheader scheduled for 10 AM.

RED HAWKS BOYS SOCCER:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks boys’ soccer team opened their 2025 season on the road as they traveled to Battle Mountain High School and played the Eagle Valley Devils last Saturday. The Red Hawks scored one goal in the first half of action and then potted two addition tallies in the second half to make the final score Red Hawks 3, Devils 0.

The initial victory for the Red Hawks puts their overall record at 1 win and 0 losses. The next action for Head Coach Cassie Snyder and her team will be a home contest vs the visiting Rifle Bears on Thursday, Aug. 28. The Kickoff is scheduled for 5 p.m. at the Montrose pitch.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2, RIFLE BEARS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks boys soccer team stretched their unbeaten streak to two games as the Rifle Bears came to town and fell to the Red Hawks by the score of 2-1. The hometown team had just enough offense to put two markers on the scoreboard while demonstrating a tight defense, giving up only one goal to nail down the victory. The next action for the Red Hawks soccer team will be a home contest, when the Delta Panthers come calling on Tuesday, Sept. 2 with the kickoff slated for 5 PM.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

A poster for Montrose County Board Vacancies. It features a background image of the Montrose County Courthouse. Overlaid on the image is a dark grey rectangle containing white text. At the top right of the rectangle is the Montrose County Colorado seal. The text reads: "MONTROSE COUNTY", "BOARD VACANCIES", "County Fair Board - 3 Vacancies", and "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO APPLY ONLINE GO TO: WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYFAIRANDRODEO.COM/MONTROSE-COUNTY-FAIR-BOARD/".

MONTROSE COUNTY

BOARD VACANCIES

County Fair Board - 3 Vacancies

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO APPLY ONLINE GO TO:
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MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR BOARD SEEKS APPLICANTS TO FILL 3 OPEN POSITIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Fair Board is now accepting applications to fill three open positions on the board. If you're interested in serving our community or for further information, [visit us here](http://www.montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com/montrose-county-fair-board/).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RELEASES OFFICIAL LIST OF SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES FOR NOVEMBER 2025 ELECTION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Nine Montrose County School District residents have qualified to appear on the ballot for the November 4, 2025 Board of Education election. The election will include four open seats in director districts A, C, E and G. Each position carries a four-year term. Board members are eligible to serve two consecutive terms. School board elections are held during the November general election in odd-numbered years.

While candidates run for specific director districts, all registered voters within the Montrose County School District boundaries are eligible to vote for every open seat on the ballot, regardless of the district in which they reside.

Candidate petitions have been verified for the following individuals:

Director District A

- Neisha Balleck
- Darren Sofka

Director District C

- Alice Murphy
- Scott Scarborough

Director District E

- Kris Besler
- Hollie Mundell
- Tiffany Vincent

Director District G

- Jessica Corrigan
- Shane Daly

A public drawing to determine the order of candidate names on the ballot will be held Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 9am at the Montrose County School District Office.

For more information about the election, please visit www.mcscd.org/BoardElections.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE IDENTIFIES VICTIM FROM AUGUST 23RD HIGHWAY 550 TRAFFIC CRASH

Special to the Mirror

OURAY COUNTY— The Ouray County Coroner's Office has identified the individual who tragically lost her life in a motorcycle crash on Highway 550 near Mile Marker 90 (Red Mountain Pass) on August 23, 2025.


The decedent has been identified as Olga Kramar, age 65, a resident who divided her time between Mountain Village, Colorado, and Phoenix, Arizona.

"Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the family, friends, and loved ones of Mrs. Kramar during this profound-

ly difficult time," said Ouray County Coroner R. Glenn Boyd.

The cause of death remains under investigation pending the completion of autopsy and toxicology testing. Toxicology analysis is standard protocol in all motor vehicle fatalities and typically requires six to eight weeks for completion.

For additional information regarding the crash investigation and circumstances of the incident, please contact the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, the lead investigating agency. The Ouray County Coroner's Office will provide further updates as appropriate.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ELIGIBILITY TEAM RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN SNAP APPLICATION PROCESSING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY— Delta County celebrates the exceptional efforts of its Human Services Eligibility Team, which has been officially acknowledged by Governor Jared Polis and Michelle Barnes, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), for helping Colorado exceed its Application Processing Timeliness (APT) goal for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Earlier this month, the Human Services Economic Mobility Division was recognized for contributing to the state's achievement of a

97% APT rate for SNAP—a significant improvement from the previous year. This progress resulted in 76,682 additional Coloradans receiving timely SNAP approvals from February 2024 to June 2025, enhancing food security for many households.

In summer 2024, Governor Polis set a Wildly Important Goal (WIG) to raise SNAP timeliness from 88% to 95% by June 2025. Due to the dedication of the Delta County Human Services Department and other human services departments across Colorado, this target was met and surpassed, reaching 97% in June 2025.

This accomplishment has tangible outcomes:

- 76,682 more SNAP approvals issued promptly between February 2024 and June 2025.
- The number of people receiving benefits late decreased from 8,054 in January 2024 to 1,400 in June 2025.
- Thousands of Colorado households gained quicker access to essential food assistance.

On Aug. 12, 2025, Governor Polis and Director Barnes hosted a ceremony at the Colorado State Capitol to celebrate counties reaching this milestone.

Delta County officials commended the Human Services Eligibility Team, stating, "Thank you for your passionate and dedicated support. Your commitment helps individuals and families in Delta County and all of Colorado thrive each day."

MEDICARE IN A NUTSHELL

A free community presentation with Doug Speedie, MD

Certified Medicare Counselor,
State Health Insurance Assistance Program



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

Date:

Monday, September 29 | 4:30–6:30 p.m.

Location:

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

Light refreshments served. Everyone is welcome!



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

GENERAL FUND OFF-LIMITS FOR WOLF PURCHASES UNDER CATLIN BILL, THE SESSION'S ONLY BIPARTISAN WIN

Special to the Mirror

DENVER— On August 25, 2025, the Colorado Legislature passed [SB25B-005](#), Reallocate Department of Natural Resources Wolf Funding to Health Insurance Enterprise. This bill is headed to Governor Jared Polis' desk and is the only bill to survive the special session which features prime sponsors from both parties. This legislation places a prohibition on General Fund dollars used for the purchase of new gray wolves in the state of Colorado for the fiscal year 2025-2026. The money allocated for acquiring new wolves will be transferred to the Colorado Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise Cash Fund. It is important to note, this legislation does not change the non-lethal assistance program or the wolf depredation compensation fund. The assistance program and compensation fund will continue to be fully funded.

The bill is expected to be signed by Governor Polis at the end of the Special Session. The prime sponsors are Senators [Marc Catlin](#) (R-SD5) of Montrose County and [Dylan Roberts](#) (D-SD8) of Eagle County, Representatives [Meghan Lukens](#) (D-HD26) of Routt County, and [Matthew Martinez](#) (D-HD62) of Rio Grande County.

Senator Catlin says, "The legislature convened in an attempt to address our budget and healthcare concerns. This legislation brought forth by my rural colleagues moves dollars to where our rural folks need it. The legislature agreed, our rural communities need help."

Colorado State Senator Marc Catlin represents the seven counties of Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, and Pitkin. Senator Catlin is a member of the agriculture & Natural Resources; Transportation & Energy; and Business, Labor, & Technology Committees. Senator Catlin also serves as a Member on the Colorado Tourism Board.

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CONSULTANT ASKS FOR CHANGES TO PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT

From pg 1

not yet set. Can anyone here tell me the cost for 1,000 gallons of untreated water just from reservoirs? I'm asking you to fire all the engineers and consultants, scrap the project, and build more reservoirs."

Michael Badagliacco said, "Has there been a feasibility study just for irrigation water? We use a lot of treated water for lawns in Montrose. A single line out of a reservoir would take the need off for a secondary plant. The numbers [gallons of usage in the summer] do not justify putting in a [new] six-million gallon a day plant. [Spending] \$180 M on a plant for six-million gallons, and then more money to redo the plant you have now. To have a new plant that only produces six-million gallons does not make sense."

Patti Hill said, "I am a Tri-County ratepayer. Why is this necessary? Why do we need to spend this kind of money? [We're told] if the tunnel fails, terrorist attack, wildfire. We had a wildfire, and it was okay. This [project] fails at the assumption level of why we are doing this. The cost of living will skyrocket. We have a lot of concern in the public. If you want your ratepayers to be on board, you need to go back to the basics and have a public meeting."

Carol Antolovich submitted written comments through the website. She wrote, "I attended your March 27 meeting when a massive project was discussed. I thought that project had been killed. But I recently discovered it has not. How can you make decisions like this without voter input or even knowledge (I cannot even find info about it on your website). Should be criminal. You will make Montrose unaffordable for all and kill farming. Please kill this project."

Manager's Report – Adam Turner

Consumption Report – July 2025

Turner said, "Consumption is close to the prior year; 437 million gallons used."

Cash Flow Report – July 2025

Turner said, "Sales were \$150,000 over the previous year to date. Interest income not as much, so that's down a little. Expenses tracking well year over year. About

\$30,000 ahead of last year. Debt service trend...I tried to parse that out, the old debt and new debt. CIP [Capital Improvement Program] for existing plant improvement (\$41,494); CIP for Resilience Project. The check register and deposit details are in the packet."

Process Control – July 2025

Turner said, "Above average for the month of July. We've had several meetings on the fire scar at Black Canyon. Plans are in place where we can shut off Fairview if there is a downpour."

New Business:

Turner said, "The CDOT project will be starting soon." The CDOT culvert project is located north of Montrose near the old dairy. With a five percent increase, the Glatfelter liability package will be renewed. The 2024 audit has been completed.

Updates:

Legal Update – Attorney James Silvestro (Zoom)

Fiscal Operations Policies (informational) Silvestro said, "This is an attorney work product at this point. There will be a draft out of executive session and put on the September meeting for the public to weigh in on."

Consulting Contracting Update (informational)

Silvestro said, "The professional Services Contracts, we're customizing that. We'll cap \$150,000 for Rick's [Huggins] fees for now until we get a final revision. D.A. Davidson [contract] expires at the end of the month. It's automatic renewal for 30 days." **Background:** Rick Huggins, Program Manager for P7's Water Supply Resilience Program, was under contract when he worked for Garver, but has left that firm and is now working for HDR.

Turner said, "Let me clarify for the board that a lot what you see [in your packet] is under the Garver name. They are still doing work for us outside of the Resiliency Project. We have two projects that we continue to ask Garver to help us with. We are keeping Jessica [a Garver employee]. I just don't want it to appear that Garver is doing a double-dip."

Resiliency Program Update:

Program Update & Cost Allocation Update

- D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz and Hazen Sawyer Representative Fernando Aranda.

Aranda presented a lengthy PowerPoint on the methodology and recommendation for Cost Allocation. Three funding scenarios, which focused on the year 2030, were presented — Average (everyone pays the same rate), Base (extra capacity), and Minimum Winter. Aranda said, "Not everyone will use the system the same way. All methodologies are defensible. An emergency will affect cost. When it comes to an emergency, it's the average of last year."

Montrose Representative David Bries said, "So when you look at that, the last two years, our [Montrose] price is well over our winter demand." Bries wanted the other entities to be aware that in the proposals, if there were an emergency, Montrose would benefit over the other entities because they have the largest consumption average. One of the consultants suggested that if a smaller water entity didn't have enough water during an emergency, they could make a side agreement with Montrose for water, and that in an emergency situation, no one cares about cost.

Aranda recommended using the Average Allocation. Huggins said, "You get what you pay for."

D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz reiterated his credentials. He said, "We offer financial services for water and sewer projects in 36 states across the US. I focus on affordability and optimizing funding sources. Does that mean we will issue debt tomorrow? No. We will all agree before moving forward. So, you did the right thing [hiring consultants]. We went through the paces for lenders and grant providers. The outcome has been documented."

Swartz repeatedly highlighted that the current Project 7 agreement between the seven entities is 48 years old [outdated] and that Montrose pays the highest portion of the cost. He said, "My concern is, is it at the expense of someone. You have to amend the underlying agreement that

CONSULTANT ASKS FOR CHANGES TO PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT

From previous pg

brought you all together. This is the formula we've got unless we amend. It could make challenges for some entities."

Deputy Project Manager Miles Graham said, "We remain hopeful there will be funding opportunities later in the fall [Title 16]. There should be movement in the next couple of months."

Kathy Calkin said, "The \$30 M in grants that we've been looking at. We don't have any grants in place?"

It was stated that Project 7 has \$612,000 and a DOLA grant for \$500,000, which they are currently drawing on.

Swartz said, "We can't move forward until we agree on how cost will be allocated. As we move forward, the US Department of AG [grant] is essential to make it affordable. Four of the smaller entities are eligible to apply for the grants."

Swartz clarified the four smaller entities would need to apply for grants and loans; loans would be repaid; grants are not repaid.

He said, "We are looking at \$48 M in cash and grants. If the project moves forward, we will have debt. Grants are drying up. No one likes debt, I get it."

Referring to public comment at the beginning of the meeting, Swartz said, "I am really hyper-sensitive to public comment. We need to know and understand cost allocation, but we may not like it. We move forward if it's affordable. No one is saying issue debt until we compare your [Project 7's] rate to 52 other water systems in Colorado. No one wants an expensive water project. It's difficult to issue debt without a credit rating. Citizens should go to their water entity and discuss the project [rather than to the Project 7 board]." Unlike small water entities who have board meetings open to the public, larger entities do not hold public water board meetings. However, Project 7 meetings allow for public comment.

Old Business:

2026 Rate Structure and Schedule (informational)

Background: For 2024-2025, Project 7 imposed a 50 cent per 1,000 gallon rate increase which was expected to raise \$1.5

M for 2025. During the June 26, 2025, meeting Swartz suggested another raise for 2026, bringing the base to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons.

2026 Preliminary P7WA Rate and Schedule (PowerPoint Slide)

Year	\$ Per 1,000 gal
2018- \$0.90	Actual
2019- 0.90	Actual
2020-1.00	Actual
2021-1.15	Actual
2022-1.30	Actual
2023-1.45	Actual
2024-1.95	Actual
2025-2.45	Proposed
2026 - A 2.45	Proposed
2026 - B 2.70	Proposed

Swartz said, "Paying \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons to Project 7 is our 2026 target. We need to enhance our credit, the volume, and the base fee. To those of you in the crowd, if you want to participate, I can send [email] stuff to you. The 48-year-old agreement drives what we can do. It's up to the board [to amend]."

In what seemed to be an expression of frustration Swartz said, "Project 7 is the most understaffed client that I have."

Background: The 48-year-old agreement can only be amended if there is unanimous agreement with entities.

In a PowerPoint slide Swartz used a graph with three cakes to make his point. One with no frosting, one that was frosted, and one that was frosted with candles. The unfrosted cake represents where Project 7 is currently. Swartz suggests the best option is the frosted cake with candles, which includes the increase to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons and updating the MPO (agreement).

New Business:

Preliminary 2026 Budget (informational) It was noted that the scheduled Nov. 2025 meeting is usually cancelled because it falls on Thanksgiving. However, if necessary, a special meeting can be called.

Executive Session:

Conference with Project 7 Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding Fiscal Operations Policies as allowed by C.R.S.24-6-402(4)(b).

Project 7 Background:

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

The City of Montrose

The City of Delta

The Town of Olathe

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District

The Chipeta Water District

The Menoken Water District

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).

Resiliency Program:

The Resiliency Project, which was first presented in 2023, is to build a second water treatment plant south of Montrose that would have direct access to Ridgway Reservoir. The project continues to change and evolve. As larger contracts (design/build/construction) are allowed to expire, new contracts with a focus on smaller phased-in projects are expected to be put in place.

Project 7 Board meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, begin at 4:30 pm.

Meetings are open to the public and are available on Zoom.

Project 7 Contact Information:

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

The City of Montrose David Bries 970-240-1484 dbries@cityofmontrose.org

The City of Delta Mayor Kevin Carlson 970 874-7566 kevin@cityofdeltanet

The Town of Olathe Mayor Jake Foreman 970 323- 5601 jacob.foreman@geocities.com

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District Vicki Ripp 970 874-5127 info@tricitywater.org

The Chipeta Water District John McCollum 970 209-5137 jmc-

collum@rvemontrose.com

The Menoken Water District Randy Meaker 970 249-5118

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).



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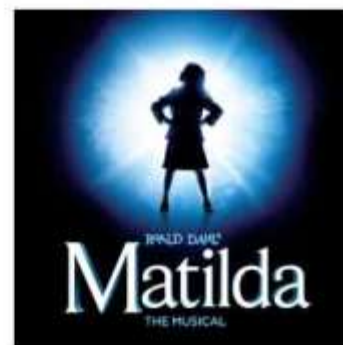
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET'S BUILD CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH FACILITIES

To the editor,

Most people aren't aware animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of climate change. In order to reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions, politicians at the state and federal level should support public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, the revolutionary protein is grown from livestock cells, without raising and slaughtering animals.

Cultivated meat is currently too expensive to mass produce. This technological hurdle can be overcome with significant government investment in cellular-agriculture development. Politicians sincerely concerned about the environment must back the effort. Let's build cultivated-meat research facilities at agricultural colleges and universities across the country.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby CT

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: NEWS BRIEFS

UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTION'S ENDURING PURPOSE

Editor:

Prioritizing the Mission

In an era where political figures often dominate headlines, it is crucial to remember that our Republic's strength lies not in any individual, but in the mission to preserve liberty through the Constitution. This document, ordained to **"secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,"** represents the core of our governance. The focus must remain on this mission, not on the men or women who temporarily serve it, as the system trickles down to state and local levels, ensuring freedom at every tier.

The Constitutional Framework: Separation of Powers and Federalism

The Constitution establishes a framework where no single person holds unchecked power, emphasizing separation of powers across branches. Article I vests all legislative powers in Congress, Article II grants executive power to the President, and Article III assigns judicial power to the Supreme Court and inferior courts. This division prevents tyranny, as James Madison argued in Federalist No. 51: **"If men were angels, no government would be necessary... In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."** Here, the structure counters human ambition, connecting personal interests to constitutional duties.

Federalism further reinforces this by reserving powers not delegated to the federal government to the states or the people,

per the 10th Amendment. Madison, in Federalist No. 39, described this as a compound republic where power is divided between national and state governments, providing **"a double security... to the rights of the people."** This ensures liberty permeates all levels, from U.S. Senators to local commissioners, each equally vital in upholding the rule of law.

Historical Insights: Warnings from the Founders

History echoes this priority. John Adams warned, **"But a Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty once lost is lost forever."** Benjamin Franklin similarly noted, **"Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."** These Founding Fathers stressed that liberty depends on institutional vigilance, not personal charisma.

The Judicial Safeguard: Enforcing the Rule of Law

The judiciary plays a pivotal role in this, as Alexander Hamilton explained in Federalist No. 78: **"The complete independence of the courts of justice is peculiarly essential in a limited Constitution... whose duty it must be to declare all acts contrary to the manifest tenor of the Constitution void."** This was affirmed in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), where Chief Justice Marshall declared, **"It is emphatically the duty of the Judicial Department to say what the law is,"** establishing judicial review to ensure the Constitution trumps ordinary laws. The Court reinforced this in *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer* (1952), ruling President Truman's seizure of steel

mills unconstitutional, stating, **"The power here sought to be exercised is the law-making power, which the Constitution vests in the Congress alone."** These cases illustrate that even presidents are subordinate to the constitutional mission.

Controlling Factions: Madison's Vision

Madison addressed factions in Federalist No. 10, noting that a republic controls their effects better than a pure democracy by extending the sphere to include diverse interests, making it **"less probable that a majority... will have a common motive to invade the rights of other citizens."** This systemic safeguard protects liberty from individual or group passions.

The Role of Representatives at Every Level

At every government level, representatives serve this mission. A city councilman enforcing local ordinances preserves freedom as much as a senator debating national policy. All are transient; the Constitution endures. As Adams asserted, **"Liberty must at all hazards be supported."**

Recommitting to Liberty

Our Republic thrives when we prioritize the mission over the man or woman. The Constitution, upheld by the rule of law and elected officials at all levels, safeguards liberty. We must recommit to this enduring purpose, ensuring freedom for generations.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a father of five and grandfather of three, United States Air Force Veteran, International Recording Artist, passionate about the United States of America, the founders' Genius of the Constitution and Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report (coDOGEreport.com).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PRIMEHEALTH+ WELCOMES FIRST PATIENT



Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION – There was a bit of local fanfare as PrimeHealth+ greeted its very first patient in their new building.

Mesa County resident, Suzye Vennell, was welcomed to the new health center located at 526 29 ½ Road. A delegation of smiling employees greeted Vennell with cheers, applause from a group of staff, along with a welcome gift bag. “This place is beautiful!” said Vennell as she checked in for her appointment. “And although I didn’t need this special welcome, this is another way these people make me feel like family.”

Formerly known as Marillac, PrimeHealth+ is Mesa County’s Community Health Center. Development Specialist, Martha Graf, was all smiles as she described the PrimeHealth approach to healthcare.

“Prime Health+ offers the ultimate convenience because our patients can receive affordable medical, dental, behavioral health and pharmacy services under one roof. And the neat thing is -- anyone can become a patient. At PrimeHealth+ you can see the doctor, get your teeth cleaned, have a tooth fixed or refill your prescriptions.”

Vennell said she has been a patient since January. She gave the new health center rave reviews. “There are so many things about this new location that are good for me but I’m especially happy to learn you have a drive-through pharmacy! This will make picking up prescriptions so much easier, so maybe I’ll change all my prescriptions to here. But regardless of all the new, fresh look, I love the people who take care of me here.”

Dental patient, Melissa Yeary, walked in later in the day as one of the first dental patients in the new building. Echoing others in their praise of the beauty and uniqueness of the new building, Melissa added, “It was the sliding scale fee that brought me to [PrimeHealth+] 10 years ago. I have no plans for leaving because the care is great and everyone who works here is wonderful.”

The brand-new health center, at 526 29 ½ Road, is open for business. The health center expects to serve an additional 3,000 new patients over the next year, bringing the total number of patients served by PrimeHealth+ to 20,000 per year.

About PrimeHealth+

PrimeHealth+ is a free-standing non-profit organization. It is the Federally Qualified Community Health Center in Mesa County -- also serving Montrose and the surrounding communities. PrimeHealth+ offers primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. Pharmacy services were added in late 2024. At its new location, PrimeHealth+ offers Convenient Care appointments on weekday evenings and Saturdays for patients with sudden illnesses and injuries.

Last year, PrimeHealth+ care teams provided over 50,000 visits to 16,426 patients, many of whom are lower income, uninsured, or underinsured. People of all ages and life stages are warmly welcomed to become patients, regardless of income or insurance status. Households with limited income often qualify for sliding fee discounts. For information or to schedule an appointment, call 970-200-1600 or visit PrimeHealthPlus.org.

Grand Junction Clinic Sites

PrimeHealth+ County Clinic at 510 29 ½ Rd, co-located with Mesa County Public Health PrimeHealth+ 12th Street Clinic at 2139 N. 12th Street, Suite 2

PrimeHealth+ Warrior Wellness Center at Central High School, 550 Warrior Way, Ste WC PrimeHealth+ Tiger Wellness Center at Grand Jct. High School, 1400 N. 5th Street, Rm A116 PrimeHealth+ Primary Care Partners at 3150 N. 12th Street

PrimeHealth+ Outreach Day Center at 302 Pitkin Avenue PrimeHealth+ Main Clinic at 526 29 ½ Road

Montrose Clinic Site

PrimeHealth+ Montrose Clinic at 87 Montrose Drive



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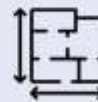
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

US 550 RED MOUNTAIN PASS LENGTHY CLOSURES SET FOR POWER LINE RECONSTRUCTION

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — Travelers will encounter lengthy road closures on US Highway 550 Red Mountain Pass, Mondays through Thursdays, from September 2 to 18, to allow for electrical power line work. San Miguel Power Association will require the five-hour full closures, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., for the next three weeks in September. Work will take place on the north side of Red Mountain Pass from Ironton Park to just south of Ouray. The electrical power line work is weather-dependent.

Closure Schedule

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the dates listed below, motorists will encounter full traffic stops.

Week 1: Tues., Sept. 2 through Thurs., Sept. 4

Week 2: Tues., Sept. 9 through Thurs., Sept. 11

Week 3: Tues., Sept. 16 through Thurs., Sept. 18

Traffic Impacts

Motorists will encounter full traffic stops at the following locations:

Northbound Closure: Motorists traveling northbound from Silverton will be stopped at the north end of Ironton Park (MP 87.5)

Southbound Closure: Motorists traveling southbound from Ouray will be stopped at Bear Creek Falls Overlook (MP 90).

Ouray County Road 18 Access: Crews will maintain thru access to CR 18 (Engineer Pass/Alpine Loop) from Ouray (MP 90 to MP 89.4) during the closures. Their wire-pulling equipment will be located within the large pull-off/unloading area at the US 550 and CR 18 intersection. This will limit the number of vehicles/trailers that are able to use this area for unloading.

San Miguel Power Association Project Information
For additional information about the Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project: Call the San Miguel Power Member Services at 970-864-7311 extension 2310


Email the project team at: wiley@smpa.com

Visit the project website at: www.smpa.com/red-mountain-electrical-reliability-and-broadband-improvement-project

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SOLAR POWER GENERATION ALTERNATIVE REGULATIONS

Editor:

Generation of solar power comes in many sizes and many types of uses from rooftop solar to utility scale solar. Most people are unconcerned with regulations of smaller scale types of solar power generation (SPG), in fact rooftop solar is not regulated by Montrose County. But when it comes to larger projects- especially large scale solar, Montrose County has real and valid concerns. The County needs to develop adequate regulations for large scale or utility scale SPG so the Commissioners can make clearly defined decisions on proposals for SPG. As has been discussed recently there has been a 2 ½ year discussion of regulations with the public, Industry and the Montrose BOCC.

What has come out of the long term discussion of SPG regulations has been the development of Alternative 1. Recently two of the three Montrose County Commissioners developed another option deemed Alternative 2. There are stark contrasts between the two options.

As a representative of CCL-Montrose I have been involved throughout the process and although I think Alternative 1 has some serious drawbacks (the demand for an irrevocable bond covering 100% of the cleanup of a project before the project even gets started) I believe it has merit and will allow solar power generation to be considered as an option for Montrose County.

Alternative 2 was developed, in my mind, to stop any solar projects in Montrose County except for rooftop solar. This is

quite evident when you look at one new regulation in Alternative 2- a setback of 2 miles from any scenic highway. This is obviously an attempt to stop the SMPA/ Tri-State Project near Naturita. The proposed project is on disturbed land, next to a sub-station and for the most part completely out of sight of the public. The project will develop energy for Tri-State customers in southwestern Colorado, but locally it will stabilize the grid in the Naturita/Nucla area. In contrast, other Counties have a ¼ mile setback from scenic highways.

What else does Alternative 2 propose that don't serve County residents? There is a proposal that was discussed in Alternative 1 but was rejected as it took private property rights away from farmers and ranchers. The proposal is to limit solar power generation on prime farm ground to 30% or 50% if the panels are agrivoltaic and are raised so agriculture could still be practiced under the panels.

Farmers and ranchers run operations that have a very slim profit margin and often operate at a loss. The right to develop SPG on their own property gives them an alternative source of income WHILE still allowing agriculture/farming/ranching to continue. The 30 and 50% numbers are purely arbitrary and effectively limit a farmer's rights on their own property.

The opportunity to grow a crop AND earn extra money from solar panels could be a lifeline for many ag operations that could keep them from selling off the property.

Then there is the requirement that any

solar project has to be within 1000 feet of a transmission line. Do they require that for a subdivision? A new gravel pit? A new Wal-Mart? No, this is just an attempt to limit SPG so severely that there will no solar projects built in Montrose County.

Oh, and there is the decommissioning bond required in both alternatives. In Alternative 2 the project developer must post 125% of the irrevocable bond to clean it up if it stops generating power. Do subdivisions have to post this type of bond? Subdivisions are a much more permanent change on the landscape than any solar field.

So in my mind the choice is very clear. A community backed 2 ½ year effort to shed light on Solar Power Generation and discuss regulations brought us to Alternative 1. A short time thinking of ways to stop SPG in Montrose County and a chance to exact retribution is what has brought us to Alternative 2.

Please let your Montrose BOCC know your opinion. Those that have shared their opinions will continue to share their opinions.

There has been plenty of time for people to participate in the process and if they have not yet stepped up then now is the time.

Show support for Alternative 1. It doesn't mean solar farms will crop up everywhere. No, it gives the BOCC the regulations for industry to abide by as any business wants- clear concise regulation.

Tony Hoag

CCL-Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COLORADO IS NOW GOING AFTER OUR 1ST AMENDMENT RIGHTS TO FREE SPEECH

Editor:

The Democrats had their summer meeting last week in Minneapolis. With millions of voters abandoning their party, approval ratings hitting 30-year lows, and fundraising in the dumpster, you would think they would show some sign of movement away from their extreme far left positions – positions that have a lot of Americans looking at their party and wondering where their dad's Democrat party went. Instead, they doubled down on the woke and crazy, and then made a hard-left turn. They opened the meeting with a proclamation that Minneapolis sits on stolen land, and that the U.S. still perpetuates a system of oppression and suppression. They then moved on to a presentation from the Vera Institute, a think tank that supports defunding the police. The speaker told the crowd that being "tough on crime" is "authoritarian," and said that "Migrant crime and carjackings are things that don't matter to many Americans." Those were just warm-up acts for Minnesota's Gov. Tim Walz, who appeared to have a near complete mental breakdown during his speech demonizing all Trump supporters.

This is the same Tim Walz who has long had deep and concerning ties to communist China, and who indicated that only China has the "moral authority" to negotiate a peace agreement between Israel and Iran. The Minnesota attorney general Keith Ellison bragged about filing a lawsuit against the Trump administration for prohibiting minor children from getting sex change operations. The Oakland mayor bragged about how her city's law enforcement is refusing to cooperate with immigration enforcement. What we didn't hear was anyone pushing for moderation, because moderate Democrats know if they speak up, the left will destroy them -- so they just slink away and stay silent.

From coast to coast, more and more Americans do not want to be associated with Democrats, and the party only has itself to blame. The Democrat party is so unpopular that a dark money group is having to pay influencers to push their agenda – up to \$8,000 a month. The dark money group, Arabella Advisors, is nothing more than an

Open Society (George Soros) passthrough. Payments are going to some of the most recognizable liberal voices online, including Olivia Julianna, who said that Trump's economy is so bad that she couldn't afford groceries. I assume payoffs from George Soros will help her survive? Bribing the media is reminiscent of Kamala paying filthy rich Oprah and Beyonce millions for their support.

Democrats are stumped as to why voters just can't see how right they are about everything, and are therefore incapable of changing direction. Why can't voters grasp that criminals who kill, terrorize, and rape don't belong in jail, but on the streets? The Illinois lieutenant governor just stated that cracking down on crime in her state would "cause chaos." The deteriorating conditions in Democrat-run cities over the last fifty years highlight the left's abject failures, but this lieutenant governor wants us to ignore all of that. Trump picked D.C. for cleanup because crime was out of control and the city was filthy, but Jamie Raskin (D-Md) wants you to believe the move was political -- trying to rationalize his objection by claiming that "crime has always been part of our history." Unfortunately for Democrats, recent events in D.C. confirm the obvious truth that cracking down on crime and cleaning up filth improve the quality of life for residents that Democrats have ignored for decades.

Democrats hate that Trump is running a vastly successful administration – in terms of economic policy, domestic policy, foreign policy, you name it. Crime is down in D.C. The stock market is at an all-time high. Gas prices are down. The illegal invasion is stopped. Wages are up. We are making progress toward peace in the Middle East. The Congressional Budget Office, an organization as liberal as they come, just predicted Trump's tariffs will reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion, despite Democrats' dire predictions of the exact opposite. Trump exposed the lie that no one could do anything about one-sided trade and the Democrats are angry. They are stuck with their absurd talking points that crime is not a problem; that creating crazy inflation, funding wars, forcing mentally ill men into girls' locker

rooms, opening the border, locking down schools, slandering half the country as domestic terrorists, etc. are all positive Democrat accomplishments.

Meanwhile, Colorado Democrats are doing their part to place themselves on the wrong side of the Constitution. I wrote previously about Polis and company's blatantly unconstitutional gun laws. In addition to going after our 2nd Amendment rights, Colorado is now going after our 1st Amendment rights to free speech. Coloradans can now be punished for misgendering someone. You would think that after two major losses at the Supreme Court, Colorado would tread more carefully with our constitutional rights. Much like those two cases, one involving a cake baker and another a web designer, the new law attacks our free speech rights. The government cannot compel speech or chosen messages. The Supreme Court has made it clear that, in addition to the government forcing someone to communicate a message, forcing someone to silence themselves is a free speech violation. Colorado Democrats know this law will never pass muster when squared with the 1st Amendment – but, again, they don't care.

Colorado's illustrious Secretary of State gave us another example of Democrat projection last week when she tried to pin the "dictator" label on Trump in her efforts to justify mail-in ballots. "The dictator is bad for democracy," said the woman who fought to keep her political enemy off the Colorado ballot. Jena Griswold tried to keep an opposing presidential candidate off the ballot in order to "save democracy," or something.

Democrats fighting to take the issue away from voters speaks volumes about which side is actually concerned about "democracy."

Here are some chuckles: Democrats think banning mail-in ballots will place an undue burden on dead people. Texas is building 600 miles of border wall using U-Haul trailers from California. Chuck Schumer feels perfectly safe walking around D.C. at night. His ten armed body guards are quoted as saying they also feel safe.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SAN JUAN FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose Regional Health Foundation is now accepting applications for the San Juan Fund Scholarship, an award created to encourage and support students pursuing careers in health care.

The San Juan Fund Scholarship was originally established by the San Juan Healthcare Foundation, which merged with Montrose Regional Health in 2025 to form the new Montrose Regional Health Foundation. Today, the fund continues to reflect its original purpose: supporting local students at every stage of their educational journey and in a wide range of health care career paths. Since 2016, the San Juan Fund Scholarship has awarded \$52,250 in scholarships to 46 students, helping them pursue nursing, medical, and other health-related degrees.


"Awarding scholarships is one of our favorite responsibilities," said Robyn Funk, grant writer for Montrose Regional Health. "The San Juan Fund Scholarships are an opportunity to invest in community health by helping local medical students further their education."

The scholarship is open to students who have been accepted into and/or are enrolled in a health-related program. Preference will be given to applicants from the Montrose area who plan to return and share their skills with residents of Montrose and surrounding communities.

Applications are available at www.mrhfoundation.org, by calling 970-240-7396, or by emailing kanderson@montrosehealth.com. Completed applications and supporting documents must be received by October 3, 2025. Recipients will be announced after October 17, 2025.

Applications may be mailed to:
Montrose Regional Health Foundation
Attn: Kelly Anderson, Executive Director
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TIME FOR MEN TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATION TO FAITH, FAMILY, AND SOCIETY!

Editor:

Most of the terrible things that happen in society now days is the result of the disintegration of the biblical family unit. Men and women who do not commit to the biblical definition of marriage family and faith are at the forefront of all of society's ills.

And once again our hearts [are broken](#) as the news runs 24 - 7 coverage of the latest mass shooting that took place at a catholic school during Mass. It should be obvious that our society is not suffering from easy access to guns. But from a lack of biblical values. This country [was created](#) on Judeo Christian values. But 250 years later the number of people in our society that identify as Christian is declining. And the number of households that have two married parents raising their biological children with Christian values is rapidly declining.

In the days and weeks to come politicians will seize the opportunity to either blame the easy access to guns. Or to blame society, global warming, or lack of inclusiveness. Their lack of personal responsibility for their inability to prevent these atrocities will become evident. The self-contained cartridge that makes modern firearms possible is a 213-year-old tech-

nology. And with the technology of three D printing and easy access to other educational information that would allow a novice to create their own working firearm and ammunition it is impossible to rid society of firearms.

Besides, the whole reason for the second amendment was to prevent our government from becoming tyrannical. The twentieth century is a good example of why disarming citizens will never be tolerated in this country. One hundred and forty million people [were killed](#) by their own government after [being disarmed](#) in the twentieth century worldwide. And to those who say that this could never happen in this country, they need to study history. It not only happened in this country, it happened in this state! (The sand creek massacre that occurred on November 29th, 1864, in eastern Colorado.)

The biblical doctrine that places men at the head of the family is known as complementarianism, which is rooted in the concept of "headship." The core belief is that men and women are created equal in value and dignity but are designed by God for different, complementary roles in marriage family, and the church.

The husband is called to be the head of his wife, modeling his leadership on Christ's

relationship with the church. This means his headship is to be selfless, sacrificial, and form of servant leadership.

The wife is called to submit to her husband's leadership which is framed as an act of reverence for Christ.

And the main reason for the breakdown of family values is when men fail to fulfill their duties of selfless sacrifice and abandon their families. Or give into drug and alcohol abuse or sins of the flesh. Which destroys the family and causes a lack of family values. And the result is society begins disintegrating.

Undisciplined boys become undisciplined men who have no moral compass. And when these undisciplined men get into leadership positions, they create the environment that created them, and society pays a heavy price.

So how do we prevent these atrocities? Christian men need to stand in the gap between evil and the innocent. That is our role and our responsibility. And until we men fulfill our obligations to faith family and society nothing will change. In the meantime, men that are capable and proficient with firearms should consider getting involved with the security detail (gate keepers) at church.

Ray Langston, Montrose

IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANT FOR OUR COUNTRY?

Editor:

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had a painting of Robert E. Lee reinstalled at West Point. The portrait is of General Lee, wearing his Confederate uniform, and in the background one of his slaves is holding onto Lee's horse.

Guess it is only fitting that a traitor re-install the portrait of a traitor.

This is only one small blip amongst all the huge dehumanizing and cruel attacks perpetrated by Donald Trump and his cabinet and administrators upon the United States of America.

But it is a very "telling" example of this administration's mindset.

Is this really what you want for our Country?

Jon Sering, former Montrose Resident, Jon is a retired Federal law enforcement officer, father of six, grandfather of twelve, great grandfather of seven, passionate about this country and its history of what made us great, and a remembrance of what we should be ashamed of and strive to better ourselves in the future.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CBI INVESTIGATION INTO DAVIS MORTUARY CONTINUES WITH EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANTS AND TRANSFER OF HUMAN REMAINS

Special to the Mirror

CBI – Pueblo, CO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is providing an update on the ongoing criminal investigation into Davis Mortuary in Pueblo, following the discovery of improperly stored human remains last week. This investigation is being conducted in collaboration with the Pueblo Police Department, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, and the 10th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

CBI agents have executed search warrants at the homes of Pueblo County Coroner Brian Cotter and his brother, Chris Cotter, who are listed as joint owners of Davis Mortuary. The mortuary was issued a summary suspension of its license to operate by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) on Aug. 20, 2025, after inspectors found several bodies in various stages of decomposition. The preliminary processing of the Davis Mortuary building has been completed by investigators, and the building remains locked and secured, with access restricted to law enforcement.

A total of 24 bodies from Davis Mortuary along with multiple containers of bones and several containers of probable human tissue representing an unknown number of deceased individuals have been respectfully transferred to the El Paso County Coroner's Office for attempted identification.

The CBI has not questioned Brian and Chris Cotter, as both men have retained legal counsel. No arrests have been made at this time. Neither man is considered a flight risk. The investigation is ongoing and will continue to determine what charges are appropriate.

To address common questions from the public and media, the CBI has created a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) section on its website. The FAQ will be regularly updated as new information becomes available.

The CBI has established a dedicated victim assistance line at (719) 257-3359 and an email at CBITips@state.co.us for families who may have used the services of Davis Mortuary. The CBI is also encouraging families to fill out a [questionnaire](#) to assist with the investigative process.

As of 12:00 p.m. Aug. 27 the CBI had received 843 tips and 336 people had filled out the victim information questionnaire.

Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NUVISTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION CREATES NEW FUN SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – NuVista Federal Credit Union is excited to announce a series of new products and services for kids ages 17 and under. Our new offerings focus on the benefits of saving and feature financial coaching, incentives from NuVista in the form of deposits, and in-person and online financial education specifically for youth.

Says NuVista CEO, BJ Coram, “We want our youth services to be more than just walking into a branch and opening a 12-month certificate or depositing money in a savings account. We want coming into NuVista to be an experience and something that the kids remember while still teaching the importance of saving money.”

For our youngest members, ages 0-11, we are thrilled to introduce our Lynx Kids Club. This “Kids Only” Club encourages kids to make deposits into their NuVista accounts. For every \$10 deposited in their account, they receive a token. As they save money, they collect tokens and then can exchange them for fun prizes. The Lynx Kids Club is led by Larry the Lynx who loves to save money and have fun! To join the Club, kids must be a NuVista member (\$5 will open a NuVista Youth Share account), deposit \$50 (must be a

new deposit), collect tokens and keep saving. In addition, throughout the year, NuVista will have Lynx Kids Club events, like our Ice Cream Social on September 17th in Gunnison and Montrose. When kids join the club, they receive a Lynx Paw Bank, their first token, and a Larry the Lynx key chain.

The DREAM account is a 12-month Share Certificate that allows for and encourages additional deposits throughout the term. It comes with a premium (Awesome!) interest rate. Together with a member services representative, youth identify their DREAM, make sure the DREAM is achievable, and then create a detailed plan to turn that DREAM into reality in 12 months. During the step-by-step process to open their account, youth learn about the “Magic” of compounding interest, and basic budgeting. They also identify potential sources of income, as well as detail how and when they will make deposits. And, throughout the 12-month plan, the child and their parents/guardians can choose to have “check-ins” from NuVista to see how the plan is progressing.

Another unique component of the DREAM experience involves Financial Education. DREAM share certificate holders can participate in online and in-person financial education classes to grow their

balance with “Learn & Earn” deposits. NuVista will deposit \$25 for each online class they complete and \$50 for attending an in-person class into the DREAM share certificate. NuVista will give a maximum of \$150 in “Learn & Earn” deposits during the 12-month term. The “Learn & Earn” component is currently best suited for kids ages 12-17.

The DREAM certificate and the Lynx Kids Club are being coordinated by NuVista’s Financial Literacy Specialist, Karla Cline. Cline spent the last six months going into classrooms in Montrose, Gunnison and Ouray counties to teach varied financial education classes. In addition, she has had four Money Matters Courses for teens and presented at summer camps throughout the region. Plans are in place to continue with financial education classes in Delta and West End Montrose County through libraries, schools, and nonprofit organizations.

For more information about these exciting new programs, stop into one of our branches in Montrose or Gunnison, visit www.nuvista.org, or call 970-249-8813.

If you want to learn more about NuVista’s financial education offerings, contact Karla Cline, Financial Literacy Specialist, 970-497-5310 or kccline@nuvista.org.



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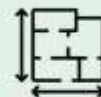
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PRIMEHEALTH+ WELCOMES VERY FIRST PATIENT

Special to the Mirror
REGIONAL—On Wednesday, Aug. 27, PrimeHealth+ greeted its very first patient in their new building. Mesa County resident, Suzye Vennell, was welcomed to the new health center located at 526 29 ½ Road. Courtesy photo.



IMAGING AT RIVER LANDING EXPANDS ADVANCED MEDICAL IMAGING IN MONTROSE

Improving patient experience with easier access to MRI, CT, and mammography

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health's Imaging at River Landing, located at 3330 S. Rio Grande Ave., is now fully serving patients with a complete range of advanced medical imaging services. The new center offers MRI, CT, and mammography in a convenient setting designed to improve the patient experience and make imaging easier to navigate.

"At Imaging at River Landing, we're proud to offer patients the convenience of advanced imaging services right here in Montrose," said Chelsie Kulkan, supervisor of medical imaging at Montrose Regional Health. "Our location makes access simple, and our state-of-the-art technology ensures the highest quality images to support accurate diagnoses and exceptional care."

The River Landing site features the MAGNETOM Altea 1.5 Tesla MRI scanner and the Cartesion Prime 160-slice PET/CT scanner, providing enhanced patient comfort, quicker scan times, and highly de-

tailed results. The center also offers advanced mammography with the 3Dimensions™ Mammography System, producing precise 3D scans that support earlier detection and greater peace of mind.

Depending on the type of imaging study ordered, patients may be scheduled at either Imaging at River Landing or Montrose Regional Health's main hospital location. This coordinated approach ensures patients are matched with the most appropriate equipment and care team for their specific needs.

Medical imaging plays a vital role in health care by offering noninvasive insights that help physicians diagnose conditions, guide treatment, and monitor recovery. With Imaging at River Landing fully operational, patients can now receive advanced imaging close to home, without the need to travel outside Montrose.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Imaging at River Landing, call 970-497-5976.



Imaging at River Landing offers MRI, CT, and 3D mammography with state-of-the-art technology close to home. Courtesy photo.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE POWER OF BELIEF OVER TRUTH

Editor:

"People are not controlled by the truth. They are controlled by what they believe.

And what they believe is not necessarily the truth." This premise explains why debates rage endlessly and why societies cling to myths long after evidence disproves them. Our minds prioritize comfort and consistency over accuracy. Once a belief takes root, uprooting it demands more than logic. It requires a seismic shift in perspective that people often resist at all costs.

This dynamic appears in everyday decisions. A person might cling to a diet despite contradictory science because early success reinforced it. An employee might view a boss as tyrannical based on one interaction and ignore years of fairness. These beliefs act as filters. They color experiences through confirmation bias. We seek supporting information and dismiss challenges. In a data-flooded world, lies or half-truths can dominate reality. Convincing someone otherwise proves tough due to emotional investment. Admitting error exposes vulnerability, so people double down. This response is not mere stubbornness. It stems from a survival mechanism in evolutionary times when quick judgments aided survival. Today, it creates entrenched positions. These turn dialogue into echo chambers where truth suffers.

Beliefs and Relationships

Beliefs shape relationships, friendships, family ties, and professional bonds. A friend might believe a slight occurred from a misinterpreted comment. This causes lasting fallout. Explanations fail because belief rewrites events. In families, siblings feud over imagined favoritism in inheritances. Parents stifle children with outdated views under the guise of protection.

Consider a divorce driven by distorted beliefs. The husband had ordinary flaws such as differing priorities and communication gaps. Nothing rose to betrayal or abuse. Yet the wife believed in irreconcilable differences amplified by doubts or external influences. This led her to end

the marriage. Nearly two decades later, she reflects differently. She calls him the ideal husband and father and they maintain a cordial dynamic. Time stripped away the emotional fog. Post-divorce experiences showed the grass was not greener.

In workplaces, biases hinder collaboration. A manager might see an employee as undedicated after one missed deadline and ignore a track record of excellence. Corrections through reviews or dialogue often fail. This contributes to high turnover as talent flees misconceptions. These beliefs operate subconsciously, which makes confrontation tricky. Direct challenges invite defensiveness. Subtle approaches like shared experiences or third-party input can chip away at them. Success is not guaranteed, however. Some ties dissolve permanently as victims of unyielding convictions. This situation prompts a choice between persuasion and acceptance. Often, moving on proves healthier and lets beliefs fade into irrelevance.

Societal Echoes of Misguided Convictions

On a larger scale, this premise explains societal discord. Politics thrives on beliefs detached from truth. Voters dismiss facts that contradict ideologies. Effective policies get rejected if they clash with notions of self-reliance or government roles. Media tailors content to reinforce beliefs and polarizes society.

Social media accelerates the process through algorithms that feed aligned content. This entrenches lies about sensational issues regardless of truth. Cultural myths foster discrimination through stereotypes and perpetuate mistrust. Immersive contact humanizes others and dismantles falsehoods gradually.

Media sensationalism amplifies the problem. It prioritizes stories that fit beliefs over accuracy. Fact-checkers struggle because people trust sources that echo their views rather than the truth. This creates feedback loops. Solutions require media literacy education to teach questioning convictions from an early age.

The Mechanics of Resistance

Why do people resist contradictory evidence? Cognitive dissonance causes discomfort. Rejecting new information resolves it more easily than revising beliefs. The backfire effect can even strengthen views under challenge. Beliefs tied to identity like politics or religion prove especially immovable. Admitting error feels like betrayal. Group pressure reinforces this pattern and echo chambers punish dissent.

Strategies for change include building rapport before presenting evidence. Using questions for self-reflection, such as "What would change your mind?" helps too. Storytelling can bypass defenses. Some minds remain closed, however. Mitigation comes through laws on misinformation, or education in critical thinking to curb harm. Recognizing our own susceptibility fosters humility. We too are controlled by beliefs.

Toward Collective Clarity

Time often serves as the ultimate arbiter. Emotional illusions fade with distance. Societies evolve in similar ways. Outdated beliefs like a flat Earth yield to evidence over generations. This pattern offers optimism. Collective progress advances even if individuals resist.

Encouraging judgment-free testing of beliefs speeds the process. Open forums, diverse media, and empathetic dialogues help. In personal realms, forgiveness allows shifts without shame.

The premise of self-examination is key to understanding what we believe and why. What does the evidence show and are we looking at it objectively or are we even looking at it in a manner that will allow for an objective opinion? What controls us unknowingly? Questioning invites growth and bridges divides. While lies may dominate temporarily, patient pursuit of truth liberates us. It aligns beliefs with reality in our complex world.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a father of five and grandfather of three, United States Air Force Veteran, International Recording Artist, passionate about the United States of America, the founders' Genius of the Constitution and Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report (coDOGEreport.com).

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CBI INVESTIGATES OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN FREMONT COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

CBI – Cañon City, CO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating an officer-involved shooting that occurred just after 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, in the 1400 block of Chestnut Street in Cañon City.

The incident began as a welfare check. Preliminary information suggests that a Fremont County Sheriff's Office deputy responded to a residence, where a 27-year-old male subject was involved in a barricade incident. During the encounter, the subject was armed with a firearm and was shot by the deputy. The subject was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The deputy was not struck by gunfire. However, following the incident, the deputy was transported to a local hospital after experiencing a medical event. He has since been released.

During the ensuing investigation, CBI agents located what appeared to be several explosive devices in the residence. The Pueblo Metro Bomb Squad responded to the scene and determined that the devices, consisting of four plastic and one metal item, were inert. They were safely seized by the bomb squad.

The deputy involved was wearing a body worn camera that was activated at the time of the incident and the footage will be reviewed as part of the investigation. The subject is expected to be taken into custody once he is released from the hospital on charges to include 1st Degree Assault, Menacing, and Prohibited Use of a Weapon.


The investigation into this incident is ongoing. No other information can be released at this time.

Any charges are merely an allegation and the suspect is presumed innocent.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MULTI-AGENCY SEARCH WARRANT IN LA JUNTA LEADS TO ARRESTS, FIREARMS, AND NARCOTICS SEIZURE

Special to the Mirror

CBI – La Junta, CO – On Aug. 29, 2025, Agents with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in partnership with the La Junta Police Department, executed a court-authorized search warrant at 1314 San Juan Avenue, La Junta, Colorado. The location has long been a source of community concern, with repeated complaints involving suspected drug distribution and other criminal activity. Intelligence gathered by law enforcement linked the residence to the possession and trafficking of stolen firearms.

During the operation, a male identified as Ezekiel Aguilar (30) attempted to flee the residence but was apprehended in the backyard. Occupants initially refused to comply with commands to exit the residence and had barricaded themselves inside.

After the deployment of less-than-lethal tactics, Adrianna Smith (33), Jordan Del Rio (33), and Jeremy Del Rio (28) exited the home. A subsequent search revealed

Jaycob Butts (30) concealed in a closet; Butts physically resisted arrest before being taken into custody.

A search of the residence uncovered:

- Six firearms, including an SKS battle rifle.
- A homemade semi-automatic short-barreled rifle with a homemade suppressor. These weapons were unmarked, lacked serial numbers, and are prohibited under Colorado law and the National Firearms Act.

- Approximately 143 grams of fentanyl (an estimated 1,430 pills).

- Approximately 17 grams of methamphetamine.

- U.S. currency.

While officers were conducting the search, Zachary James (41) arrived at the location and was arrested on outstanding felony warrants.

Arrests and Charges:

- Jaycob Butts (30): Obstruction & Resisting Arrest

- Adrianna Smith (33): Obstruction

- Jordan Del Rio (33): Unlawful Distribu-

tion, Special Offender Dangerous Weapon, Obstruction

- Jeremy Del Rio (28): Unlawful Distribution, Special Offender Dangerous Weapon, Obstruction, Resisting Arrest

- Ezekiel Aguilar (30): Outstanding Arrest Warrants,

- Zachary James (41): Outstanding Arrest Warrants

Statement

"This operation highlights the commitment of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the La Junta Police Department to address drug and firearms trafficking in our communities," said Todd Quick, La Junta Police Chief. "The recovery of illegal weapons and dangerous narcotics reinforces the importance of collaborative law enforcement efforts to safeguard the citizens of La Junta and the State of Colorado."

The investigation remains active and additional charges may be forthcoming.

All suspects are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL REVEALS DANGERS POSED TO STUDENTS HEADING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO - As schools across Colorado welcomed students back from summer break, the Colorado State Patrol partnered with four school districts around the state to launch a coordinated enforcement and education operation targeting school bus and school zone safety.

The four school districts that partnered in this joint safety effort were Douglas County, Jefferson County, Mesa County, and Chaffee County. Between Aug. 18 - Aug. 22, 2025, Colorado State troopers conducted visible patrols and targeted enforcement around school buses and school zones, reminding drivers that STOP means STOP around school buses, every time red flashing lights are activated and/or the stop arm goes out.

"This past week, our troopers rode alongside school buses, worked school zones, and educated motorists about the updated school bus passing laws to make sure drivers put the safety of children first," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "No meeting, no errand, no destination is more important than a child's life."

Areas Key Enforcement Focus:

-School Bus Red Lights & Stop Arm Violations: Troopers enforced Colorado's revised law (SB 25-1230), which now requires drivers to stop for school buses displaying flashing red lights and an extended stop arm, even when separated only by painted medians or turn lanes. Only raised or physical barriers qualify as true divided roadways.

-School Zones: CSP emphasized slowing down, obeying posted school zone speed limits, and watching closely for children entering or exiting crosswalks.

-Young Children Near Roadways: With the start of a new school year, CSP reminded drivers to stay alert for unpredictable movements from children, especially around bus stops and school grounds.

During the course of the enforcement operation around school buses and school zones, the most common traffic violation was speeding. Two citations were also given for failing to stop for a school bus.

Over the past five years, the Colorado State Patrol has cited 76 motorists illegally passing a school bus. In addition, there have been six crashes investigated by troopers involving school buses during this same time period. Three of those crashes were directly tied to inattentive driving.

Failing to stop for a school bus carries serious consequences:

- 6 points on a driver's license
- Fines starting at \$250
- Mandatory court appearance

"The area around a school bus is one of the most dangerous places for a child. These kids rely on drivers to follow the rules for their safety," added Chief Packard. "When you see a bus or drive near a school zone, slow down, pay attention, and stop when required. Together, we can ensure students arrive at school and return home safely."

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DONNA RUE (NEWKIRK) LANE ***January 4, 1948- August 26, 2025***



DONNA RUE (NEWKIRK) LANE, 77, passed

away on August 26, 2025. She was born on January 4, 1948, in Wheeler, Texas, to Rex Porter and Wanda Lou (Clemens) Newkirk, the second of five children. On November 6, 1970, she married the love of her life, Clifford Jack Lane. Together they shared 54 years of marriage and raised three children. Donna is preceded in death by her parents and her son, Scott Travis Lane. She is survived by her devoted husband, Jack; her daughter, Dusti; her son, Kirk, and his wife, Kara; her grandchildren, Trenton, Carlie and Cassidy; her siblings, Diane (Newkirk) Moore, Jim Newkirk, and Jana (Newkirk) Bauman; her brothers- and sisters-in-law; and many beloved nieces and nephews. Donna was incredibly smart, determined, and adventurous. At the age of 40, she joined the

Colorado State Patrol Academy and went on to have a long and meaningful career with the State Patrol. She became an accomplished pilot in middle age and a spirited (if somewhat mediocre) motorcycle rider. She was a fantastic grandma and aunt, and a favorite of all the children in her life. She was incredibly generous and had a way of making everyone feel like they were her best friend.

A celebration of Donna's life will be held on September 5, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado followed by a potluck dinner for friends and family at the Montrose Lions Clubhouse from noon -5 PM. Please, bring a dish to share, your table service and your memories of Donna to share with her family.

JOSHUA DANIEL MYRES ***December 3, 1978 — July 28, 2025***

JOSHUA DANIEL MYRES, 46, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away at his home on July 29, 2025. Born in Charleston, West Virginia, on December 3, 1978, Josh was the son of Michael Andrew Myres of Durango (deceased), and Patricia Henn Myres. He grew up in Durango, graduating from Durango High School, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in English & Writing from Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon.

Over the years, Josh pursued a wide variety of vocations, working in restaurant service, retail, HR and manufacturing, and teaching. He brought dedication, creativity and loyalty to each role and touched the lives of those he worked alongside.

In 2012, Josh made Montrose, Colorado his home, where he lived for 13 years. On June 21, 2022, he married the love of his life, Megan Lee Myres, in Ouray, Colorado. Together they shared a life filled with love, laughter, and adventure.

Josh had many passions and interests. He was a certified sommelier who delighted in sharing his knowledge of wine. He loved disc golf, tabletop role-playing games, gardening, and camping, and he found joy in spending time outdoors. His enthusiasm for life was infectious, and he will be remembered for his curiosity, kindness, and vibrant spirit.

A private Celebration of Life will be held on September 13, 2025, at Western Heritage Farms in Montrose, Colorado.

Josh will be deeply missed by his wife, mother, family, and friends, who will forever carry his memory in their hearts.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JENNIFER DIANE PROCK

November 15, 1976 — August 21, 2025

JENNIFER DIANE PROCK passed away on August 21, 2025, at her home, surrounded by her loving family and friends, after a courageous and hard-fought battle with cancer. Jennifer, affectionately known as Jenn, was born on November 15, 1976, in Durango, Colorado, to David and Marilyn Tumlinson.

Jenn spent her early years in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where her family owned a veterinary practice. She could often be found playing in the kennels with litters of puppies or riding along with her dad, Dr. Tumlinson, on emergency calls. In 1982, the family moved to Montrose, Colorado, where Jenn discovered her lifelong love for speed and horses. She raised and trained her horse, Hooper, competing in 4-H, Little Britches, and High School Rodeo. It was in elementary school that she met her future husband and love of her life, Zach Prock.

Following high school graduation, Jenn attended Colorado State University, where she earned a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and Hospitality. She had an uncanny ability to accommodate any request without missing a detail, traits that served her well both in life and business.

Jenn and Zach were married on August 28, 1999, in Montrose, and together they became partners in every sense of the word. They built a life side by side, owning and operating several businesses including Kinikin Processing, Kinikin Outfitters, and Area Best Pawn. Jenn also worked at

Montrose Vet Clinic, supporting her dad and her sister, Dr. Meghan Tumlinson. Later, she joined her mom as a real estate agent with Showtime Real Estate.

On their ranch, Jenn and Zach raised elk, and Jenn poured her compassion into caring for her bottle babies. She also became one of the first breeders in Montrose to raise Labradoodles. Many friends and families fondly remember visiting the Prock home to play with Jenn's doodles before they went on to loving homes across the country.

In 2008, Jenn and Zach welcomed their greatest joy, their son Trevor. Raising him on the elk ranch, they instilled in him the same love of agriculture, hunting, and hard work that shaped their own lives. Together, the three of them were a fearless team, sharing hunting excursions, beach vacations, and Red Hawk football. Jenn's dedication to her community was one of her greatest legacies. From giving riding lessons during her high school years to serving as the 4-H Horse Superintendent at the Montrose County Fair, she poured her heart into supporting kids and their passions. Most recently, she helped found Red Hawk Sports Inc. and the Red Hawk Fans Club, organizations devoted to ensuring that every local athlete has the resources, encouragement, and support they need to succeed. Her commitment to youth and community will continue to touch lives for years to come.

Above all, Jenn will be remembered for her gift of friendship. She cherished



friendships from childhood through college and beyond, and she was known for hosting the best parties in the valley. Everyone felt welcome, valued, and cared for in her presence. No one ever left her home hungry, and everyone left with a smile. Zach and Jenn's gatherings were truly legendary.

Jenn is survived by her loving husband, Zach Prock; son, Trevor Prock; parents, David and Marilyn Tumlinson; in-laws, Roger and Linda Prock; sisters, Emily (Eric) Sanchez and Meghan (Seth) Kier; sister-in-law, Sarah (Kevin) Pankey; nephews, Jack and Ryan Pankey, Kyle Sanchez, and Trey Kier; nieces, Carson Sanchez and Blakeley Kier; and countless friends who became family.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JUSTIN CRAIG LINDSEY

May 29, 1976- August 12, 2025

JUSTIN CRAIG LINDSEY, of Montrose, Colorado, died Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at his home. He was 49 years old.

Justin was born on May 29, 1976, in LaSalle Parish, Louisiana. He was preceded in death by his father, E.H. "Sonny" Lindsey; his grandparents Cecil and Violet Atwell of Georgetown, LA; and Sam and Mildred Lindsey of Tullos, LA. He is survived by his mother, Gayle Lindsey; his sister, Bethany Lindsey; his brothers Robert Lindsey and Stephen Lindsey (Nancy); three nieces, six nephews, four great-nieces and one great-nephew, all of Montrose.

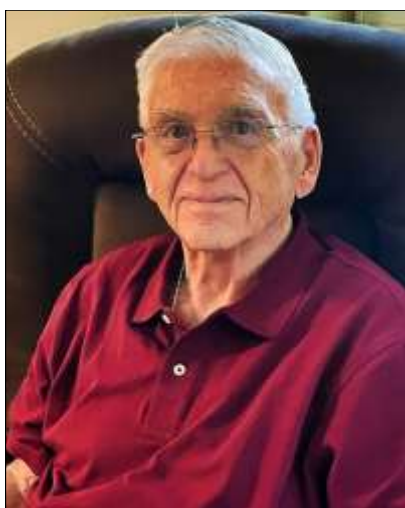
Justin graduated from Ridgway High School, where his favorite subject was basketball and his favorite teacher was his coach, Steve Hill. He formed a lasting bond with his teammates that has been evident during his final illness, with visits and messages from all of them.

Cremation has occurred and Justin's ashes will be scattered in the Atlantic Ocean near Norfolk, Virginia; where he proudly served aboard the USS Enterprise during his years in the U.S. Navy.



WILLIAM LEWIS CODD

December 31, 1933 — August 24, 2025



It is with deep sadness that the family announces the passing of their beloved father, William Lewis Codd, who left them peacefully on August 24, 2025. Bill was born 91 years ago on December 31, 1933, in Northborough, Massachusetts. He grew up on a dairy farm and married the love of his life in 1954. Together, they raised two children. He was a proud veteran of the National Guard.

As a father, he was their guiding light, always providing love, support, and wisdom. He taught them the importance of hard work, honesty, and kindness. Bill's gentle spirit and positive outlook not only touched the lives of his family but also inspired and uplifted everyone he met.

His life was devoted to Beverly, his wife of 64 years, who passed away in 2018. Together, they built their first home in Northborough, then lived for twenty years in New Jersey before retiring in Montrose, Colorado in 1995.

Bill had a deep passion for learning. He used his analytical mind to excel in his career in mechanical engineering, a field he was deeply passionate about. He managed machine shops for abrasive companies, where he was known for his leadership and innovative solutions.

In his later years, he became devoted to deepening his Christian faith. He actively supported the Montrose United Methodist Church and regularly attended worship services and Bible study classes at Montage Creek, where he spent his final years.

He is survived by his daughter, Kimberly Floyd of Montrose, and son, Dana, and his wife LuAnn, of Long Valley, New Jersey, two grandchildren, Samantha and Nicholas, and one great-granddaughter, Logan. They will carry on his legacy of love and integrity, ensuring that Bill's spirit lives on in their hearts and actions.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a charity of your choice.

Rest in peace, Bill. Your work is done here. You will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

ISSUE 537 Sept. 1, 2025

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SEX- PART 1



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.

Greetings Mirrorites!

Now that I have your attention, let's explore this eternally interesting topic a little further. It's pretty in-depth and will take two articles to undress, I mean address, properly.

Spending time in nature au naturel is a time-honored tradition in almost all cultures. Warmth, sunshine, fresh air, and wonderful earthy scents tend to put us all in the mood.

For those folks who already feel a connection to the natural world, having sex outdoors can feel like a primal and freeing experience that enhances romantic intimacy. And there is an emerging school of thought that nature itself can be viewed as a lover. This trend is called ecosensuality. Experiencing this may be very important for preventing depression in women and girls. Healthy immersion in all



Restorative environments are good for the brain and good for makin' whoopee! Courtesy photos.

aspects of nature's pleasures seems to help the default mode network create strong networks of connectivity in a portion of the DMN responsible for keeping harmful introspective tendencies in check. Puberty seems to be a pivotal point for all young people in this regard, but more so for girls than boys. This hormonal time is one of exploration and an opening of the senses. Where better way to do it than in nature's embrace, either solo or with aes-

thetically pleasing others?

When [surveying](#) 2,000 Americans, 76% said they've had sex outside. The most popular locations are cars, backyards, beaches, hiking trails, and highway rest stops. 58% of participants said having outdoors sex made them happier in their relationship. 69% indicated that they have had sex in a risky place where they could be caught and about 23% said they were actually caught in the act (park rangers can usually attest to this fact). The British like doin' it in their cars, and sometimes public toilets, and occasionally that American favorite, a park or woodland area.

In terms of why that might be, Dr. Helen Fisher, Chief Scientific Advisor for Match.com and Biological Anthropologist, explains, "Novelty triggers the dopamine system in the brain to make you feel alert, focused, energetic, optimistic...and often romantic, making one's sense of adventure the ultimate aphrodisiac. So when you find an adventurous partner, you are likely to have a companion who will keep you lively, healthy, and romantic too."

During my European travels I've noticed that Irish locals I hang out with don't dress all that different in summer than in winter, at least in rural western Ireland. Take off the parka, and saints be praised, there's a light knee-length dress with stockings and flat shoes underneath. Nothing there for the priest to scold you about. Not true in Britain, where most of my friends and colleagues are more urban. Those sun-starved lasses put on the

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SEX-PART 1 From previous pg

dog because their brains make it so rewarding to do so!

Women feel sexier in the summer, according to a new study. The research found that women feel more attractive and are much happier in the summer months. And the sunshine evidently has a bigger positive effect on women than men, according to the British Summer Time Report. Despite possible concerns about showing off their legs or losing weight to look good on the beach, two-thirds of women (59 per cent) say they feel sexier in the summer.

Tangentially, men felt sexier in summer as well, but apparently, or so they reported, it was because sexy feeling women were showing more skin! That's according to one of my favorite British rags, *The Daily Mail*.

Another study of 2,000 Brits by the makers of Pimm's (my personal favorite summer liqueur when partially diluted with

unsweetened iced tea), found that 88 percent of women smile more when it's sunny, and so did 84 percent of men.

We Coloradans know how to do sexy in summer the right way. South Park gives way to South Beach in 30 day's time. Pack boots give way to Texas. By the lusty month of May, we are much smilier, sexier, and outdoors a whole lot, at least the adventurous set are. And adventurers are viewed as being much sexier than indoor sorts. Further research conducted for Match.com found 85 per cent of singles on its database agreed that a sense of adventure made a potential date extremely attractive. Dr. Helen Fisher claims that many respondents seeking to hook up with an appealing match find that a potential partner's strong sense of adventure is the ultimate aphrodisiac.

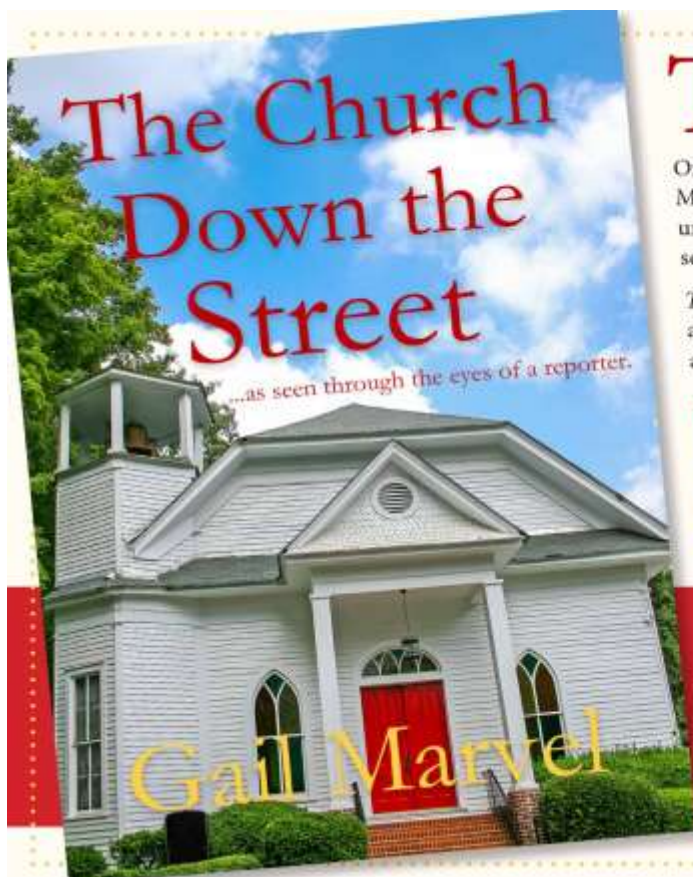
Another major dating website, RSVP.com, surveyed 882 Australian adults about their

turn-ons and turn-offs, with interviewees believing the more extreme the adventuring, the sexier that person appeared, with 'daring travellers' voted by singles as the most enticing of all potential partners.

It's still technically summer here, and the pagan holiday of Samhain is still eight weeks away. In the old days in the Celtic world, lots of folks slipped away from the bonfires and into the bushes for a last frolic before winter descended. And usually not with their regular partners either. Regardless of your views on such license, dear reader, most Coloradans know that as of next month, winter is coming. The time to smile and feel sexy in nature is now, while you still can. Although snogging around a roaring fire has its appeal as well. Just sayin'.

Be safe, be sexy, and try not to shock the rangers this fall,

The Mindful Naturalist, I mean Naturalist!



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



PRESERVATION THROUGH PRINT WORKSHOP

*Preserving Indigenous Cultures and Histories
through Affordable Self-Publishing Projects*

Sponsored by the



UTE INDIAN MUSEUM

Saturday, September 13, 2025

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

PLEASE RSVP: 970-249-3098

Interactive Workshop Presented by

Vickie Leigh Krudwig,
Award-Winning Author and
Self-Publishing Consultant

Books should not only be a teaching tool but also a means to preserve and protect the history of indigenous cultures for future generations. Historical books presented from a tribal perspective offer native children an opportunity to gain and retain knowledge about their ancestral history, culture and traditions. We believe it is critical that indigenous children are able to identify with their ancestral roots and realize the importance of their power and presence in the world today. This workshop is geared to inspire and to help tribal educators grow young leaders through creative and innovative written materials and lessons through a native point of view. Help children learn how to tap into the ancient wisdom of their ancestors and their deep understanding of the land and its resources. Create lessons based on science, math, language, art, storytelling, songs, poetry, and nature, all from a tribal perspective.

Learn how to assess your ideas and turn them into viable resources for young indigenous children and their families. Learn how to get started, work with collaborators, and get support from community members. Find out what steps are needed to produce a book and how to manage the project once it is in motion. Learn how to utilize electronic printing or print on demand for books.

The Ute Indian Museum (History Colorado) is a perfect location for our one-day workshop. It has established a successful STEM program for students, teachers, and visitors. and shows them Ute Indians have applied science, technology, engineering, and math to survive and thrive in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. After the workshop visit the Native Plants garden across from the museum to learn about Colorado's native plants beneficial to the Ute and other indigenous tribes. Stop by our outdoor classroom designed to connect children to the land and the Ute history. Our outdoor classroom also features Shavano Ute rock art like the rock art found in the Shavano Valley.

Price for the workshop is only \$25.00!

Includes light refreshments, lunch and workshop materials.

Read more about the Preservation Through Print Workshop on
<https://www.harmonyhousestudio.com/events>

Questions? Email Vickie at harmonyhouseartstudio@gmail.com
Or call The Ute Indian Museum at (970) 249-3098



NIGHT AT THE DEPOT

September 12th 4-8 pm

Featuring Remembered Notables at 5 pm



Robert McCullum

**Remembers Life
in Lujane**

**Portrayed by
Brody Wilson**

**The past comes alive
in Annie Gray's
recollections, guided
by the ghostly hand
of Judge John Gray.**

**Portrayed by
Bob Cox and
Lezlee Cox**

Peggy McCaffrey

**Remembers life
as a member of
the Women Air
force Service
Pilots (WASP) in
WWII**

**Portrayed by
Lisa Rediger**

Limited Seating

Tickets \$10.00 per person \$25.00 family

21 North Rio Grande Ave. 970-249-2085

Be sure to pick up your tickets early

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

WHAT A SPOT! MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS *Friday, Sept 5, 2025 - Saturday, Sept 20, 2025*

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Take castaway Robinson Crusoe and his friend Friday; add an amorous, lonely gorilla named Lolita; and toss in Ginny and Denise, two lovely kooch dancers, who are pretending to be shipwrecked society ladies. Stir in a double dose of zaniness and confusion, and top-notch music. Mix it all together on a small, uncharted tropical island and you have a recipe for a comical, energetic and entertaining musical adventure! Directed by Pam Carlson, Assistant Director Julie Laube. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

Friday, September 5, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, September 6, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Sunday, September 7, 2025 - 02:00 PM MDT

Friday, September 12, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, September 13, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Sunday, September 14, 2025 - 02:00 PM MDT

Friday, September 19, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, September 20, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Coffee Trader
970-249-6295
970-787-9021

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Premier Sponsor:
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Horsefly Brewing
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Jimmer's BBQ,
Burgers & Beer
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

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970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS: WHAT A SPOT!



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-What a Spot! Opens Friday at the Magic Circle Theatre. Tickets are available at magiccircleplayers.com. Come and join us for this entertaining musical adventure! Directed by Pam Carlson. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838. Courtesy photos.



Pahgre's
 970-249-6442

Rib City
 970-249-7427

Fiesta Guadalajara
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After minutes of research, we discovered that an overwhelming majority of dads like bourbon and roughly 97% of these same men enjoy getting Father's Day gifts. Seeing an obvious parallel, Duke Cannon wants you to know that our lineup of Buffalo Trace grooming goods are an easy way to get pops a 100-proof gift on his big day.

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Colorado-ology

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NATURE RESET: 15 MINUTES OUTSIDE CAN TRANSFORM YOUR CHILD'S DAY



Something as simple as hugging your favorite neighborhood tree could be the nature reset your child needs to transition from their school day (photo courtesy FOYAN).

by Abram Herman,
Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-School bells have been ringing across the Western Slope, and with them comes the familiar rhythm of homework, schedules, and structured learning. But what if we told you that one of the most powerful tools for your child's academic success doesn't involve textbooks, flashcards, or extra tutoring? It's as simple as stepping outside for just 15 minutes a day. Research consistently shows that even brief exposure to nature can dramatically improve children's ability to focus, process information, and regulate their emotions. A landmark study from the University of Illinois found that children with ADHD showed significant improvement in attention and concentration after just 20 minutes in a natural setting compared to the same time spent in urban environments or indoors. Here on the Western Slope we're surrounded by some of the most stunning natural classrooms in the world, yet many local children spend less time outdoors than prisoners in maximum security facilities. The average American child spends only 4-7 minutes per day in unstructured outdoor play, while logging over seven hours of screen time daily.

When children step outside, several powerful processes begin immediately. Fresh air increases oxygen flow to the brain, improving cognitive function. Natural light helps regulate circadian rhythms, leading to better sleep and more alert daytime hours.

The varied textures, sounds, and sights of outdoor environments engage multiple senses simultaneously, creating rich neural connections that enhance learning and memory.

Perhaps most importantly, nature provides what researchers call "soft fascination"—gentle, restorative attention that allows the brain's executive functions to recharge. Unlike the "hard fascination" of screens or intense academic work, which depletes mental energy, time in nature actually restores our capacity to concentrate and make decisions.

Creating a nature-based routine doesn't require epic sunrise hikes or elaborate outdoor adventures. Before breakfast, step outside together to observe the sky, feel the wind direction, and notice the temperature. Have your child predict what the day might bring and record observations in a simple journal. This brief ritual grounds children in their immediate environment while building observation skills.

If practical, walk or bike to school instead of driving. Even a few blocks of fresh air and movement can dramatically improve classroom readiness. If driving is necessary, park a few blocks away and walk the final stretch together. You might also create a simple morning obstacle course using natural features in your backyard—step on five different textures, touch three different plants, and find one interesting rock. Change it weekly to maintain novelty and engagement.

The transition from school to home often involves tired, overstimulated children who need to decompress before tackling homework or evening activities. Nature provides the perfect reset. Before entering the house, take a brief walk around the block or simply sit on the front steps together. No phones, no agenda, just breathing and noticing. This simple time outside helps children transition from the structured school environment to home life.

Consider moving that after-school snack to the backyard, porch, or nearest park. The change of scenery combined with natural light helps restore depleted attention while providing healthy nutrition. When weather permits, try moving homework outdoors. A simple outdoor table or blanket can transform routine assignments into an adventure. The varied stimulation of outdoor environments often helps children who

struggle to focus indoors.

Weekends offer opportunities for longer nature immersion that can set the tone for the entire school week. Explore different local parks each weekend, packing a simple breakfast to eat outdoors while observing wildlife or collecting interesting natural objects.

These adventures become family stories that children carry with them throughout the school week. End each weekend with 15 minutes of quiet outdoor time together, watching the sunset, listening to evening sounds, or simply lying on a blanket looking at clouds or stars.

The beauty of the 15-minute nature reset lies in its flexibility. Busy mornings? Step outside for three deep breaths and a quick sky observation. Rainy weather? Stand under the eaves and listen to rain sounds or watch water create patterns. Winter approaching? Bundle up for a brief snow angel session or winter bird watching. The key is consistency over intensity. Fifteen minutes of daily outdoor time will have far more impact than occasional long hikes.

Living in this incredible region means we have year-round access to natural therapy just outside our doors. From the Grand Mesa's aspen groves to the Colorado, Gunnison, and Uncompahgre Rivers' riparian zones, from desert landscapes to alpine meadows, our backyard offers infinite variety for curious young minds.

This fall, as you establish new school-year routines, consider making daily nature time a non-negotiable family policy. Your child's teacher will notice the difference in attention and behavior. More importantly, your child will develop a lifelong relationship with the natural world that surrounds us here on Colorado's beautiful Western Slope.

Remember: nature isn't a luxury for weekends and vacations. It's medicine for growing minds, available free of charge, just outside your door.

Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) is a non-profit organization that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experience outdoor activities and explore nature. For outdoor safety tips, trail game ideas, hiking trails, and other ways to get young people involved in the outdoors, visit the FOYAN website at www.friendsofyouthandnature.org



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

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

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



\$339,900.00

3 BR

1.5 bathrooms

CONTACT: LESLIE GORE

📞 19702753195

✉️ lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>

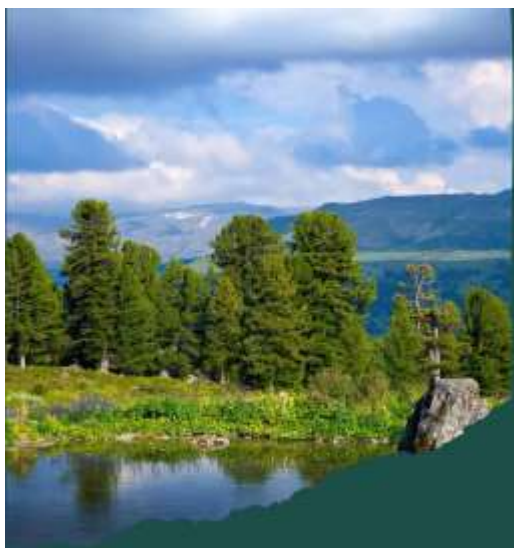


CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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Contact Author and Speaker:

laurenhallruddell.com

✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

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

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene
Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

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

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?





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Paint a taste of Italy at Endless Pastabilities

6-8 pm, Thr., SEPT. 11th With Kate Burke

Step-by-step instructions. Acrylic on canvas.



Everything provided plus drink snack

1544 Oxbow Dr., Montrose
\$45/pp, \$80 couple. Register online
kathrynrburke.com/product/091125pasta



LA NOUE DUBOIS WINERY

Paint Wine Glasses

With Kate Burke
Waterproof glass paint

Sun., Sept 14th. 1-3:30 pm.

Includes Free Winery Tour & Tasting



Everything provided + glass of wine & snack
Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/091425wine>

Watercolor Pencil Friday September. 26th, 1-3 pm



No experienced needed. Step-by-step instructions to paint
this design or create your own. Everything provided.

\$40/pp. montroserec.com, Registration Code: 50+ART - 03

Warrior Resource Center 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose



Sat. Sept. 20, 1:00-3:00 pm

Wreaths, florals,
ribbon, decorations.

All the tools
and lots of
fun stuff
to play with.

Includes snack
and cider
or soft drink.

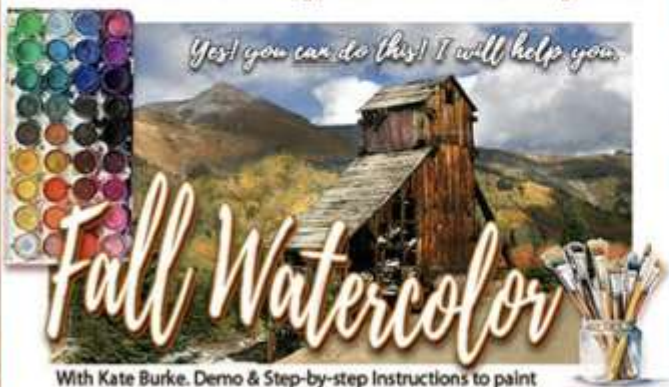
Open to
the public.



\$40-45. Military or Senior Discount available
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/092025whaffv>



Mosaic Montrose 5:30-7:30 pm, FRIDAY, Sept 12th



With Kate Burke. Demo & Step-by-step instructions to paint
Yankee Girl in the fall. Everything included plus snack & drink

\$43-\$48. Senior Discount available
Register online <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/091225m>

Mosaic Fall Wreath

Thr., Sept 25th
5:30-7:30 pm

Everything included. Grape-
vine wreath, florals, ribbon,
bling, and all the tools for
assembly. Lots of stuff to play
with. Plus snack and adult
beverage, cider, or soft drink.
With Kate Burke, \$43-\$48.



Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/092525m>

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Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Britany Butler.....970-209-4388
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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

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://kathrynburke.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.

Sept. 11-Montrose and Delta's biggest and funnest celebration for seniors, baby boomers and their families is back! BeaconFest, Colorado's largest senior expo, returns to the Montrose Pavilion on Thursday, September 11, 2025, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is free. For more information about BeaconFest, visit BeaconFest.com or call 970-243-8829.

Sept 12- Watercolor at the Senior Center. MRD Friday Afternoon Art 50+ Program with Kate Burke. Step-by-step instructions with template and everything provided plus snack and adult beverage or NA drink. 1800 Pavilion Drive, Registration code 50+ART-02. Register at <https://comontrose.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/iteminfo.html?Module=AR&FMID=27628274>

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

Sept. 20-Lake City Uncorked Wine & Music Festival will be held Sept. 20, 2025. Gates open at 10 am seven bands, art booths, beer booth, 125 wines for tasting. <http://www.lakecitydirt.org>

Sept. 22-Health Insurance Information Session-6-7:30p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, Montrose Regional Library, 320 S 2nd St. Montrose, CO 81401. www.montroselibrary.org 970-249-9656.

Sept. 27--Exceptional Women of Ouray County reception honoring April Calabro, Christine Coyer, Jane Errion, Julie Furstenfeld, Kathy Heinrichs, and Debra Willits. 3-4:45 Saturday, Sept. 27. Details: fortunatierra.com.

MIRROR IMAGES: CORNSCAPE!



Cornscape photos by B. Switzer. Happy Labor Day!

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