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ASSOCIATION



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RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES SRO MOU

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With students back in the classroom for a new school year, the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education welcomed the public to a regular board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Present for the meeting were Board President Sarah Fishing (District E); Board Vice President Steve Bush (District G); District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West; and District F Director Jody Hovde.

Fishing called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance; the Board voted to approve the meeting agenda. Fishing then opened the floor to Public Information Officer Mickayla Unruh, who presented the Student Spotlight.



All directors were present for the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education meeting on Sept. 9. Meeting Screenshot.

Continued pg 35

RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP: 9/15/25



Red Hawks Softball Player Abby Siegel swings at a Warrior fast ball. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

RED HAWKS SOCCER: GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 5, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1

By Cliff Dodge

REGIONAL-The Grand Junction Tigers took no prisoners last Saturday when the Montrose Red Hawks invaded the Tiger's home pitch and came away with a decisive 5-1 defeat. Head Coach Cassie Snyder said, "We played a really good first half at Grand Junction. We had a lot of chances, we played tough D. If you look at the stats everything was pretty even except for goals."

Snyder continued, "Junction did a good job of capitalizing on our errors and we did not do a good enough job capitalizing on theirs. We made some errors that cost us big time. It's early in the season and every team is a new team and I am glad we have had a reality check early in the season." When asked about the overall strength of the league, Coach Snyder was definitive with her answer. "Always Junction. They probably will be the best team in our league. It's hard to say because everybody is competing well right now. Junction is in 5A and they have an outstanding Striker. He is one of the best players in the State. They are very athletic and were tough in 5A. Durango is always tough. Fruita had a great game against Durango the other day, so I expect them to be tough as well. I expect Palisade to be tough because

Continued pg 16

[Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD: Yes! It's True! The Huey Has Landed: Your Brain on Nature!](#)

[Yes! It's True! The Huey Has Landed: By CB Williams!](#)

[Telluride Celebrates 2025 Blues & Brews!](#)

[MCA Application Remanded to RE-1J Board by CDE!](#)

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror



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

Editor: Caitlin Switzer

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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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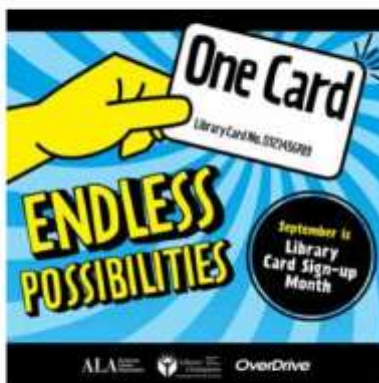
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MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS: LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to storage lien laws CRS 38-21.5-102, 38-21.5-103, Colorado Storage Partners LLC dba Colorado Self Storage at 239 N 9th street, Montrose Co, will hold a sale to collect on landlord lien of the following units:

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SALE - 23 September, 2025 10am

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printed Sept 15 and Sept 23, 2025

FORUM TO BE HELD AT 9AM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Forum, formerly held at 8am, is now to be held at 9am, as of Oct. 1. The Ballot Issue presentation by the League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley will now be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 9am in the Cascade Room, 3rd and Cascade, in Montrose.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST ANNUAL MONTROSE WALK FOR HOPE TO TAKE PLACE SEPT. 20

The Walk for Hope Aims to Promote Suicide Awareness Prevention, Reduce Stigma and Connect the Community

MONTROSE-September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and the community is coming together to take action.

SPARC (the Suicide Prevention, Awareness and Recovery Coalition) invites the public to join the First Annual Montrose Walk for Hope, presented by Alpine Bank and River Valley Family Health Centers. The walk will take place on Saturday September 20th at 9am at Rotary Park, located at 600 S 12th St. in Montrose.

The Walk for Hope is more than just a walk—it's an opportunity to raise aware-

ness, reduce stigma, and build community around suicide prevention. Attendees will hear powerful messages of hope from local speakers, connect with community resources, and show visible support for the dire need for mental health awareness. Activities include a sign-making station, free doughnuts and coffee, generously provided by the Coffee Trader. Then the group will take a short walk along Townsend Avenue to spread awareness and hope to the community.

This event and the SPARC Coalition are

facilitated by Tri-County Health Network, a non-profit organization committed to collaborating with our communities to improve health for everyone. To find out more, to sponsor the event or to donate visit www.tchnetwork.org or call 970.708.7096.

This important community event is made possible thanks to the generous support of Alpine Bank, River Valley Family Health Centers, the Montrose Daily Press, Norris-Phillips Real Estate and The Coffee Trader.

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MONTROSE COMMUNITY BAND TO PERFORM FREE CONCERT SEPT. 28

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Free Concert Sept. 28 AT 3 pm Montrose Pavilion: "America's Musical Melting Pot" Dance to American Barn Dance, Hoe Down, and the Suite of Old American Dances. Enjoy Down in the River, St. Louis Blues and more from America. [Montrose Community Band.](#)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE PLANS MULTIPLE PRESCRIBED BURNS FALL 2025

Special to the Mirror

DOLORES- The Bureau of Land Management Tres Rios Field Office is planning multiple prescribed burns this fall, September thru October. These prescribed burn units include 370 acres along the West Rim of the Dolores River, northeast of Dove Creek and 552 acres at Rabbit Mountain, northwest of Bayfield.

Prescribed fire is an important tool for active vegetation management and the reduction of wildfire risk. Prescribed fire mimics natural processes under appropriate weather and vegetative conditions, which improves forage for wildlife, increases plant diversity by creating breaks in the understory where native grasses and forbs can thrive, and effectively reduces hazardous vegetation while enhancing woodland health. Specific timing of the operation will depend on favorable weather and fire conditions, which BLM monitors closely. Crews will be on site for the duration of the burn. Smoke will be visible throughout the day of the burn, mostly during the warmest part of the day. With cooler temperatures in the evening, smoke may linger and accumulate in low-lying areas. Firefighters will be on site throughout the day of ignition and will periodically patrol the burns for several days afterward.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, please visit the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division's website at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

Updates on the West Rim and Rabbit Mountain prescribed burns will be available on the BLM- Southwest Colorado Fire and Aviation Management Unit <https://www.facebook.com/BLMMontroseFireUnitpage> and inciweb.wildfire.gov. For general information, contact John Wroblewski, Southwest District Fire Mitigation Specialist, at (970) 240-5335.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SEVERE WIND EVENT DAMAGES REGIONAL DRINKING WATER STORAGE FACILITY *Project 7 Water Authority Continues to Provide Uninterrupted Drinking Water Service While Repairs are Underway*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – At 8pm on September 10, 2025, a severe wind event ripped the roof off of a large drinking water storage tank at the Project 7 Water Authority regional drinking water treatment facility.

The situation caused the entire roof structure to be blown onto US Highway 50, which was closed briefly and has since reopened east of the City of Montrose. During the event, a DMEA power pole was damaged, which led to a localized internet and power outage that has since been restored.

Fortunately, no one was injured and drinking water treatment for the region continued without interruption. Project 7 Water Authority staff are onsite 24/7 and responded immediately to assess the damage and mitigate risks to the region's drinking water system.

More information is actively being gathered and updates will be provided as they are available. At this time, there are no current or planned interruptions to the region's critical drinking water service.

Fortunately, the 1.7 million gallon and 58-year-old storage tank was offline at the time of the event.

However, the damage to this storage facility does compromise the amount of emergency water storage available at Project 7 Water Authority.

Maintaining a safe and secure drinking water supply is Project 7 Water Authority's top priority for the 60,000 people who rely on the regional system. Significant cleanup and repair work will be ongoing for the foreseeable future. As a result of this situation, the phone line at Project 7 is expected to be disabled for up to a week, but we can be contacted at Project7@Montrose.net. We appreciate your patience and will continue to provide updates as they are available.

About Project 7 Water Authority

Since 1977, Project 7 Water Authority has supplied high-quality potable drinking water to 60,000 people in the Uncompahgre River Valley. Established to address regional water shortages caused by undersized and outdated treatment facilities, Project 7 is unique cooperative effort among seven water entities: City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, Chipeta Water District, Menoken Water District, and Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association.

Learn more at Project7Water.org or email Project7@Montrose.net



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE TO END ALL FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— All current fire restrictions in place will be rescinded effective September 12, 2025, for all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison Office within the boundaries of Gunnison, Hinsdale, Saguache, San Juan, Ouray, and Montrose counties.

"Continued monsoonal weather and seasonable temperatures has significantly improved conditions to allow the removal all fire restrictions," said Southwest District Fire Management Officer Rusty Stark. Year-round wildfire prevention re-

strictions on BLM-administered public lands in Colorado remain.

Those found responsible for starting wildfires will face restitution costs of suppressing the fire.

These include prohibitions on:

- Leaving a fire unattended or unextinguished.
- Possession, discharge or use of any fireworks.
- Discharge of a firearm using incendiary or tracer ammunition.
- Burning, igniting or causing to burn any tire, wire, magnesium, or any other haz-

ardous or explosive material.

-Operating any off-road vehicle on public lands unless the vehicle is equipped with a properly installed spark arrester pursuant to 43 CFR 8343.1 (c).

Fireworks are always prohibited on public lands. More information about fire prevention is available at: [Fire Prevention | Bureau of Land Management](https://www.blm.gov/program-s/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/southwest-district). Current fire prevention notices for the BLM Southwest District are posted online at: <https://www.blm.gov/program-s/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/southwest-district>

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP CHARLEY KIRK

Editor:

Having been a cop for twenty-eight years, I pretty much saw it all, but just when you think you've got everything under control, you don't see the sky ready to fall. It was bad enough watching a beautiful little girl being stabbed to death and wondering why, and no one will help! But just when I started to open my fists and breathe easy, I noticed an urgent email from another former cop, which read "charley got shot!" I didn't know who "Charley" was as I quickly opened it. For three seconds I saw Charley Kirk sitting with a microphone in his left hand and saying something another man when a red spot instantly appeared on the left/front side of Charley's throat followed by a huge flow of blood as he fell over, and I knew he was dead! I yelled "Oh GOD," but even though I knew what I saw, I couldn't believe it. This brilliant young man whom I had been watching and listen to was gone! I was praying that he would survive, but I knew I was fooling myself. Three days later the killer is in jail and millions of people are crying and wondering how and why. If you didn't know who Charley Kirk was, you will. That could be one of the best things you will ever learn! May GOD BLESS and KEEP Charley Kirk. Out here.

Gary Johnston, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

STAND UP. SPEAK OUT. BE LIKE CHARLIE

Editor:

The report of Charlie Kirk's assassination was devastating news to all of us. Upon hearing it, I was immediately taken back to the day the world learned of President John F. Kennedy's assassination. I was young at the time, but even then I understood the magnitude of that loss.

Charlie Kirk was a gift from God, sent to communicate His word through one of His children. His message was clear and remains the legacy he would most want to be remembered for: *"Be courageous about your faith."* And he was.

Charlie's courage about his faith did not stop there. He bravely defended his coun-

try and the foundation upon which it was built. He believed in our Constitution, free markets, limited government, and the God-given rights enshrined in our Founding Documents. He believed in marriage, motherhood, and the importance of rebuilding the nuclear family as a stabilizing force in our society.

Charlie Kirk was bold, outspoken, and intelligent beyond his years. Sadly, there are those who vehemently disagreed with him—individuals driven by anger, hatred, and violence.

They stopped at nothing to advance their agenda—even resorting to murder. Charlie knew the risks he faced by speaking out

against this ideology, but he did it anyway—not for himself, but for us. And now he is gone.

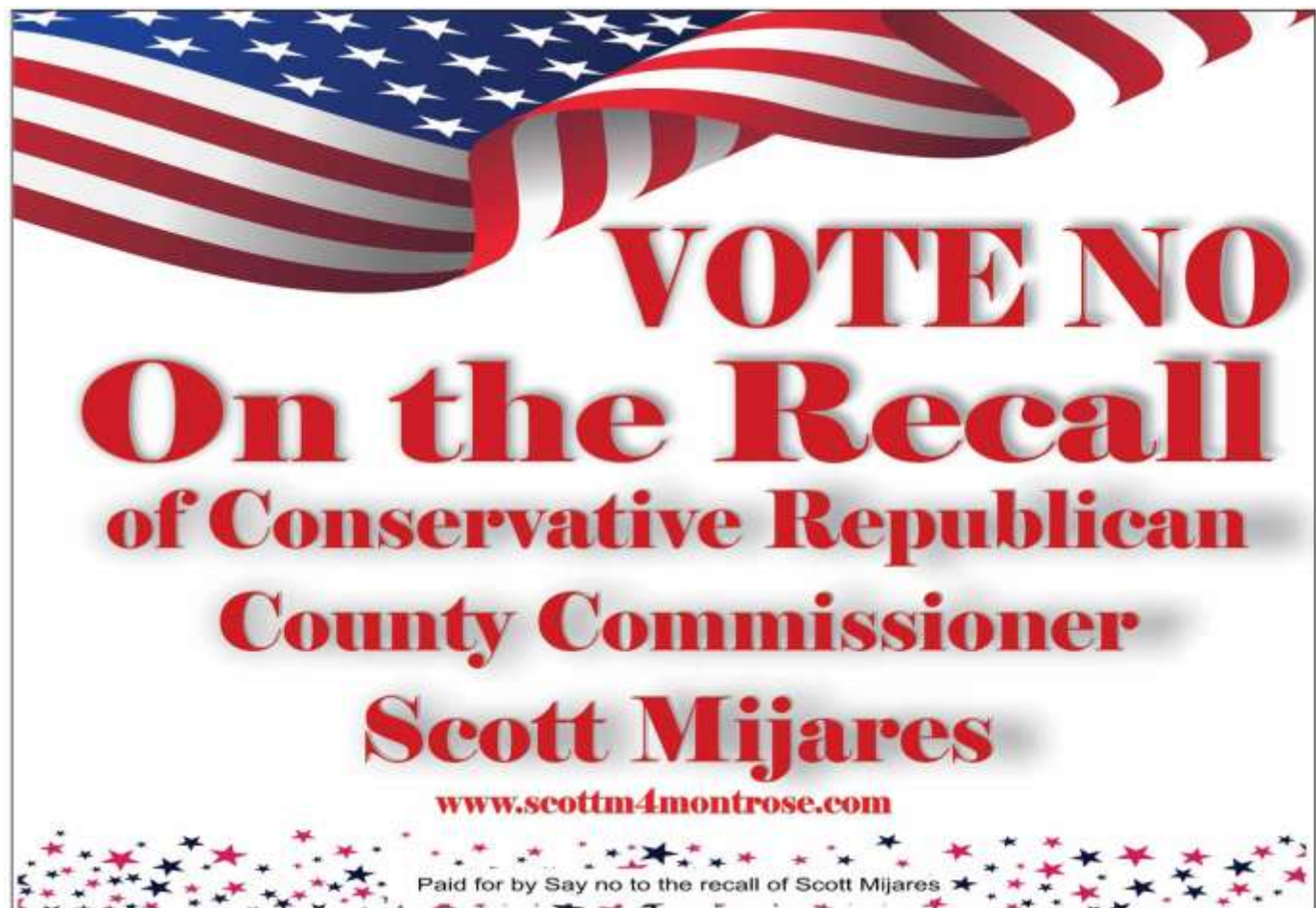
That is why it is incumbent upon us all to continue his work.

Stand up. Speak out. Be like Charlie.

We are already seeing this spirit ignite around the globe. Please, don't let his message die. Keep it alive.

I have faith in you, Montrose. I truly believe we each have a "Charlie" within us. Let's take a breath, come together, and put an end to the division. I know I'm ready. How about you?

Scott Mijares, Montrose County Commissioner, District 1



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RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP: 9/15/25 From pg 1



Red Hawks volleyball file photo – vs Eagle Valley Devils. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

they were definitely tougher than their record last year. We will not overlook anybody this year.”

Snyder then talked about her team. “We have eight seniors on the team in addition to a number of juniors and several sophomores. The underclassmen will make big strides as they get better. The way to get better is to fight for playing time and contribute.”

The Red Hawks overall record stands at 2 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie with the Delta Panthers.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks got off to a flying start of their season as they defeated the Eagle Valley Devils by the score 3-0. The Red Hawks controlled both sides of the pitch. On offense the Red Hawks scored once in the first half and twice in the second half. The Red Hawks defense was stout in keeping the Devils away from the Red Hawks goal throughout the contest.

Three Red Hawks dented the score sheet. Junior Eli Rodriguez, Junior Luken Senior, and Sophomore Andes Alvarado all put the ball into the back of the Devils net. Red Hawks Sophomore Korey Metzger, Sophomore Miguel Aguilar, and Sophomore Andes Alvarado all added assists to the score sheet. Senior Jude Carlton played well in goal, stopping all seven shots he faced.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2, RIFLE BEARS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks took the measure of the Rifle Bears in a home not-conference match by the score of 2-1. The Red Hawks battled the Bears in a closely contested contest with the home team prevailing 2-1 on the strength of two goals by Junior Eli Rodriguez. Senior Alie Soltz and Sophomore Byron Gaxiola add-

ed assists to complete the scoring.

Red Hawks Goaltender Jude Carlton stopped 4 of the 5 shots he faced for the win.

RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL:

The Montrose Red Hawks journeyed to the Eastern Slope on Saturday to take part in a major Volleyball tournament to test the readiness of their team in comparison to some of the best teams in the state of Colorado.

The Red Hawks handled all comers during the grueling day of volleyball, dropping only two games out of the 10 games that were played involving the Red Hawks. Shane Forrest, the head coach of the Red Hawks, was very pleased with the results of the tournament and the effort that her team exhibited in all four matches.

Coach Forrest noted that her team was a bit shaky in the first game with Middle Park and only won the first game 25-24, but recovered and found their stride throughout the rest of the competition.

Platte Valley was the Red Hawks' next victim as the Red Hawks shut out the Broncos 2-0. The third game vs the Windsor Wizards (the Number 2 seen in 3A) fell to the Red Hawks, 2 games to 1.

The final match saw the Cyclones of Pueblo West, ranked 5th in the CHSAA ranking, each win a game to set up the tie-breaking third game. The Red Hawks left no doubt as to the winner as the Hawks scored a 15-8 victory in the tie-breaker. The victory gave the Red Hawks the Tournament title and a major accomplishment for Coach Forrest's charges.

RED HAWKS 2, MIDDLE PARK PANTHERS



Soccer file photo - vs. Rifle Bears. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

0 RED HAWKS 2, PLATTE VALLEY BRONCOS 0

RED HAWKS 2, WINDSOR WIZARDS 1 **RED HAWKS 2, PUEBLO WEST CYCLONES 1**

The Red Hawks take their traveling volleyball show to Grand Junction and will take on the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School on Friday.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SOFTBALL: **GRAND JUNCTION CENTRAL WARRIORS 5, RED HAWKS 0**

The Montrose Red Hawks ran into a buzz saw on Thursday as the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School shut out the home-standing Red Hawks by the score of 5-0.

The Red Hawks gave up a couple of runs in the top of the second inning to basically set the tone for the rest of the contest. The Warriors added a single run in the third inning and then capped the scoring with two runs in the fifth inning.

The Red Hawks were held to three base knocks.

Junior Isabelle Mott led the way with two base hits while Junior Cheyenne Whitcomb chipped in with a solid single.

The Red Hawks had problems in the field as they committed six errors in the contest.

The Red Hawks struck out five times, while leaving 15 runners stranded on the base paths. Freshman Pitcher Bentley Schiller was tagged with the defeat.

Next up the Fruita-Monument Wildcats. Stay tuned.

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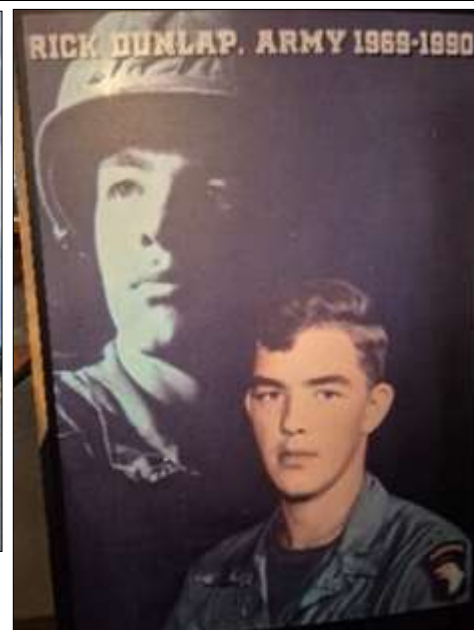


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YES, IT'S TRUE! THE HUEY HAS LANDED!



MVMC board members join the Dunlap family and American Legion Riders as the Huey arrives at Montrose Regional Airport. Photos by CB Williams.



Story and photos by CB Williams

MONTROSE-The Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition kicked off a big reveal of a Vietnam-era UH1H Huey Saturday at the Colorado Tribute to Aviation in Montrose, Colo.

The helicopter, purchased from Joseph Giannini with Midwest Aerospace Limited in Lowell, Ind., began its journey to Montrose on Monday, Sept. 7, driven by VFT LLC driver Doug Bufkin with co-driver Lisa Weisman. The companies gave the MVMC a large discount both in the price of the helicopter and the transportation costs.

As it made its way across the country, Bufkin said it gained a lot of interest.

"It was turning a lot of heads along the way," he said, "Drivers were definitely a bit distracted."

At the Escalante parking lot north of Delta, Montrose Sheriff's deputies, Montrose police officers, and American Legion Riders on motorcycles formed up to escort the Huey down to Montrose.

The late Montrose County Commissioner and County Sheriff Rick Dunlap was a big supporter of the Montrose Veteran's Memorial, and in honor of him, his name is painted on the side of this Huey. Dunlap served as a door gunner on a similar helicopter in Vietnam from 1969-71. He was awarded a bronze star with a V for his actions.

Dunlap's family was part of the escort, and the dozens of American Legion Riders came from Montrose, Delta and Grand Junction.

"When the Huey arrived at the airport, Pryce Hoey of M&H Towing and Recovery, transitioned the Huey from the transport trailer to an Atlantic Aviation cart so it could be moved into place for viewing at the Tribute," J. Bob Brueske, MVMC chairman, said, "both M&H and Atlantic donated their services."

Hoey, who is a veteran, said he has known the Dunlap family for a very long time. He said he will help the MVMC in whatever way he can.

Lloyd Arnold, director of aviation at the airport, and Vee Stockdale, contract specialist, were instrumental in making the arrival of the Huey at the airport a success, Brueske said. He also said many of the airport staff helped with the entire process, including moving people around and helping to break down the displays when fierce winds kicked up Saturday afternoon.

The Montrose Veterans Memorial was first a dream of Mike Trickey, former executive director of the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans and Trickey, now founder of the MVMC, is watching the board of directors bring the memorial to life, along with partners the City of Montrose and Montrose County. Brueske said the memorial will honor all veterans of all eras,

Continued next pg

THE HUEY HAS LANDED! From previous pg



"This meant so much to our family," Karen Dunlap said as she reflected on the tribute made to her late husband Rick. Here she sits in what she calls "The War Room," a room dedicated to the service of her entire family. There are many photos of servicemen from many eras on the walls. Her son Chad and grandson Curtis currently serve Montrose County and the City of Montrose, respectively, in law enforcement. Photo by CB Williams.



Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition (MVMC) board members J. Bob Brueske and Dave Vergamini, upper left, and Les Williams, upper right, talk with visitors at the Colorado Tribute to Aviation. Photo by CB Williams



At the Escalante parking lot north of Delta, Montrose Sheriff's deputies, Montrose police officers, and American Legion Riders on motorcycles formed up to escort the Huey down to Montrose. Photo by CB Williams.

and the men and women who are currently serving in the military.

At the Tribute site on Saturday and Sunday, the Huey certainly gained attention for the memorial as board members talked to visitors about the purpose of this mission of building a veterans memorial in Montrose. County commissioners Sue Hansen and Scott Mijares and interim county manager David White reportedly were some officials who stopped by the booth, and talked about the progress of the fundraising efforts, and the future construction at the site near the Montrose Pavilion and Botanic Gardens.

While the Huey awaits its future above the engraved black granite panels, service seals, flagpole, eagle sculpture and more, it will be safely tucked away, Brueske said.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SUSPECT APPREHENDED AFTER AUTO THEFT INCIDENT, PURSUIT CLOSES I-70 EASTBOUND

Colorado State Patrol

COLORADO – On Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, at about 4:58 p.m., the Colorado State Patrol was requested to assist the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office with a reported stolen Ford F-150 located in the parking lot of the Walmart in Evergreen.

The Colorado State Patrol, along with Clear Creek County Sheriff's, and Jefferson County Sheriff's, arrived on scene and attempted to box in the vehicle and two occupants. The suspect vehicle then began ramming the police vehicles. It is not known at this time if the suspect fired a weapon.

A trooper on scene fired his weapon. The driver of the stolen vehicle rammed the driver's side door of the Colorado State Patrol cruiser, causing the door to strike one trooper in the face.

The Ford F-150 and its occupants were able to flee the scene and were pursued on eastbound Highway 74 before merging onto eastbound Interstate 70. The trooper who was struck by the door performed a successful Tactical Vehicle Intervention (TVI) on the suspect vehicle on Interstate 70 near milepost 259 eastbound, stopping the stolen vehicle in the runaway truck ramp, where one suspect was taken into custody.

While no known injuries resulted from the gunfire exchange in the Walmart parking lot, the one trooper who was struck by the suspect ramming his cruiser was transported to a local hospital for medical treatment. The suspect involved in this incident has been identified as Tyler J. Young (33), out of Lakewood, CO. He was booked into the Jefferson County Jail on the following charges.

- One count of 2nd Degree Assault (Felony Offense)
- One count of Attempted 2nd Degree Assault (Felony Offense)
- One count of Motor Vehicle Theft (Felony Offense)
- One count of Felony Eluding
- One count of Reckless Driving (Misdemeanor Offense)

Arrests and charges are merely accusations until and unless a suspect is convicted of a crime. All suspects and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

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800 S. 3rd Street | Lower Level | Montrose, CO

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REGIONAL NEWS

OURAY COUNTY RESCINDS STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

OURAY COUNTY– Ouray County, in line with neighboring counties, as well as the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), will **RESCIND** Stage 1 Fire Restrictions effective 12:01AM, Friday, September 12, 2025. This includes only the unincorporated areas of Ouray County, not the City of Ouray or Town of Ridgway. The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest (GMUG), rescinded their Stage 1 restrictions on September 9, 2025 at 6:00PM.

The decision to implement and rescind seasonal restrictions are made together by regional partners, neighboring counties, the GMUG, BLM, the National Park Service, the Division of Fire Prevention & Control (DFPC), and the National Weather Service.

Fire restrictions are often put into place and rescinded throughout the season, and it's important for community members and visitors to always double check if restrictions are in place, and when in doubt, **DON'T BURN**.

Please continue to do your part to help prevent a wildfire:

-Keep current on local and regional fire restrictions at

www.westslopefireinfo.com

-Obey all fire bans

-Dispose of cigarettes properly

-Never leave a fire unattended

-Be sure your campfire is Dead Out! (cold to the touch)

-Avoid driving on tall grass

- Keep trailer chains from dragging on the ground, this can create sparks



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CBI INVESTIGATION INTO DAVIS MORTUARY CONTINUES

Special to the Mirror

PUEBLO— The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is providing an update on the ongoing criminal investigation into Davis Mortuary in Pueblo.

The CBI wishes to share the El Paso and Fremont County Coroner Offices, with assistance from the FBI, have so far positively identified four of the 24 bodies. Family notifications are currently underway, and out of respect for the privacy of the victims and their families, no victim identification details or information regarding which families have been notified will be released. Further identifications could take a significant amount of time.

Brian Cotter resigned as the Pueblo County Coroner on Aug. 28, 2025. This development came as the investigation, conducted in collaboration with the Pueblo Police Department, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, and the 10th Judicial District Attorney's Office, continues.

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.

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.

Any further updates will continue to come from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and not any other agencies, including the county coroner offices.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE LEFT HAS LOST THE DEBATE AND THEY HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER BUT VIOLENCE

Editor:

Americans deserve leaders who prioritize citizen safety over partisan politics. Democrats are committed to two things: 1) staying in power, and 2) making Americans poorer, weaker, and more endangered. Once you understand that Democrats are not on your side, everything they say and do makes perfect sense. Opening the borders and inviting 15 million unvetted illegals had nothing to do with the best interests of American citizens. The left's defense of narco-terrorists, who flood our streets with drugs, violence, and death, is nothing more than political grandstanding to oppose anything Trump does. Democrats' defense of criminality is not only misguided, it is extremely dangerous to the American people.

Like most sane people, I can't stop thinking about the brutal, unprovoked murder of 23-year-old Ukrainian refugee Iryna Zarutka by a psychotic maniac walking freely on cashless bail after 14 prior arrests for serious violent crimes. Iryna escaped the war in Ukraine only to be murdered in a country where the political party controlling most major cities cares more about a murderer's feelings than protecting its citizens. Former DC police chief Robert Contee admitted that "The average homicide suspect has been arrested eleven times prior to their committing a homicide." Senseless violence in our cities is not an unsolvable problem. For too long now, we have put up with liberal criminal justice "reforms" like cashless bail, decriminalizing everything imaginable, emptying our jails, and defunding the police – all to make Democrats feel better. Soros funded district attorneys and radically left-wing city councils and mayors all did their part to make our streets safer – for the criminals. Closer to home, a Colorado sheriff just last week said he was forced to release a "very dangerous" criminal because of a new state law passed last year. The criminal was charged with attempted murder, assault, and burglary. Governor Polis signed the law stipulating that anyone found incompetent to stand trial must be released to get mental health treatment instead. The attempted murderer was put back on the streets because there were no services available at the Pueblo mental hospital. What utter nonsense.

My wife and I are mourning the political assassination of Charlie Kirk. As I do my weekly research, I would often call my wife

over to watch a clip of Charlie as he very gently dismantled the arguments of brainwashed students attempting to argue the talking points drilled into them by their radical professors. Charlie founded Turning Point USA at age 18 in his home and garage. That has grown to millions of supporters, hundreds of employees, and a significant presence on hundreds of campuses across the country. Kirk went into the lion's den (academia) where the left has been minting young communists for decades. He met students (and a very few professors who dared) on their home turf and argued his points openly, without rancor or violence. Typically, Charlie would allow students or activists to ask questions or make an argument and then respond accordingly. He motivated young people to stand up and engage in civil debate from a conservative, patriotic, Christian perspective, and to throw off the radical left BS being drummed into their heads. He was highly successful because the left rarely have facts, reality, or common sense on their side – and that's why the left hated him.

The assassination of Charlie Kirk is the latest example of two facts: the left has lost the debate and they have nothing to offer but violence. Whether it is rioting and burning down cities, using mob tactics to intimidate speakers and politicians, or literally killing the opposition, Democrats have lost the battle for the support of the American people. Of course, Democrats will attempt to portray Kirk as a divider and hater, but any objective observer knows he was a decent family man who welcomed polite discussions with everyone. It is now routine for Democrats to encourage their followers to demonize people they disagree with, and encourage violence and blame it on the people who are the target. Democrats are now going through the motions of condemning violence and the standard "let's overcome divisiveness," which no one is buying. It is now abundantly clear they cannot succeed without violence. Failed Democrat VP candidate Tim Walz put out his obligatory post-decrying political violence – days after he openly wished for President Trump's death and saying he looked forward to it. He often accuses President Trump of being a dictator and encourages his fellow Dems to be "meaner and fiercer". California governor Newsome also called to "reject political violence in all its forms," and hoped no one

would notice the hypocrisy in his previous rhetoric and posts – like mocking the assassination attempt against Trump, and saying "We're going to punch those sons of b*****s in the mouth." Democrats are just deflecting and doing damage control. No observant person believes any of their rhetoric. This is the same party that could be heard objecting loudly when prayer was called for on the House floor as Charlie Kirk's body laid in the Utah hospital. Democrats own the violence, and they revel in it. Democrats have tried to dehumanize conservatives, starting with Obama calling us bitter Americans who cling to our guns and religion. Hillary Clinton called us an irredeemable basket of deplorables. Joe Biden called us the dregs of society. Maxine Waters (and multiple others) called us Nazis and Hitler and told her followers to harass us in restaurants. And of course they call Trump a threat to democracy. Democrats blame Republicans for violence, but somehow the violence is always against Republicans and people of faith.

Charlie Kirk was not a hateful man – quite the opposite. His crime was disagreeing with liberals and backing up his positions with facts. The Democrats hope Republicans will respond to their violence with more violence, but conservatives are not the ones that burn down cities when things don't go their way. Unfortunately for Democrats, Republicans don't cave when faced with threats and tyranny. Rather than respond with hate and violence, Republicans will respond with renewed resolve. They will multiply their efforts to stand up to the left's cultural and political assault on this great nation. The left must realize they have made a grave mistake, as did Japanese admiral Yamamoto after the bombing of Pearl Harbor: "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."

Organizations like Charlie Kirk's Turning Point USA will only grow stronger. Dozens of like-minded conservatives will return to college campuses to carry on Charlie's work.

The conservative movement will only grow stronger. If there are any sane, moderate Democrats left, they will either try to regain control of their party from the radical America haters that control their party today, or that party will be relegated to the scrapheap of history tomorrow.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE TO END ALL FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – All current fire restrictions in place will be rescinded effective September 12, 2025, for all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Office within the boundaries of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Delta counties and a portion of Gunnison County, including the Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation.

“Continued monsoonal weather and seasonable temperatures has significantly improved conditions to allow the removal all fire restrictions,” said Southwest District Fire Management Officer Rusty Stark.

Year-round wildfire prevention restrictions on BLM-administered public lands in Colorado remain. Those found responsible for starting wildfires will face restitution costs of suppressing the fire.

These include prohibitions on:

- Leaving a fire unattended or unextinguished.
- Possession, discharge or use of any fire-works.
- Discharge of a firearm using incendiary or tracer ammunition.
- Burning, igniting or causing to burn any tire, wire, magnesium, or any other hazardous or explosive material.
- Operating any off-road vehicle on public lands unless the vehicle is equipped with a properly installed spark arrester pursuant to 43 CFR 8343.1 (c).

Fireworks are always prohibited on public lands. More information about fire prevention is available at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/southwest-district>

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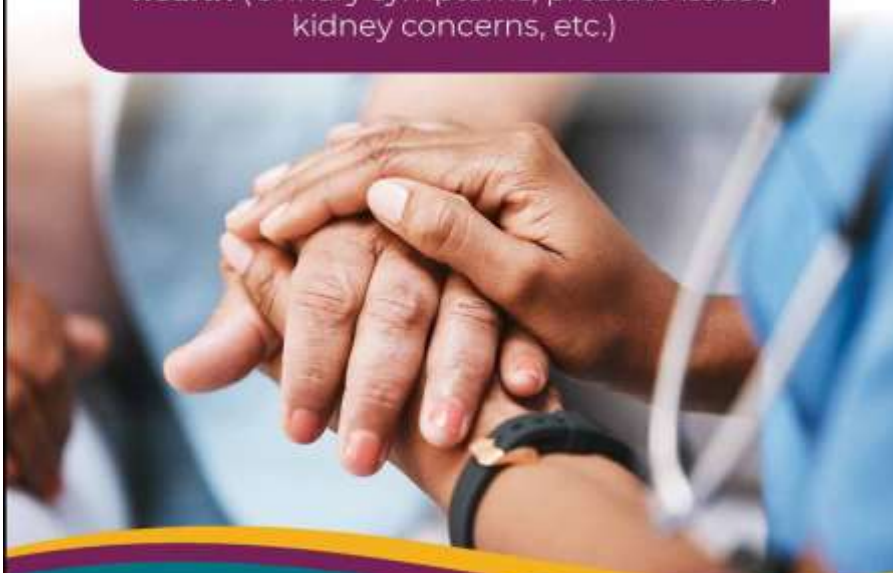
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

US 550 RED MOUNTAIN PASS WILL NO LONGER REQUIRE FULL CLOSURES FOR POWER LINE WORK
The scheduled closures for September 16 to 18 have been cancelled and US 550 will remain open

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — The previously scheduled road closures on US Highway 550 Red Mountain Pass, Tuesdays through Thursdays, from September 2 to 18, will no longer be necessary for electrical power line work. The Red Mountain Electrical Reliability & Broadband Improvement Project announced that the work requiring 5-hour full closures has been completed ahead of schedule. Motorists can expect US 550 between Ouray and Silverton to remain open September 16 to 18, during the previously scheduled closure times.

Powerline crews will continue to perform work along the mountain corridor however it will have minimal impact to travel. Motorists are urged to stay alert, slow down and watch for workers beside the road.

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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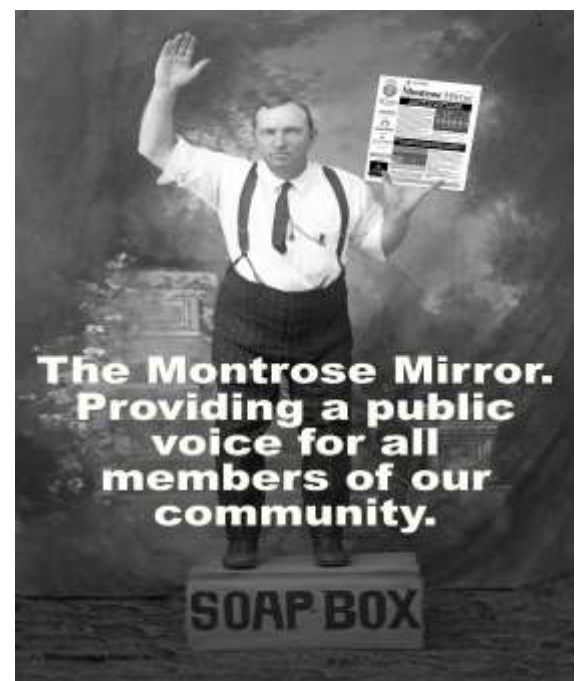


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Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Ave.



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THE SUITS

Friday, April 24 • 7pm | Doors Open at 6
Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Ave.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

I URGE THE COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE ALTERNATIVE 1

Editor:

I don't understand the Montrose Board of County Commissioners' refusal to pass Alternative 1 solar power guidelines. I thought the Commissioners were supportive of our local agriculture and our independent lifestyle. Why put up unnecessary barriers to producers and landowners exploring solar energy generation? I've read a number of recent stories and articles about the benefits of solar agriculture. Just one example is that raising sheep under solar panels leads to improved wool quality, improved soil and pasture under the panels, and reduced water and herbicide use. I urge the Commissioners to approve Alternative 1, so Montrose citizens can explore solar energy projects.

Sallie Thoreson, Montrose

NOT OK WITH MIJARES' USE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION TO INTIMIDATE CONSTITUENTS

Dear Editor:

I wonder why Mr. Mijares felt the need to publish all the names of the voters who signed the Recall Mijares Petition?

I realize this is public information, but what is his motive? Did he not stop to think what publishing the names, AND the addresses of the petition signers, could mean to a single mom with children who might be targeted by people who don't behave as if we each of us have a right to our own opinion? I am not OK with Mijares' use of public information to intimidate his constituents. Vote YES to Recall Scott Mijares and restore integrity and trust in county government.

Mary Maurer

Montrose, Colorado

THE LESSONS OF THE KITCHEN TABLE AND WHY THE RECALL MATTERS

Editor:

When I was growing up, the kitchen table was where life's most important conversations happened. Whether at breakfast, dinner, or in between, if a topic came up, we discussed it. Election season was especially lively: my dad was a Republican, my mom a Democrat, and my brother and I quickly learned the value of open, honest dialogue.

We didn't always agree—in fact, we often disagreed—but that was the point. We researched, we questioned, and we respected each other. "Agreeing to disagree" wasn't a cop-out; it was a cornerstone of healthy debate. My parents taught me never to take anyone's word at face value, but to think critically and form my own opinions. That's why, when I first registered to vote, I proudly chose "Unaffiliated." I didn't want a party making decisions for me; I wanted to think for myself.

Alongside independence, I learned another vital lesson: respect. Our debates could

get heated, but they were never hateful. Everyone had a voice, and everyone was heard. That spirit of mutual respect feels increasingly absent in today's political climate.

Which brings me to the recall of Commissioner Scott Mijares. This isn't about Republican versus Democrat; it's about accountability. I urge every voter to take time, do their research, and make an informed choice. Don't just take my word for it—dig in for yourself.

While gathering signatures to put the recall on the ballot, I met a man who asked, "Is he a Republican or a Democrat?" When I replied "Republican," he dismissed the issue entirely: "Then I won't sign—he must be a good guy." But politics doesn't work that way. That's like assuming every apple in the barrel is good—anyone who's bought produce knows there are always bad apples.

Consider this: at the July 16th Board of County Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Mijares used the public comment

period—a time reserved for citizens—to address what he called "misinformation" about his campaign. Legal counsel ruled that this was not the appropriate time or place, yet he pressed on, not for the three minutes allotted to everyone else, but for over nine minutes.

He has been offered other avenues to make his case, including local newspapers and public forums. But instead, he chose to disrupt an official meeting and bend the rules to his advantage. That isn't leadership; it's unprofessional conduct.

The recall is not about partisanship. It's about fairness, respect for the process, and holding elected officials accountable. Just like at my family's kitchen table, we may disagree on solutions, but we should at least agree that the rules apply to everyone equally—especially to those we elect to represent us.

I encourage you to Vote YES to recall Scott Mijares and restore integrity and trust in county government.

— *Beth McCorkle, Montrose*

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- Kris Besler
- Hollee Mundell
- Tiffany Vincent

Director District C:

- Alice Murphy
- Scott Scarborough

Director District G:

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY RESCINDS STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

Delta County has rescinded all Stage 1 fire restrictions for unincorporated areas of Delta County which includes the Crawford and Sweitzer Lake State Parks and those municipalities which adopted and followed Delta County restrictions. If you live in the City Limits of Delta, Hotchkiss or Paonia, please check with your local police department and Town Hall as to the status of fire restrictions in your jurisdiction.

Following a shift in weather patterns and some much-needed rainfall across the county along with cooler temperatures and higher humidity; the Sheriff, fire chiefs and local fire management personnel agree Fire Restrictions are no longer necessary.

The decision aligns with fire restriction indices produced by our partners at the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and with the decision of our neighboring counties who have already or are in the process of rescinding fire restrictions as well.

While restrictions are being lifted, the Sheriff's Office and fire management partners would like to remind all residents and hunters coming to Delta County to be extra vigilant and to be fire wise to help prevent an unintentional wildfire from starting this fall. It has been an extremely dry summer and grasses, shrubs and trees can catch fire easily, despite the recent rainfall.

Careless actions such as throwing a lit cigarette out of a vehicle, dragging trailer chains or failing to properly extinguish a campfire may lead to a wildfire. Additionally, residents must adhere to Ordinance 2024-02 *Delta County Open Burning and Local Fire Restriction Ordinance*, which defines what is and is not legal in Delta County and which types of burning require a permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment such as slash piles.

Additionally, residents **MUST** call the **Delta County Burn Line at 970-399-2955** and provide your name, address of the burn and contact information if you are conducting open burning so 9-1-1 dispatch and fire protection districts know where controlled burns are taking place. Additional information is available at DeltaCountyCO.gov/BurnLine.


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RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES SRO MOU From pg 1

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Unruh announced 23 student award winners and presented their awards. "We are honored to recognize our students who have received the prestigious College Board National Recognition Awards, which acknowledge their exceptional academic achievements, dedication, and perseverance. These awards are available to students in the 10th and 11th grades who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Rank in the top 10% of PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 test takers within their high school; qualify as first-generation college-bound students within their state, or represent rural and small-town communities in their state;
- Earn a score of 3 or higher on two or more distinct AP exams taken in 8th, 9th, or 10th grade;
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of B+ (3.3 or 87%-89%) at the time of application.

MCGUFFEY AWARD

Board President Sarah Fishering presented District F Director Jody Hovde with a Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) McGuffey Award for outstanding service to the Board of Education.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & DONATIONS

Unruh presented Community Partnerships and Donations:

Community Partnership

- "Pomona Elementary School has been honored as a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School for the fourth year in a row! This prestigious recognition highlights our commitment to creating a positive and supportive school culture where students feel valued and empowered. Capturing Kids' Hearts is a nationally acclaimed program that equips educa-

tors with tools to build strong relationships, foster student engagement, and promote social-emotional learning."

Donation

- "Olathe Middle/High School has been generously awarded a donation of \$43,185.52 from the Nina L. Weaver Charitable Trust. Ms. Weaver, a proud alumna of Olathe High School, has demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting our community through this generous gift. This meaningful donation will be allocated as follows:

- \$20,000 will fund four student scholarships this year, fostering academic excellence and opportunity;
- \$10,000 has been designated to cover athletic fees, promoting increased access and participation for our student-athletes;
- \$13,185.52 has been used to purchase much-needed supplies for various departments across the school, thoughtfully selected from wish lists compiled by each department and approved by the Trust."

QUARTERLY FINANCIALS

Finance Director Emily Imus presented the Quarterly Financial Report, reviewing Funds and Investments. Imus presented Fourth Quarter Financials as of June 30. Rates are slightly down, she said.

"...This is the list of our balances and our interest rates...I am hearing that...rates are going to be going down...in September the Federal Reserve is anticipating a rate cut of 25 basis of points at their next policy meeting...I am looking into taking some of the liquid funds and getting them into some couple-year CD's to try to maintain that higher yield...if I can lock into treasury bonds or CD's then we can keep that rate up for a

longer period of time..."

District D Director Tom West asked Imus about the predicted rate cut.

Imus said, "...It depends on how long it takes the actual bank rates...to go down, I don't have a crystal ball on that..."

District F Director Jody Hovde asked about the State of Colorado possibly robbing grants to balance the budget. Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said, "The information we have is that K-12 is not affected..."

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Hovde gave an update on the District's Facilities Committee and some upcoming repairs. Modularity cost the district money every month. Hovde commended Facilities Director Matt Smith for saving the school district money.

District D Director Tom West said that it was a great thing that the district could offer school facilities for firefighters to use while fighting wildfires in the Montrose area this summer.

Board Vice Chair Steve Bush asked if anyone was interested in serving on the MURA Board after his resignation from the MURA. No interest was expressed.

SUPERINTENDANT'S REPORT

RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson recognized Teachers Amy Fabian, Kurt Scriffiny, and Patricia Scriffiny for 25 years of service to the district. The Scriffinys were both present for the honor and earned a round of applause upon being introduced by Stephenson. District D Director Tom West said, "I'd like to add that I taught with them. They're five-star people. Five-star teachers, they're the best of the best."

Amy Fabian was not present for the recognition.

RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES SRO MOU From previous pg

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MOU PRESENTATION

Executive Director of Operations James Pavlich and colleagues from the school district and from local law enforcement agencies showcased the work being done by School Resource Officers (SRO's).

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE

Executive Director of Academic Achievement Jessica Kalb presented an Academic Services Update.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Leah Vandersluis spoke. "...I want to address the increasing use of AI in the classroom. Especially Chat GPT. Basically, our education system has kind of become a laboratory for the global AI experiment," Vandersluis said. "Ultimately, we will find out whether it's better to maintain traditional cultural norms in the classroom or turn our kids into cyborgs.

"The long-term effects of AI are unknown," she said. "According to a 2024 widely-networked poll of 850 teachers, some believe there will be a negative impact on academic integrity. Almost half of 2,000 students surveyed admitted that cheating was already easier with AI. This is true with college students; they admit that AI is dumbing them down. And in the *European Research Studies Journal*, 83 percent of mostly college age students expressed concern that AI weakens independent thinking. In a 2023 survey of 1,000 U.S. college students by online magazine *Intelligence*, nearly one third said they used Chat GPT to complete written homework; almost 60 percent said they used it for more than half their assignments; and 75 percent felt this was cheating but used it anyway.

"Parents are concerned about AI's impact on education, privacy, data security, and plagiarism," Vandersluis said. "There's a...clinical psychologist

named Shannon Kroner, she's an educational therapist as well, who believes that AI affects critical thinking, and 'dehumanizes both the teacher and the student...AI creates an intellectual laziness in both the teacher and the student and an erosion of curiosity, stunted cognitive development, and reduced problem solving. It weakens logic and reasoning...'

Vandersluis continued, "She is concerned that the teacher-student connection will be lost, discussion will become obsolete. AI in the classroom is a temptation for students to just get the homework done and not care about actually learning the material; to just get the grade and put it behind them."

Vandersluis shared copies of source materials with the board. Board President Sarah Fishing said that in future, materials should be given to Mrs. Laird, the executive assistant to the board, rather than directly to the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items, including Personnel Report, were approved unanimously as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

School Resource Officer (SRO) Memorandum of understanding

District A Director Neisha Ballek thanked Executive Director of Operations James Pavlich for facilitating the next action item, "Approval of the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding."

The MOU is "a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) to define the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of School Resource Officers (SROs) within Montrose County School District. The purpose of this work was to ensure clarity in the partnership between the District, the Montrose Police Department, and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office in supporting

school safety, student well-being, and positive law enforcement relationships."

The MOU was approved unanimously.

Review of Revised Board Policies

District C Director Alice Murphy presented the following policies for review on First Reading:

- **EF-E2, Civil Rights Complaint Procedure for School Nutrition Program** – Updated to reflect the correct discrimination statement per the United States Department of Agriculture;
- **GBEE, Staff Use of Technology** – As advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) continue to shape the educational landscape, it is essential to establish clear guidelines for its responsible use in Colorado schools. To ensure AI enhances learning while maintaining academic integrity and student safety, we have updated our staff and student technology use policies to reflect best practices for AI integration. These policies also include grammatical updates and general edits to take out repetitive language.
- **II, Instructional Materials and Library Resources** - Senate Bill 25-063 requires that local education providers establish written policies for (1) the acquisition, retention, display, and use of library resources, and (2) the reconsideration of library resources that complies with certain standards, however, if a local education provider already has a policy in place, the policy need not comply with the standards set out in the bill. MCSD did have a policy in place, so the changes are minor technical and stylistic updates;
- **IKF, Graduation Requirements** - Deleted obsolete language; Added references to students in the juvenile justice system per HB24-1017 and HB24-1216; Added legal reference

RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES SRO MOU From previous pg

and technical edits;

- IKF-E, Graduation Requirements (College and Career Readiness) –

Added Concurrent Enrollment Crosswalk, Industry Certification Crosswalk, technical edits;

- JICJ, Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Technology Devices –

House Bill 25-1135 requires that on or before July 1, 2026, local boards of education adopt and implement a policy that defines the prohibitions, if any, regarding student communication device use and possession. This leaves each Board with significant discretion on what parameters they feel best fit their school communities, technical edits;

- JLCD, Administering Medications to Students –

Senate Bill 25-278 made changes to policy JLCD to address recent developments in epinephrine treatments. Previously, schools have been allowed to stock “epinephrine autoinjectors,” but epinephrine can now be administered in other ways, including through a nasal spray. This bill replaces “epinephrine auto injector” with “emergency use epinephrine” to better reflect the types of epinephrine that can be stocked and administered at schools; minor technical and stylistic updates;

- JLCD-R, Administering Medications to Students –

Senate Bill 25-278 made changes to policy JLCD to address recent developments in epinephrine treatments. Previously, schools have been allowed to stock “epinephrine autoinjectors,” but epinephrine can now be administered in other ways, including through a nasal spray. This bill replaces “epinephrine auto injector” with “emergency use epinephrine” to better reflect the types of epinephrine that can be stocked and administered at schools; minor technical and stylistic updates;

- JLDAC, Screening/Testing of Stu-

dents (And Treatment of Mental Dis-

orders) – Removed a reference to a statute that had been repealed in a previous legislative session. Additionally, in the 2025 legislative session, SB25-238 repealed the School Mental Health Screening Act, which necessitated minor changes to the policy;

- JRA/JRC, Student Records/Release of Information on Students –

Minor technical and stylistic updates;

- JS, Student Use of Technology –

As advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) continue to shape the educational landscape, it is essential to establish clear guidelines for its responsible use in Colorado schools. To ensure AI enhances learning while maintaining academic integrity and student safety, we have updated our staff and student technology use policies to reflect best practices for AI integration. These policies also include grammatical updates and general edits to take out repetitive language;

- KEC, Public Concerns/Complaints about Instructional Resources –

Senate Bill 25-063 requires that local education providers establish written policies for (1) the acquisition, retention, display, and use of library resources, and (2) the reconsideration of library resources that complies with certain standards, however, if a local education provider already has a policy in place, the policy need not comply with the standards set out in the bill. MCSD did have a policy in place, so the changes are minor technical and stylistic updates;

- KFA, Public Conduct on District Property –

includes a statute that “prohibits the consumption of alcohol in any public place without a license or permit.” In a previous legislative session, the statute was moved from one area of law (C.R.S. 12-47-901) to a different area of law (C.R.S. 44-3-901) the change in this policy simply

reflects that change. There are also grammatical updates;

- KLG, Relations with State and Federal Agencies –

During the 2025 legislative session, Senate Bill 25-276 passed. Titled “Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status,” the bill modifies state immigration law to apply certain requirements to school districts, among other public entities. The law has two main objectives as it relates to school districts—(1) prohibits the collection and disclosure of immigration related information, and (2) requires districts to have a well defined process for how to interact with federal immigration authorities and secure District buildings from unexpected visits. Minor technical and stylistic; change to title;

- KLG-R. Relations with Federal Immigration Officials –

New Regulation to address requirements from SB25-276; **Policies that have legal requirements, or an exhibit to a policy with legal requirements, that must be followed by the district:**

- IKFB, Graduation Exercises –

During the 2024 legislative session, HB24-1323, School Graduation Attire, was passed. The bill is similar to SB23-202, a bill that passed in 2023 and allowed students who are members of Native American tribes to wear tribal regalia associated with their tribe at graduation ceremonies. This year’s legislation allows public school students to wear “recognized objects of cultural or religious significance” as an adornment at graduation ceremonies. Adornments must comply with the dress code policy, as long as the dress code policy does not infringe on a student’s gender expression, gender identity, religion, or culture;

- GBEE-E – Staff Use of Technology –

minor updates to reflect changes made to GBEE.

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said that she could limit other agenda

RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES SRO MOU From previous pg

items for the upcoming meeting as the policies would take time to review on Second Reading; Stephenson's suggestion was welcomed by the Board.

Following a brief recess, Directors heard the District Enrollment Report.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus presented the September Enrollment Report.

"...We are showing 5,897 students...please keep in mind that is what we sometimes refer to as 'butts in seats,' it's not related to our funding, it's not October Count, it's not full time equivalent, or Funded Pupil

Count...so that is 46 students less than our last enrollment report in May...we are 120 students down from September of 2024...we have heard from the Demographer that our birth rates are lower...we're seeing decreasing enrollment on the lower grades..."

The board discussed demographic shifts as presented by the State Demographer and the impacts to local schools. The most consistent campus is Pomona, Board President Fishering said. "It's striking, and it's really only one campus that's very steady, population-wise..."

District A Director Neisha Balleck said

that she has concerns about the Olathe Schools, and wonders if the changes she has observed are environmental or cultural.

"That's just something that I'm watching and that I'm curious about..."

Superintendent Stephenson said, "We don't have any data right now to support that."

Board President Sarah Fishering said that "test scores indicate that all is well."

Following the Enrollment Discussion, the Board of Education voted to adjourn.



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Photographer Deb Reimann snapped this photo of a special spot at the Dennis Weaver Memorial Park near Ridgway. The beautiful eagle sculpture was created for visitors to meditate and reflect. The area surrounding the eagle is surrounded by stacked rocks, left in honor or remembrance of loved ones.



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YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SEX- PART 2



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.

Greetings Mirrorites!

OLATHE-In part 1 of this exposé on exposure to nature, I focused on the nuts and bolts of how people perceive themselves in restorative surroundings, particularly in summer. In this installation, I'm going to discuss aesthetics, the default mode network, nature, and sex appeal.

We saw in the last article that people on dating apps like to read about the outdoorsy types and their escapades and tend to find them inherently a bit more desirable than gaming office workers. But they are on their phones and probably indoors when making those evaluations. What happens to those judgments and preferences when people experience them in the wild?

We know from other *Mirror* articles on this topic that after 15 minutes in restorative nature the default mode network (DMN) kicks in through the machinery of soft fascination. The DMN is that mind-wandering frame of mind where relaxation, creativity, problem-solving and aesthetic appreciation for one's surroundings occurs. And it's different in nature than in an art gallery. When considering a painting or graphic, our voluntary attention is required. We are invested in analyzing the image and deciding whether we like it or not. When viewing restorative natural landscapes, that subjective analysis is absent. Instead, we are captured by soft fascination and involuntary attention which shuttles thought processes into the



Cozy couple by campfire photo courtesy of Ermia Ramez.

DMN. This brain space is more conducive to non-evaluative appreciation.

It turns out that a key function of the DMN is self-referential processing. You know, when you are considering whether or not your body is perfectly proportioned according to your cultural dictates, and if not, then what you can do about it. When perceiving natural beauty, the DMN automatically connects this pleasant stimulus to one's own sense of self from an autobiographical context. The perception of physical beauty is therefore not the detached, objective assessment we assume it to be, but rather a deeply personal one. When judging another person's attractiveness, the DMN likely considers internal social information, such as potential compatibility and mate value, as part of the overall evaluation. That's not a bad thing at all for those who meet an attractive stranger on a trail rather than across a crowded room. Time in nature relaxing in the DMN makes us less harshly critical of our own imperfections and more likely to view another person in a gentler light than that of a wine bar.

The evaluation of aesthetic stimuli is not only related to aspects of positive or negative valuation or reward processing, but is

often related to the development of complex emotions such as awe, envy, and anxiety. Time in nature promotes prosocial thoughts and behaviors. We are kinder to ourselves and more tolerant of others through the dampening of those negative reactions.

Surely this goes against ancient conditioning, when the ancestral environment was unpredictable and strangers often threatening. Yes, true, to a certain extent. But on the other hand, the so-called 'halo effect' is a cognitive bias that guides and directs our decision-making and judgment, causing relevant facts about the other person to be disregarded and aesthetics to take precedence. In other words, urbanites meeting one another in urban settings tend to judge a book by its cover. There are studies that indicate that spending time in nature, particularly while being physically active, draws attention to the body's *functional* capabilities—what it can do—rather than its appearance. This shift in perspective can then translate to how one perceives potential friends or even lovers.

Further, time in nature, especially 'sublime' natural scenes and environments, increases a sense of connection to

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – SEX-PART 2 From previous pg

something "bigger." Exposure to nature, especially beautiful or awe-inspiring landscapes, can trigger a sense of self-transcendence. This feeling of being part of a larger whole helps to reduce self-focus and redirects attention toward others in a more empathetic way, making appearance-based judgments less significant. Just being in the DMN is not sufficient to counteract the Beauty Is Good social bias that involves the above mentioned halo effect. By definition, the [Beauty-is-Good stereotype](#) reflects the influence of aesthetic evaluation on moral evaluation. There are parts of the DMN that overlap other processes that inform this bias. It takes the moderating influence of pleasant landscapes to make the magic happen, that magic being the willingness to investigate further and look below the surface. We know intellectually that beau-

tiful people may be terrible lovers or partners, but our initial impulse is to give them moral credit where none may be due and we often don't find out until it's too late.

By spending plenty of time in nature, people can learn to appreciate the beauty of the natural world in its own right. This perspective of non-judgmental appreciation can extend to the self and then to others, promoting more tolerant body image attitudes.

A fun article on this topic can be found on the Outdoor Research website. Outdoorsiness that is focused on interacting with the natural world rather than using it or conquering it increases empathy and prosocial behaviors such as cooperation and generosity. When people feel more connected to nature and experience a sense of awe, they become more other-oriented

and helpful towards both strangers and acquaintances.

These prosocial tendencies are fundamentally at odds with harsh, appearance-based judgments that may cause us to overlook an unconventionally sexy diamond in the rough.

The take home point here is that nature exposure can be good for finding and keeping satisfying partners that one might overlook in a 'meat market' setting or on a dating app.

We can make ourselves seem sexier and more interesting to the opposite (or same) sex parties looking for love by being adventurous and even a bit rugged. And don't be surprised if you find a hiking buddy to be a great fit for adventures of the carnal sort!

**Best of luck to you lovers out there,
The Mindful Naturalist**



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MCA APPLICATION REMANDED TO RE-1J BY COLORADO BOARD OF EDUCATION; CDE ALSO APPROVES UNCOMPAGHRE BOCES REQUEST FOR TEACHER PREP PROGRAM

Mirror staff report

DENVER – For proponents of the proposed Montrose Classical Academy—who endured rejection not once but twice in their efforts to bring a fresh educational option to local schools--there is now light at the end of the tunnel.

Despite two rejections by the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education, the Colorado State Board of Education (CDE) announced in a [Sept. 11 news release](#) that it has remanded the application for the Montrose Classical Academy Charter school back to the Montrose County School District with specific instructions to reconsider its previous decision.

The news release states, “On June 25, the Montrose County School District’s Board of Education rejected Montrose Classical Academy’s application to open a charter school in the district, citing concerns about financial viability, academic programming, governance, and overall readiness to operate as a sustainable public school.

“The charter school appealed the local board’s decision to the state board, which on Thursday voted 8-1 to remand the decision back to the local board, saying Montrose County School District’s decision to reject the application was not in the best interest of the students, the school, or the community.

“The Montrose County School Board must now re-evaluate the application and make a new decision, after which the applicant can appeal to the state board a second time if the local board does not approve the application.”

Montrose parent Forrest Faulconer was among those who supported the creation of the Montrose Classical Academy, and he was present when the state board remanded the application back to the RE-1J Board.

“It was an honor to be a witness at the state board appeal and represent the hundreds of families who want Montrose Classical Academy to open in our community,” Faulconer said. “The process was a grueling five hours of statements, questions, and deliberation, ending with an 8-1 vote for MCA to move forward. The board members were thoughtful, experienced, and thorough in their questioning. They reviewed all the available material and read the 400-page application front to back in order to make an objective decision.

“This gives us confidence that MCA is indeed a strong option for all children in Montrose. In the end, the thoroughness of the application (reflecting hundreds of hours of hard work) together with clear community support led to a near-unanimous result. We look forward to

continuing the process and working with MCSD to make this school a success.

In other business, the CDE Board approved a teacher preparation program requested by the Uncompahgre Board of Cooperative Educational Services (UnBOCES) and set rulemaking hearings for the same: “The state board approved a [request from the Uncompahgre BOCES to be conditionally reauthorized as a designated agency for alternative teacher preparation for endorsements in several areas](#). CDE staff identified requirements that the BOCES program must meet to obtain full authorization by September 2026.

-The board also approved a [notice of rule-making to update the Educator Licensing Act rules](#), streamlining licensure, aligning with recent legislation, revising endorsement requirements, creating a pathway for apprenticeship graduates, and allowing the department to issue emergency authorizations.

-The board also approved a [notice of rule-making to sunset the separate educator license endorsement rules and fold them into the main licensing rule set](#), eliminating duplication and confusion. This consolidation creates a single, clearer set of standards, including proposed updates for a gifted education endorsement.

-Both hearings will be held during CDE’s November board meeting.”



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT DO BUC-EE'S AND BOCC HAVE IN COMMON?

Editor:

What does the famous Texas travel center phenomenon Buc-ee's and Montrose Board of County Commissioners have in common?

They are both enmeshed in Colorado politics right now, specifically **BOCC RE-CALLS**.

Wildly popular, there is one Buc-ee's location in Colorado, which is in Johnstown, located at 5201 Nugget Road. This travel center opened on March 18, 2024, and features 116 fuel pumps and a wide selection of food and snacks. Another Buc-ee's is being planned for the Pikes Peak region, near Colorado Springs, but this location is currently only being considered and the controversy continues to grow around Buc-ee's. But the El Paso County Commission ran into huge opposition from the locals, including one young lady who yelled at the County Commissioners: "we don't want your Buc-ee's, we don't need your Buc-ee's, and we don't desire your beaver nuggets!"

The BOCC sent the plan for recommendations to the El Paso Planning Commission, and **the Planning Commission recommends "no" to Buc-ees**. Meanwhile, a petition is circulating with the hopes of getting enough signatures to put two of the BOCC commissioners who voted yes for Buc-ee's, on the November ballot for recall.

Pushback against the proposal has sparked lawsuits, the recall election against two elected trustees and the former mayor's resignation. It has drawn attention from John Malone, who was at one time the largest private landowner in the country, and Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet.

So, this brings me to the Montrose County BOCC.

First, consider Sean Pond, who says that "unelected commissions" in his Montrose Mirror editorial he titled "The Danger of Unelected Commissions", are "not a tool of democracy; they are a way to bypass it". <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1481285789571650&set=gm.1234304178467837&id=1220882906476631>

Keep in mind the irony of Pond's statement, because **he** is an unelected BOCC commissioner; he was appointed by the Montrose Republican Party. And **he would include the County Planning Commission as an "unelected commission"**. "These commissions, boards, and working groups are stacked with activists, lobbyists, and people who could not win at the ballot box but still want a say in how you and I live. They do not answer to the voters, and they do not have to face the people whose lives they are reshaping. I oppose unelected commissions. Decisions about land, wildlife, energy, and liberty must be made by elected officials who answer directly to the people. That is the only way we keep government accountable". He sees the world in black and white; friends and enemies, "them vs.us". Elected officials and governments should have all the power and decision making, and alternate opinions of those who want to sit at the table and talk about issues are enemies.

This philosophy that advisory committees, research groups and even planning commissions are led by activists who should have no voice, no say in decision making, isn't new. And, in fact, it is becoming popular in our current political climate. Heather Cox Richardson wrote in her Sept. 7 "Letters from an American", "The apparent plan of the Trump administration reflects the strategy of Nazi political theorist Carl Schmitt, whose writings seem lately to have captivated leaders on the American right, including billionaire Peter Thiel and the man who influenced him, Curtis Yarvin. Schmitt opposed liberal democracy, in which the state enables individuals to determine their own fate. Instead, he argued that true democracy erases individual self-determination by making the mass of people one with the state and exercising their will through state power. That uniformity requires getting rid of opposition. Schmitt theorized that politics is simply about dividing people into friends and enemies and using the power of the state to crush enemies. As J.D. Vance described Schmitt's ideas in 2024: "There's no law, there's just pow-

er."

https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/september-8-2025?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email&utm_content=share

And I would be remiss to gloss over Scott Mijares' role in preaching the philosophy of governing by decree and power. Not only has he prevented and delayed discussions with community members whose opinions diverge from his own, he publicly insulted and denigrated Frank Rodriguez, former County Manager, insulted commissioner Sue Hansen during Board meetings including asking her where she will be when she mentioned she would be absent at an upcoming meeting (Mijares: "Are you going for business, or for pleasure?"), he insulted county attorney Marti Whitmore and then complained that neither Marti nor Frank showed him any respect. This lack of consideration for working with others civilly is just what took place recently in the BOCC discussion re: GORP. No sitting at the table to discuss issues that may affect Montrose County; just a Montrose County BOCC Resolution that proclaims a line drawn in the sand: **NO**. Commissioner Hansen was the only commissioner who did not vote for the proclamation, saying that the proclamation takes away their ability to be a voice in the process. Sean Pond and Scott Mijares (who will appear on the Montrose County ballot in November in a recall vote), both felt that the proclamation WAS their voice, by saying NO. That is a far cry from civil dialogue.

<https://www.montrosecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/25371/Resolution-31-2025>

Aimee Tooker, on the hand, citizen in the West End, would like to see coordination, collaboration, cooperation and a seat at the table early on with the players who are working with the other counties. She rightly realizes that if Montrose County does not have a seat at the table to discuss decisions surrounding GORP, we may not be able to speak up until it's too late – which almost happened with the Dolores River National Monument. She

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT DO BUC-EE'S AND BOCC HAVE IN COMMON? From previous pg

She says that by the time the West End knew what was taking place, advocates for the National Monument already had an 11th draft of plans.

Commissions or advisory boards – yes, **unelected commissions** as Sean Pond puts it - that use the model of cooperation, collaboration and coordination to develop grass roots solutions for rural towns are much more effective in staying in the conversation than a proclamation that says “no, we don’t want this and we are against it”, as will be the effect the GORP proclamation that Pond and Mijares just voted to issue. The government to government model that Aimee Tooker promotes, builds on consensus, whereas the line drawn in the sand ends all conversation. <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1GeKba6UxN/>

I wouldn’t be surprised if, in months or years to come, the GORP plans will incorporate Montrose County lands and the BOCC will be completely in the dark about these plans. In other words, Buc-ee the Beaver may come back to bite. The approach they choose is very short-sighted, and while Commissioner Hansen speaks to the short-sightedness of these actions, I’m surprised that the County Attorney doesn’t bring it up in executive sessions as the decision to not be involved may have long term legal implications in the future.

Consensus, collaboration, cooperation and coordination have all been sorely missed from the decisions made by the Montrose BOCC since Scott Mijares became a commissioner. Remarkably, Michael Badagliacco, who is the editor of “the Doge Report,” in the current issue writes, “Mijares had a clear path to avert this chaos. He could have stepped down voluntarily, enabling the vacancy committee to appoint a successor. This move would have deflated the recall effort entirely, halting what amounts to a baseless witch hunt. No one claims Mijares is flawless by any stretch. Mijares is brash and condescending, and he would benefit from Dale Carnegie’s “How to Win Friends and Influence People”. If people still question the efforts of the Recall Committee (yes, an “unelected commission”), they have to look no further than the BOCC video transcripts to see one of the many reasons Scott Mijares is not right for the Montrose BOCC.

<https://www.codogereport.com/dont-hand-montrose-county-to-the-left>

Kim Spangrude

Montrose, Colorado

REJECT BOORISH AND CLOWN BEHAVIOR FROM POLITICAL ELITE

Editor:

I’m old enough to recall the state funerals of Winston Churchill and Dwight Eisenhower.

I’m also old enough to recall the political assassinations of JFK and MLK.

The assassination of Charlie Kirk is different yet feels the same. The aforementioned assassinations, whether state-sponsored or lone wolf or cabal-sponsored, all occurred because someone did not agree with the respective political views.

Someone thought the elimination of an individual, because of their political views, was necessary and had an upside. Mr. Kirk was assassinated because the opposing position was indefensible and not intellectually competitive. Instead of attempting to compete and debate, the cabal (potentially) felt their only other option was to murder him. This is where the assassinations feel the same.

What’s different is that, in earlier times, assassinations would make the average citizen recoil at the insanity of the act. I witnessed, as a lad, my extended family praying for the deceased, praying for unity, praying for civility. My mother did not agree, at times, with Uncle Tommy but both prayed together. I don’t sense that this time. The assassination of Charlie Kirk is a pivotal moment in our journey as a society and culture. There doesn’t seem to be any restraints on boorish behavior. The senseless act of violence is heralded by some, public and privately, all because the political views of Charlie Kirk did not align with theirs. As a country, as a society, as a culture we should not accept those boorish behaviors. To accept that behavior is to encourage the behavior and encourage others to engage in random acts of violence. To reject the boorish behavior begins with you and I. As citizens, we must encourage civil discourse. We must talk. No texting, no emails, we must converse. So what if we differ in our political visions and viewpoints? In talking, with each other, we visualize the humanity, we sense value, we get to know that individual we disagree with. We see the eyes, we hear their voices. Our digital lives strip most of humanity from a conversation. It seems the only humanity left, in a text or email, is the misspelled word. Our “posts” are aseptic.

To discourage further acts of violence means we, as citizens, must reject boorish and clown behavior from the political elite. The vitriol from the Squad, the insane banter from Rep Crockett, the pettiness of McConnell and Schumer, the misrepresentations/lies from Fauxhontas, unacceptable behavior from the former representative of Florida district 1.

All this must cease.

We must demand nothing less, otherwise we will become injured by more assassinations.

It’s up to you and I.

Robert Franco, Montrose County



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IGNORING ROGUE JUDGES: A PRESIDENTIAL PREROGATIVE WITH LIMITS

Editor:

The question of whether a president should ignore rogue judges is not a simple yes or no. It depends entirely on the context. When judicial decisions encroach upon the core powers granted to the executive under Article II of the Constitution, the president has not only the right but the duty to disregard them. However, if the president's actions would themselves violate the Constitution, such defiance becomes untenable. This nuanced approach upholds the supremacy of the Constitution as the ultimate law of the land, ensuring that no branch oversteps its bounds.

Constitutional Foundations

Article II vests the president with sweeping executive authority, including the power to execute the laws faithfully, command the military, and conduct foreign affairs. The Take Care Clause in Article II, Section 3, mandates that the president "shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." This clause has been interpreted to mean that the president must prioritize the Constitution over conflicting statutes or judicial orders that undermine executive prerogatives.

As the Supreme Law of the Land under Article VI, Clause 2 – the Supremacy Clause – the Constitution trumps any inferior laws passed by Congress. If a statute unconstitutionally limits presidential powers, the executive has the authority to decline enforcement, as affirmed in a 1994 Office of Legal Counsel opinion.

Historical Precedents

Historical precedents illustrate this principle in action. President Andrew Jackson famously ignored the Supreme Court's ruling in *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), which protected Cherokee rights against state encroachment. Jackson proceeded with Indian removal policies, viewing the decision as an overreach into executive enforcement of treaties and federal law.

Similarly, during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus despite Chief Justice Roger Taney's ruling in *Ex parte Merryman* (1861) that such action exceeded presidential authority. Lincoln argued that his duty to preserve the Union under Article II justified the measure, and Congress later ratified it. These examples show presidents safeguarding their constitutional roles against judicial interference.

Modern Contexts and Applications

In modern contexts, this applies to areas like national security and immigration. For instance, if a judge issues an injunction blocking an executive order on border control – a core Article II function involving foreign affairs and law execution – the president could justifiably proceed if the order aligns with constitutional mandates. The executive's duty to disregard unconstitutional statutes stems from the oath in Article II, Section 1, to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution." Scholars argue that this includes non-enforcement of laws that infringe on executive powers, as the president is not bound to execute what violates the higher law.

Boundaries and Limitations

Yet, this power is not unlimited. If a president's defiance would violate the Constitution itself, it must be rejected outright. For example, actions that infringe on individual rights protected by the Bill of Rights, such as unwarranted searches under the Fourth Amendment, cannot be justified under the guise of executive authority.

The Constitution does not grant the president power to violate its own provisions, as noted in analyses of executive overreach. Presidents must adhere to judicial interpretations that uphold constitutional limits, as seen in *United States v. Nixon* (1974), where the Supreme Court compelled President Richard Nixon to release tapes, and he complied, recognizing the

ruling's alignment with separation of powers.

Addressing Criticisms

Critics might argue that ignoring judges invites chaos, undermining the rule of law established in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), which affirmed judicial review. However, *Marbury* itself dealt with statutory interpretation, not core executive powers. When judges act as "rogue" by issuing orders that effectively rewrite the Constitution or usurp executive functions, the president's obligation shifts. The Supremacy Clause demands that federal officials, including the president, prioritize constitutional fidelity over conflicting judicial edicts.

Upholding the Balance

This balanced view prevents tyranny from any branch. Congress cannot pass statutes that neuter Article II powers, as such laws would be unconstitutional on their face. Just because a bill becomes law does not make it constitutional; the president's role in execution includes assessing its validity against the supreme document. As one legal scholar posits, the Take Care Clause implies a "completion power" for the executive to fill gaps or override where necessary to faithful execution.

Presidents should ignore rogue judges when defending Article II powers, but never at the cost of constitutional violations. This framework preserves the republic's delicate balance, ensuring the executive fulfills its duty to uphold the supreme law. By drawing this line, we honor the founders' vision of coequal branches, each vigilant against overreach.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN LUNCHEON & PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program will be Friday, Sept. 19 at Noon at the Hampton Inn Montrose. Brown bag lunch. MRW will have a meet and greet for the Montrose School District Board Candidates followed by Senator Marc Catlin discussing the recent "Special Session" at the state capitol. Come find out more and bring a friend! Doors open at 11:30a. Call Kerri - 970-209-5170

NEW MEXICO TEENAGER CHARGED WITH MAKING VIOLENT ONLINE THREATS

US Attorney's Office-District of New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE – A New Mexico teenager has been charged with making violent threats on social media following the assassination of Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk. According to court documents, on or about September 11, 2025, Jace Allen, 19, used an account on X.com under the alias "Jebbron Lames" to post a series of violent and racist threats following the assassination of Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk on September 10, 2025. Among the threats, Allen wrote that he planned to commit mass murder, target minorities and Jews, and shoot up unspecified locations. He also threatened an Ohio city council member directly, telling the official, "You're gonna be one of the first to die." The FBI's Toledo Resident Agency quickly traced the account to Allen's phone and residence in Jamestown, New Mexico. Agents from the FBI Gallup Resident Agency located and interviewed Allen at his home on September 11, 2025. Allen admitted to making the posts, acknowledged being a Neo-Nazi who hates Jews and minorities, and said he wanted to help spark a civil war by terrorizing people online. Although Allen stated he did not own a firearm, a search of his phone revealed videos of him firing a rifle and handgun in August 2025.

Allen is charged with transmitting communications containing a threat to injure another person and will remain in custody pending a detention hearing. If convicted of the current charges, Allen faces five years in prison.

Acting U.S. Attorney Ryan Ellison and Philip Russell, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Albuquerque Field Office, made the announcement today.


The Gallup Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Albuquerque Field Office investigated this case. Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew McGinley is prosecuting the case.

A criminal complaint is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JIMMERS BBQ TO BE FEATURED ON AMERICA'S BEST RESTAURANTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Local eatery Jimmers BBQ will be hosting a visit from *America's Best Restaurants* (ABR) in late September 2025. *America's Best Restaurants*, a national media and marketing company focusing on bringing attention to local, independently-owned restaurants, will bring its ABR Roadshow to the restaurant on Sept. 25th. Popular dishes will be highlighted, along with an extensive on-camera interview with owner Chistopher 'CJ' Picon about the restaurant's special place in the community. The episode will be aired extensively on social media channels at a later date.

Picon, a Colorado native, has a long history in the restaurant industry from bussing to food sales to becoming a Certified Executive Chef. While the concept of Jimmers BBQ began in Cortez in 2012, three years later a second location opened in Montrose and eventually moved to its present location, the former Red Barn Restaurant at 1413 E Main St. Picon bought the restaurant in 2022. He is interested in being on an episode of the *Roadshow* to showcase his eatery, the support he has for the community from the local schools to the hospital, and reinforce their presence in the local economy.

"[I'd like to] really kind of solidify our position in the community," he says. "I'm not from Montrose, and though I've always lived in Colorado, I definitely had some people when I first took ownership question who I was."

Jimmers BBQ offers a tidy yet rustic atmosphere with outdoor seating and a menu of barbecue choices, including starters, soup and salad, smoked meats, wings, burgers and sandwiches and 'Favorites', such as the BBQ Loaded Baked Potato and the Fat Boy Taco, filled with cheesy potatoes and meat. Other popular items include the Jimmers Melt sandwich, pulled pork and mac-and-cheese on grilled Texas toast with barbecue sauce; the smoked turkey breast; brisket, and the homemade fruit cobbler with homemade ice cream.

America's Best Restaurants will be filming on location on Thursday September 25th from 2 pm to 5 pm MST. The press is invited to attend. The restaurant's finished episode premiere date will be announced on their Facebook page; follow for updates and more information about the restaurant at <https://www.facebook.com/jimmersmontrose>.

Restaurants featured on the ABR Roadshow are selected based on their customer reviews, menu items, social media presence, and level of involvement with their community. They are found through customer nominations, internal vetting or by a restaurant applying to be featured at www.americasbestrestaurants.com.


About Jimmers BBQ: Open Monday through Saturday, Jimmers BBQ is located at 1413 E Main St, Montrose CO 81401. Telephone is (970) 252-1227. For more information visit www.jimmersbbq.com.

About ABR: Headquartered in Florence, KY, *America's Best Restaurants* is a national media and restaurant marketing company that travels the country telling the stories and highlighting the unique food of locally owned independent restaurants as part of their ABR Roadshow. Restaurants are featured not only on ABR's Restaurant Network of social media channels and website, but also each individual establishment's Facebook page. With over 2000 episodes filmed, *America's Best Restaurants* is the premier marketing agency for restaurant owners and operators to have their story broadcast coast-to-coast. Visit AmericasBestRestaurants.com to learn more and to view the episodes and profiles of hundreds of *America's Best Restaurants*!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH WELCOMES NEUROLOGIST GARRETT RIGGS, MD, PHD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health (MRH) has opened a new Neurology Clinic on the second floor of the original San Juan Cancer Center building at 600 S. 5th St. in Montrose. The clinic is led by Garrett Riggs, MD, PhD, a board-certified neurologist with extensive experience in patient care, research, and education.

Riggs joins MRH as the community transitions from longtime neurologist Michael Hehmann, MD, who first established neurologic care in Montrose in 1995.

"I am excited to join Montrose Regional Health and serve patients in this beautiful community," said Riggs. "Neurology is a field where compassionate care and specialized expertise make a real difference in quality of life. My goal is to provide personalized care close to home, so patients and their families do not need to travel far to receive the neurological services they deserve."

Riggs completed medical school at the University of Louisville and postgraduate training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in internal medicine and neurology. He then completed two fellowships at the University of Rochester: one in cognitive and behavioral neurology, and another NIH-supported fellowship in clinical trials.

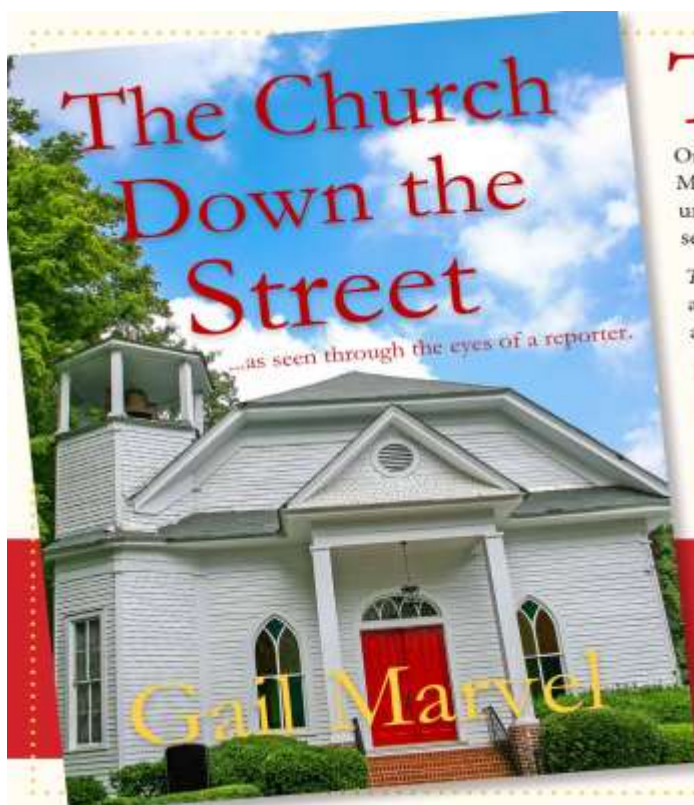
His career has included faculty appointments at the University of Rochester and the University of Central Florida, where he became associate professor of neurology and medical education. He has also served at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando, the Banner Alzheimer's Institute in Phoenix, and most recently as consulting neurologist for the U.S. Indian Health Service – Navajo region. His research includes NIH-funded trials in Alzheimer's disease and language disorders.

The new clinic provides care for patients with a wide range of neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, epilepsy, migraines and headaches, stroke, movement disorders, and neuromuscular conditions.

The MRH Neurology Clinic is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more or schedule an appointment, call 970-497-8080.



Garrett Riggs, MD, PhD, a board-certified neurologist, is leading the new Montrose Regional Health Neurology Clinic. Courtesy Photo.



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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY KICKS OFF MOBILE DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County recently kicked off a project to inventory the condition of all roads maintained by the County. To accomplish this, the County retained the services of Roadway Asset Services, LLC (RAS) based out of Austin, TX. RAS is a nationwide firm and provides professional asset management and mobile data collection services to local and state government agencies. This is the second data collection cycle performed by RAS for the County.

RAS operates a fleet of sophisticated data collection vehicles equipped with an array of precision instrumentation and data collection equipment that helps state and local transportation agencies inventory and manage transportation infrastructure, facilities, and assets.

Specifically, the vans possess digital cameras that will collect imagery on all pavement and above ground, transportation-related assets located within the right-of-way. This imagery will be used to assess the pavement conditions and update the County's pavement management program.

In order to collect all relevant data, the vehicles will be traveling all roads maintained by Montrose County and in order to ensure the highest quality of data and imagery, the vehicles will only collect data



Montrose County Courtesy photo.

during daylight hours.

If residents have any questions or need additional information regarding the vehicles, the project, or the process; they are encouraged to contact Montrose County Public Works (970) 252-7000.

For more information, contact:

Brandon Wallace
Interim Public Works Director
Montrose County
63160 LaSalle Rd
Montrose, CO 81401
T: 970-252-7001
E: bwallace@montrosecounty.net



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Timeless Appeal **MODERN COMFORT** HOME FOR SALE

Discover timeless appeal and modern comfort in this what seems to be a Mid-Century Modern home.

Discover timeless appeal and modern comfort in this what seems to be a Mid-Century Modern home. With 2,072 sq ft of single-level living, the layout offers both roominess and accessibility. The oversized two-bay garage features a dedicated workspace — perfect for hobbies, storage, or weekend projects. Enjoy outdoor living in the privacy-fenced backyard with a generous covered patio, ideal for entertaining or relaxing in style. Mature landscaping, a full sprinkler system, and a classic brick facade with a durable metal roof add to the home's impressive curb appeal. Inside, you'll find: A large, inviting living room. This home has a fireplace with a gas insert. A fabulous den — perfect for a home office, studio, or media room. A well-appointed kitchen with solid surface counter tops and a pantry, roomy enough for a second refrigerator. Incredible storage throughout — more than you may ever need! Notice the second water heater by the bedrooms and an additional H2O source under the kitchen sink. Located adjacent to Montrose Golf Course, this property offers scenic serenity with the convenience of being in the heart of Montrose — close to dining, shopping, and all the best the city has to offer. This home blends classic design with everyday function — and it's truly one-of-a-kind.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TWO HUMAN CASES OF WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED IN DELTA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County Public Health is reporting two confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) this year. One individual is an 80+ year old male from the Delta area. The other is an 80+ year old woman from the Surface Creek area.

WNV can infect people of all ages. Many people infected with WNV will have no symptoms; however, when present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever, headache, and fatigue. In rare cases, more severe illness and death can occur. If you have concerns, contact your healthcare provider.

To protect yourself:

Remember the four R's:

REPEL mosquitoes using an EPA-registered insect repellent.

REMOVE standing water from your home and yard.

REPAIR or replace damaged window and door screens.

REMIND your family, friends, and neighbors about mosquito safety.

Use insect repellents when you go outdoors. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus, as well as para-menthane-diol products, provide the best protection. To learn more about insect repellents, including information on products, active ingredients, and safety, visit the EPA's information webpage. Follow label instructions.

-Limit outdoor activities at dusk and dawn. That is when mosquitoes are most active.

-Wear protective clothing, such as loose-fitting long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and tall socks. Mosquitoes can bite through tight clothes, so loose-fitting clothes provide better protection.

To mosquito-proof your home:

-Drain standing water around your house at least once a week. Empty water from tires, cans, flowerpots, clogged gutters, rain barrels, birdbaths, toys, and puddles.

- Install or repair screens on windows and doors.

Anyone living in an area where the West Nile virus is present in mosquitoes can get infected. The risk of infection is highest for people who spend time outdoors, because of greater exposure to mosquitoes.

The time between when a person is bitten by an infected mosquito to when they experience symptoms is usually 2-6 days, but can be up to 14 days. Most people who are infected with the West Nile virus will not have any symptoms. About one in every five people infected with West Nile virus will develop an illness that may include headache, muscle aches, joint pain, rash, or gastrointestinal symptoms. **Older adults and those who are immunocompromised are at increased risk of severe illness.** Talk with a health care provider if you experience new or worsening symptoms of illness, including severe headaches or confusion.

There is no treatment for West Nile virus, but mild illness usually improves on its own.

Prevention is key, especially for people at higher risk. Rest, fluids, and over-the-counter pain medications may relieve some symptoms.

For more information:

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/animal-related-diseases/west-nile-virus/west-nile-virus-data>

<https://www.deltacountyco.gov/820/West-Nile-Virus>.

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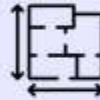
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CHRISTOPHER HARLEY MILLER

October 26, 1968 — September 7, 2025



On the morning of Sunday, September 7, 2025, Christopher Harley Miller passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his wife Julie, his three boys, and family. Chris was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend.

Chris was born October 26, 1968, to Elizabeth and James Miller in Fort Myers, Florida, although he spent most of his life in Montrose, Colorado. In 1987, he met his best friend and future wife, Julie, at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO. They married in 1991, and shortly after moved to Colorado Springs, CO. Here, they were blessed with their firstborn, Jacob (Jake) and two and a half years later, Jared. Chris, Julie, and their boys moved to Montrose where they moved into their forever home, and three years later welcomed one more son, Gabriel.

Chris wore many hats, had many interests, and pursued many careers before accepting a position at Platte River Valley in 2012 in the Information Technology Department, where he worked for thirteen years. Before then, he owned and

operated a sod farm with his lifelong friend, Wes Browning; he built log homes with Frontier Log Homes; he installed windows with Telluride Window and Door, and even had a brief stint working at the Home Depot.

Another hat Chris often wore was Coach, in both the literal and metaphorical sense. He coached baseball for all three of his boys. When he wasn't coaching, it was a guarantee he would be in the stands as a front-row coach. He loved watching his boys play sports and took so much pride in their successes.

When Chris wasn't working or at a game, he was tending to the farm, hunting, fishing, grilling, bartending at his self-built patio bar, or riding his tractor – he loved his tractor.

Chris battled with illness for decades, but he never let it affect his drive, passion for living life, love for his family, or his faith in God. Chris was a fighter and the toughest son of a gun out there – he was, in every sense, Superman. In the fall of 2024, after receiving his final diagnosis, he jumped on a horse and went hunting with his friend, Paul Woerner, where he got a massive and beautiful 6-point elk.

Chris lived his life with integrity, upstanding character, and an infectious sense of humor. Many knew him as a steward and servant of the Lord, a role model and remarkable example of a father, son, husband, community member, selfless neighbor, patient listener, and a faithful friend. He constantly sought opportunities to share and show the love of Jesus to anyone around. He always put the Lord at the center of his life and never let his faith waver no matter what challenges he faced. Chris truly always lived his life in honor and service to Him.

Chris is preceded in death by his father

James Miller (Ish) and his father-in-law Jerry Downie (Papa). He is survived by his wife Julie Miller, his sister Rebecca Cooper, his mother Elizabeth Miller (Grammars), his three boys Jake, Jared and Gabe, his daughters-in-law Chandler Smith Miller and Kaela Miller, his mother-in-law Lori Downie (Nana), his cherished in-laws, nieces, nephews, and dear friends near and far.

A final note (because Chris would have hated his obituary ending with "survived by") –

Christopher's name means "bearer of Christ." Isn't that the perfect definition of who he was? Chris was love. He lived his life in service of his family, his community, and Him. He loved his family, his town, his God, and he loved baseball. We know he's here, beaming at his community, family and loved ones. We feel him here as we mourn him and as we cry. And we also know in our hearts that if he were here, he'd be reminding us – **"Hey! There's no crying in baseball!"**

-Please join us to celebrate a husband, father, friend, man of God, and our superhero at 11:00am on Friday September 12 at Grace Community Church. There will be a reception to follow with light refreshments and an opportunity to laugh, cry, and share stories.

-Chris was a huge Montrose High School fan where he championed all three of his boys as they competed. To honor him, please feel free to incorporate red in whatever you choose to wear to the celebration. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations in memory of Chris can be made to Grace Community Church online at www.gracecolorado.net/give, or in person at 16731 Woodgate Rd. Montrose, CO 81401; or to HopeWest online at www.hopewestco.org/memorial-gifts.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DAVID "SCOTTY" JAMES SCOTT *December 6, 1949 — September 6, 2025*

DAVID JAMES SCOTT, lovingly known as "Scotty," passed away peacefully at his home in Montrose, Colorado, on September 6, 2025, at the age of 75, surrounded by his family.

Born on December 6, 1949, in Denver, Colorado, Scotty dedicated his life to service, family, and community. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps, achieving the rank of Sergeant. Following his military service, he spent more than 40 years in law enforcement, including 17 years as the Marshal of Ridgway, where he became a respected and trusted figure in the community.

Known for his quick wit and resilient spirit, Scotty often greeted friends with his trademark line, "Well, I'm upright," and encouraged those around him with his reminder to "punt and regroup." He was married to the love of his life, Krista Scott, until her passing in 2022. Scotty is survived by his younger brother Jay O, his son, Derek, his daughter, Jill, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind his beloved cats, Riley and Traziee, along with cherished memories of the many cats who brought him joy throughout his life.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Crippin Funeral Home Chapel, 802 E. Main Street, Montrose, Colorado. A military service will follow on Friday, September 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. Flowers may be sent directly to Crippin Funeral Home.



DAVID "DAVE" LEIGH HOUTZ *June 23, 1953- September 8, 2025*



DAVID LEIGH HOUTZ, lovingly known as Dave, passed away peacefully on September 8, 2025, at Ferris Hospice Center in Grand Junction, Colorado. Born on June 23, 1953, in Cleveland, Ohio, Dave was the son of Frank and Marie Houtz.

At age 10, Dave moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where his lifelong passion for music took root. He played bass in high school garage bands and began collecting Rock 'n' Roll vinyl—a hobby that would grow into a treasured archive.

After high school, Dave embarked on a career in jewelry making, a craft that would define much of his life. In 1978, he relocated to Ouray, Colorado, where he embraced the mountain lifestyle. He worked on ranches, bartended at the Outlaw and Long Branch, and proudly served on both the Ouray Mountain Rescue Team and the Ouray Volunteer Fire Department.

In the late 1980s, Dave settled in Ridgway and opened Rocky Mountain Jewelry, where he created handcrafted pieces inspired by the rugged beauty of the San Juan Mountains. His work, especially his signature mountain bracelets, became beloved by locals and visitors alike. His artistry and dedication to the community extended to his service with the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department.

Outside of his workshop, Dave found joy in Jeeping (Engineer Pass was a favorite), snorkeling in Mexico, and spending time with friends aboard his cherished "party-o."

Dave is survived by his brother Jeff, his daughter Jeni Dwyer (Mark), and his granddaughter Lily, who brought him immense pride and joy.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department in Dave's honor. A celebration of Dave's life will be held at a later date.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KEVIN KUNS

March 11, 1955 – September 3, 2025



KEVIN KUNS, a beloved friend, mentor, and advocate, passed away on September 3, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 70 years old.

Born in Lusk, Wyoming, on March 11, 1955, Kevin spent his childhood in Lance Creek and Libya before his family settled in Findlay, Ohio. He graduated from Findlay High School in 1973, forming lifelong friendships with many of his classmates. Kevin attended Bowling Green University before transferring to Arizona State University in Phoenix, where he began to develop a deep passion for helping others.

Kevin's career in the restaurant industry took him up and down the California coast, where he found joy in building teams, training staff, and helping others succeed. In 1990, Kevin married Jinger Snapp. Although their marriage ended in 2000, Kevin and Jinger remained lifelong friends.

In the early 2000s, Kevin relocated to Houston, Texas, to be closer to his parents. There, he launched a successful res-

taurant recruiting business, which he ran until 2020. In 2009, Kevin moved to Casper, Wyoming, where he met and married his best friend, Bobbie.

Together, they moved to Montrose, Colorado, in 2014.

Kevin became deeply involved in his community, dedicating his time and energy to numerous nonprofits and political organizations. He served on the boards of the U.V.A., Western Colorado Alliance, and Montrose Community Dinners, and was a member of the Montrose County Citizens Advisory Board until its disbandment. In 2019, he became Chair of the Montrose County Democratic Party, where his unique leadership helped transform the local party into a major force in regional politics. Kevin was honored with the Chair's Award in 2020 and the Rural Outreach Award in 2024.

He also ran for House District 58, worked with the Colorado Democratic Party, and supported Kathleen Curry in her own bid for HD58. Kevin's passion for politics was grounded in his belief in collaboration, kindness, and finding common ground across party lines.

Beyond his professional and political accomplishments, Kevin had a remarkable talent for making connections and building community. He never met a stranger. Within minutes of meeting him, you felt like you'd found a lifelong friend. Kevin was instrumental in organizing the 2019 Women's March in Montrose, which drew over 500 attendees — the largest such event in the area at the time. His enthusiasm for bringing people together was infectious, and he was always the first to rally support for a cause.

Kevin and Bobbie shared a love of the great Colorado outdoors, spending time camping, jeeping, and biking. He was an avid dog lover, and his three pups miss him dearly.

A true Parrot Head, Kevin had a deep love for Jimmy Buffett and was a devoted Houston Astros fan, attending games both in Houston and later at Coors Field in Denver.

Kevin is survived by his loving wife, Bobbie; his mother, Patricia Kuns; his bonus daughter, Stacey Sanger of Casper, Wyoming; his bonus son and daughter-in-law, Bryan and Jade Sanger of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; and his beloved granddaughter, Sage, who was truly the light of his life. He is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Jan and Mark Zimmerman of Colorado Springs; and his nieces and nephew, Anne Robles (Terry), Missy Beach (Jason), and Jake Zimmerman — as well as several great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Stan Kuns.

A celebration of Kevin's life will be held on September 28, 2025, at the Ute Museum. Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/2rba9v8k. All of Kevin's friends are invited to join us in sharing stories and memories of his extraordinary life. Please dress to honor his love of Jimmy Buffett. Memorials can be given to Montrose County Democrats, Black Canyon Animal Sanctuary, or your favorite charity.

In keeping with Kevin's wishes, we encourage everyone to continue fighting the good fight — championing those less fortunate, and carrying forward his legacy of connection, compassion, and courage. As Kevin would say... BOOM!

MARGUERITE LATTA MADDALONE

MARGUERITE LATTA MADDALONE 84, of Montrose, passed away on September 6, 2025. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family.

ISSUE 539 Sept. 15, 2025

ART & SOL

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

By Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald

MONTROSE-We have always been a part of a family. "Family" is a blessing and a gift from God. Our first family is ourselves – Heart, Mind, and Spirit. Our second family is the one to which we have been born – a family of two – mother and child. Our third family includes our fathers – a family of three – then our family includes siblings, and the extended family of grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins.

As we grow, our family includes our friends, classmates, and teachers. We choose the people who become our extended family in life. We continue to grow our family as we mature, choosing new people to add to our spiritual family, our social family, our career family, our entertainment family, and even our political family. We feel we belong to a national family and a global family.

What is it about family that is so important? Family is our opportunity to learn about and develop "relationship." Relationship is the state of being connected. It is also about how we regard and behave toward each other and our world. One of the important Native American spiritual concepts is the Medicine Wheel. In this perspective each one of us stands in the center of a great circle (our world) with our Creator. From this Center we are in relationship to everything on the outside of our circle – the rest of our world.

Scientists say our minds are the center of our universe, and we are the observers of everything that happens outside our minds. Our minds then attempt to make connections with the information coming back through our five senses. Science generally leaves out the Creator and instead focuses on how we regard and behave toward each other.

The concept of family is older than science. Family begins with the birth of life itself, with our creation. We are created in Love and Love is what makes our strongest connections. This is evident in our words. "I love my grandma. I love football. I love camping and fishing. I love you." Love is our strongest connection.

Other emotions also connect us – passion, pride, hate, frustration, despair, joy. Our emotions are the expression of the connection we feel with other people and the world outside of us. When our emotions are positive, our world seems to be in harmony and balance. We feel healthier and everything in our life goes smoothly. When our emotions are negative, our world turns upside down.

In an article in *Nautilus* magazine, psychology professor Lisa Feldman Barrett of Northeastern University writes that we need to rewrite our emotional intelligence. She and her students coined the phrase "emotional granularity." In her research, she discovered that the more emotions we can name and understand,



Think about all the things you learned in your first years from your family. Mirror File photo.

the happier and healthier we become, even the words for emotions in other languages. This gives us a broader range of emotions.

Building strong connections in relationships is the purpose of family. Family is our first school, and our parents are our first teachers. We learn everything we need to survive in this world by age three years. These first years should be spent learning in a positive and loving environment.

In our family, we learn how to respect each other and not grab and keep the possessions of others. We learn the importance of sharing,

Continued next pg

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY From previous pg



***"Family" is a blessing and a gift from God.
Mirror File photo.***

kind and loving words. We learn that working together is fun and brings good rewards. We learn not to take out our anger on others, but to channel it into physical activities. We learn to be kind and not to hurt one another. We learn how to resolve differences. We learn the value of supporting each other and so much more. We learn it's okay not to be perfect. We learn about Love.

Think about all the things you learned in those first three years from your family.

Being a part of the family of God also helps us with connecting to our family members and members of our other "families" on a higher level. Recognizing that each of us is a beloved child of God, helps us keep a higher perspective of others. Knowing that we are all loved and cherished by the Divine Spirit helps us release negative feelings and emotions and raises them back to Love.

Spiritual teachers all over the world, and through all the centuries, remind us that we are all one family connected with Love. I invite you to reflect on your greater family relationships with these quotes: "My religion is kindness," says His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The poet, Rumi, said, "The Beloved is everyone." Jesus reminded his disciples, "Love one another as I have loved you." Herbert Kretzmer wrote, "To love another person is to touch the face of God."

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald is the Senior Minister at the Spiritual Awareness Center in Montrose, Colorado, and author of several spiritual self-discovery books.

The Mirror:

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www.montrosemirror.com

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

110TH ANNUAL FRUITA FALL FESTIVAL RETURNS SEPT. 25–27, 2025 WITH A BARNYARD BASH THEME

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA – The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the return of the 110th Annual Fruita Fall Festival, set for Thursday, Sept. 25 through Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025.

This year's theme, "Barnyard Bash," promises a fun-filled weekend celebrating community, tradition, and the local economy - featuring free entry, live music, and family-friendly entertainment in the heart of Downtown Fruita. The weekend kicks off on Thursday, Sept. 25 at Fruita Civic Center Park with the Beef & Wine Fund-raising Dinner and ticketed event hosted by the Next GEN Producers, a student-led program cultivating the future of agriculture. On Friday, Sept. 26, the crowd-favorite What the Fest Brew Fest returns to Civic Center Park from 3 pm – 9:30 pm. Guests will receive a commemorative tasting mug, unlimited tastes from 8+ breweries, a voting token, and two drink tickets. Admission to the Fruita Fall Festival itself is completely FREE on Friday and Saturday!

Across Downtown Fruita, attendees can enjoy:

- Free live music all weekend long
- Petting zoo hosted by Appleton 4-H
- Pony rides with Grand Valley Horse Rescue
- Horse-drawn carriage and train rides by Absolute Prestige
- Beloved competitions and traditions including the Grand Valley Beard Rally, Out-house Race, Parade, Pet Show, Baking & Canning Contest, Cupcake Eating Contest, 5K benefiting Mesa County Search & Rescue, Cornhole Tournament, and Softball Tournaments

New This Year

- Tractor Show at Circle Park – Saturday, Sept. 27 from 11 am – 3 pm
- Circle Park Bash – featuring the Balloon Dude Experience Presented by Maxed Productions, with balloon art, magic, live music, prizes, and more
- Circle Park After Dark Parties – Friday's DJ Max & The Balloon Dude Glow Dance Party and Saturday's Foam Party from 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Supporting Local Businesses

This year's event layout has been redesigned to better support Fruita's vibrant local business community. Vendor booths will line the center of Aspen Avenue, back-to-back, facing downtown storefronts, inviting festivalgoers to shop local while enjoying the festivities.


Expanded Licensed Premises

The festival's licensed premises now extend throughout Downtown Fruita. Guests can purchase beer, wine, or specialty cocktails and enjoy them across the full festival footprint, including contests, sub-events, and vendor booths. Community Traditions Continue

- Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning hosted by the Fruita Lions Club
- Fruita Lions Club Annual Raffle Drawing – Saturday, 8 pm at the Civic Center Stage

View the full schedule, register for events, and purchase tickets for the Beef & Wine Dinner and What the Fest Brew Fest at fruitafallfestival.org.

The Fruita Fall Festival is proudly hosted by the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce.




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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



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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.

DUKE CANNON



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SNHU ANNOUNCES SUMMER 2025 PRESIDENT'S LIST

Special to the Mirror

MANCHESTER, NH-- It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2025 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12

credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

-James McKnight of Montrose (81401)

-Joseph Walk of Montrose (81401)

-Danielle Martin of Montrose (81401)

-John NWIGWE of Montrose (81401)

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than

200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH.

Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

PRAYER GATHERING AT THE PEACE POLE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The community is invited to a Prayer Gathering at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park on Saturday, Sept. 20th, at Noon to celebrate the International Day of Peace and the Autumn Equinox. Bring your drums and your prayers. Sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center, 970-252-0908. Everyone is welcome, children and adults.



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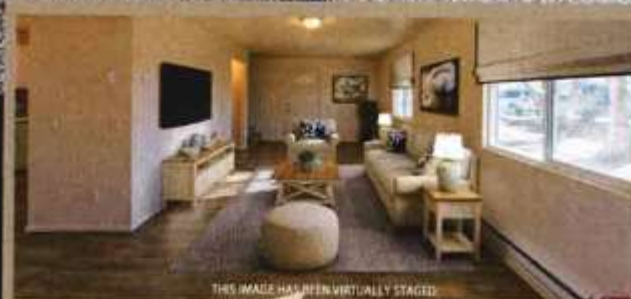


**525 ELIZABETH STREET,
DELTA, CO 81416
MLS # 820393**

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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Renaturing



Contact Author and Speaker:

🌐 laurenhallruddell.com

✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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

The Satisfied Woman



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

There are very few moments in history that carve a line through time—before and after—and demand we examine who we are and what we stand for. The shocking, senseless assassination of Charlie Kirk is one such moment. In the echo of the gunshot, in the grief and

outrage that follows, we must ask: what kind of nation have we become, and is this the turning point?

On September 10, 2025, Charlie Kirk—a figure polarizing to some, passionately admired by many, derided by others—was speaking at Utah Valley University. He was hosting one of his “Prove Me Wrong” events, a format in which he challenged students with opposing views to debate him. I’ve seen several of them. Always entertaining, educational, and often a fascinating look at how people crumble into pejoratives and ad hominem insults when they fail to defend, or even define, their own ideas. Within what should have been the safe sphere of public discourse, someone shot him in the neck, with a long-range rifle. We can only speculate as to why. Was he such a threat for his voice, for his ideas, or for defending discourse and critical thinking? Was it because he was a Christian and outspoken about his faith?

Regardless of Charlie Kirk’s ideas, this act of violence against him is not just a physical crime—it is a moral rupture. It strikes at the foundation of dialogue, dissent, democracy. Executing a person for expressing ideas we dislike is atrocious and unacceptable. It is ironically akin to the behavior of the very Nazis some of the tone deaf celebrators have boldly compared him to.

We live in a time when debate has too often been replaced by demonization; when disagreement becomes justification—not for persuasion—but for silence,

social ostracization, or, in the worst case, physical harm.

-Entitlement of rhetoric and of action:

Too many think they have the right to declare someone other than themselves unworthy of being heard. Some believe certain voices should be removed—not because they’re actually wrong, but because their existence feels threatening.

-Broken values masquerading as principle:

We often hear about “progress,” “inclusion,” “justice,” “compassion” as core values. Yet supporting violence or silence against another human being contradicts those values at their most basic level. You cannot ask for openness in other people’s causes and then reject it when it belongs to those you disagree with.

Fear, cowardice, apathy: At some level, the angle of the narrative—how we look, how we are seen—has become more important than what is true, what is just. Many stand on the sidelines, unwilling to risk being judged or “canceled,” unwilling to speak out when disagreement turns into persecution.

Charlie Kirk’s death is not just a story for headlines, for politics, for blame—it is a story about our deep absence: an absence of humanity, of humility, of accountability and assertiveness from leaders and citizens alike. There is no “Us vs. Them.” That is a bullshit construct by legacy media, rooted in politics and control, designed to rile people up and keep them tuned in. At the end of that day, it means nothing, and yet it costs us everything. There is no place for it in any moral or ethical framework people claim to believe in—religious, secular, left, right. It’s all the same. And taking a life over ideas, over perceived insults or threats, is the ultimate entitlement.

Critics of Charlie Kirk may believe his views harmful, even dangerous. But silencing him through violence, or supporting silence by justifying it, undermines the very things we value: free speech, debate, the possibility of persuasion rather than coercion. I can only hope this moment in time marks the beginning of a

shift toward a collective awakening to the failure in our systems—not just criminal justice, not just public safety—but empathy itself. It is perfectly emblematic of our eroding leadership, values, and rotting cultural firmament.

Poor values don’t begin with monstrous acts—they begin when small cruelties go unchallenged. When insults are normalized. When disagreement becomes dehumanization. When we cheer or turn a blind eye at silencing. And all of it is 100% supported and encouraged through toxic social media doom-scrolling.

This is not about politics, in the end. It’s about being human. About what we owe to one another.

To readers on the left: if you believe in progress, fairness, compassion—then this is not a political trophy but a tragedy that spills from our own failure. Our demand for justice must include the justice of free speech. Our demand for diversity must include not just skin tone or sexual identity, but diversity of ideas. Our demand for safety must include political safety. Our demand for fairness must include protection of ideas, even those we oppose.

To readers on the right: if you believe in law, order, freedom, and faith—then we must acknowledge that opposing ideas does not give license for violence or suppression. We must guard not only our rights, but the rights of those we disagree with. We must acknowledge that in honoring our faith, we must honor our humility and seek justice, not revenge. We must turn the other cheek and lead by example—no matter how hard that may be, and no matter how we are silenced.

This can become a turning point—for good. We do not have to surrender to cynicism. We can choose courage. Choose empathy. Demand from ourselves and our leaders the values we profess. Choose to see people, even opponents, as human beings. To speak, but also to listen. To act—not with violence, but with defense of our principles. To stand up, even when silence feels easier.

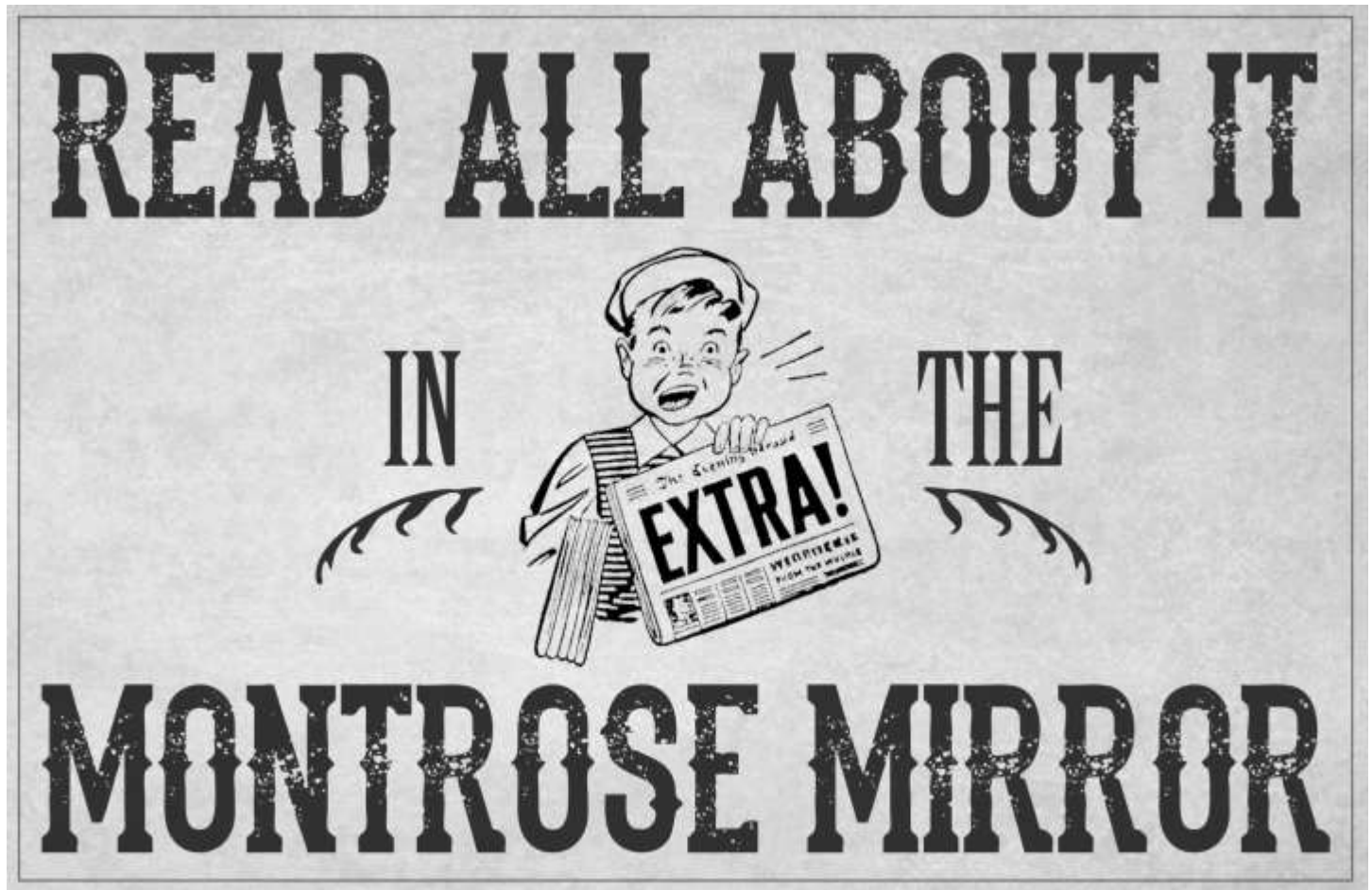
In remembering Charlie Kirk, we have

The Satisfied Woman

Before us a mirror. What we see depends how hard we look: fear, blame, division—and also a chance. A chance to turn. To say that we refuse entitlement in violence. That we believe in the power of ideas; that a difference of opinion is not grounds for death. That life—the delicate, irreplaceable gift—is always more valuable than being right.

If this moment fails, we lose so much more than a voice. We lose trust in each other. We lose faith in humanity. We lose democracy, and safety in the expression of our truth. We lose the very fabric of what allows democracy and dignity to survive. Rest in peace, Charlie. May your wife and children be lifted up, and your words continue to inspire those who need to hear them. May this loss begin the healing of a torn and divided nation.

Gia Pirelli—Former salon owner, group fitness instructor, competitive cyclist and triathlete. These days she's trading blowouts for balance, and endurance for infinity as a certified Yoga and Mat Pilates instructor, Sound Healing Practitioner, Breathwork & Meditation Guide, and inner & outer beauty consultant. She blends physical, mental, and spiritual wellness with creative pursuits like jewelry design and painting. When she's not guiding clients toward balance and beauty, she's exploring the world, chasing waves, riding motorcycles, and saying "yes" to life—and Tank, her Pitbull PIC, is almost always along for the ride.





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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BOSOM BUDDIES 33rd ANNUAL WALK/RUN IS OCT. 11

We Are Stronger Together!



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Get ready to put on your walking shoes, wear pink and be stronger together on Oct. 11th at the 33rd Annual Bosom Buddies Walk/Run fundraiser!

"It's a local tradition!" said Denise Distel, Bosom Buddies Walk Chairperson.

"For 33 years, residents of Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties have joined together to support those with a current breast cancer diagnosis, to salute survivors, and to remember those who were lost."

"Due to high deductibles or no insurance, many people postpone seeing a doctor to check out potential symptoms of breast cancer," said Bosom Buddies President Phyllis Wiesner. "Bosom Buddies helps by providing financial assistance to those who qualify for diagnostic procedures because early detection is key to beating this disease."

"Breast cancer is a life-changing diagnosis," said Wiesner. "One out of every eight women is diagnosed with breast cancer sometime in their lifetime. Although rare,



Bosom Buddies courtesy photos.

1% of all breast cancer diagnosed each year is found in men." Distel emphasized, "It is important for everyone to know that all funds raised by Bosom Buddies are spent locally to help locals. In addition to medical financial assistance, we offer emotional assistance at weekly support group meetings on Wednesdays at noon along with free wigs, scarves, hats, and prosthetics."

In addition, Bosom Buddies awards educational scholarships to the local children of a parent or guardian who have ever been diagnosed with breast cancer and to survivors for continuing education.

Distel added, "We are encouraging everyone to pre-register online or download and mail in a registration form from our website www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org. The donation to participate is \$35 for

those who pre-register and \$40 on Walk day."

"To receive the official 2025, Walk shirt, we are asking everyone to register by October 3rd. Those who register after this date might receive a generic pink Bosom Buddies design," said Distel. "Participants have told us how much they like the different color each year of the Walk shirts but it's difficult to order enough for those who register late or on Walk Day itself."

"We are so grateful to have had 33 years of support from our local communities," said Wiesner. "Your support helps us support our communities." To register for the 33rd Annual Walk/Run on Oct. 11 and for more information on the services offered by Bosom Buddies, visit their website at www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the Valley

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

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Montrose, CO 81401

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

find friendly people gathered in a welcoming environment being comforted and encouraged by the forgiveness and love of Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

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

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by elders

Worship service times. Noon on Saturdays. Children's Church will be offered as needed.

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene
Address: 705 South 12th Street
Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9 am - Noon and by Appointment
Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

Contact: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com, www.fpcmontrose.com
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo
Worship Service times: 9:30AM, We strive to encourage, challenge and

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ
Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401
Office hours: By appointment
Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047
 Email address: office@montroseucc.org
 Website: montroseucc.org
Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd
Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.
 Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)
 We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox
Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.
Worship Services: The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

montroseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
Worship service times:
9:15 AM to 10:15 AM: Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.
10:30 AM: Sanctuary & Virtual Worship
 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 worshipers 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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CONTACT: LESLIE GORE

📞 19702753195

✉️ lesliegore Realtor@gmail.com

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



TELLURIDE CELEBRATES BLUES & BREWS!



Even the weather gave an unforgettable performance at the 2025 Blues & Brews Festival in Telluride. Saturday, Sept. 13 highlights included Jesse Roper (top right) and Nude Party (below left). Photos B. Slate.

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by William Saroyan • Directed by Meghan Deets

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The Art of DEATH



Written & Directed by Amanda Laube

At a grand 1915 masquerade, an eccentric host's dwindling fortune threatens the desperate ambitions of his guests. Amidst the glittering facade, a venomous plot unfolds, revealing that some will stop at nothing to secure their legacy.

Alive

by Jenny Stafford • Directed by Keith Laube

A cremation urn triggers a couple to humorously explore their relationship, their dreams, & what makes us truly alive.

a Family Affair



by Albi Gorn • Directed by Dalyn Pearson

A woman brings her new fiancé home to meet her parents, and discovers that there are skeletons in the family closet.

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TELLURIDE CELEBRATES BLUES AND BREWS!




Telluride Blues & Brews Sunday Sept. 14-Clockwise from above left, J.D. Simo and Luther Dickinson; daytime view ; Danielle Nicole, Sir Women.



Photos by B. Slate.






MONTROSE
Community Band
COLORADO

Presents:

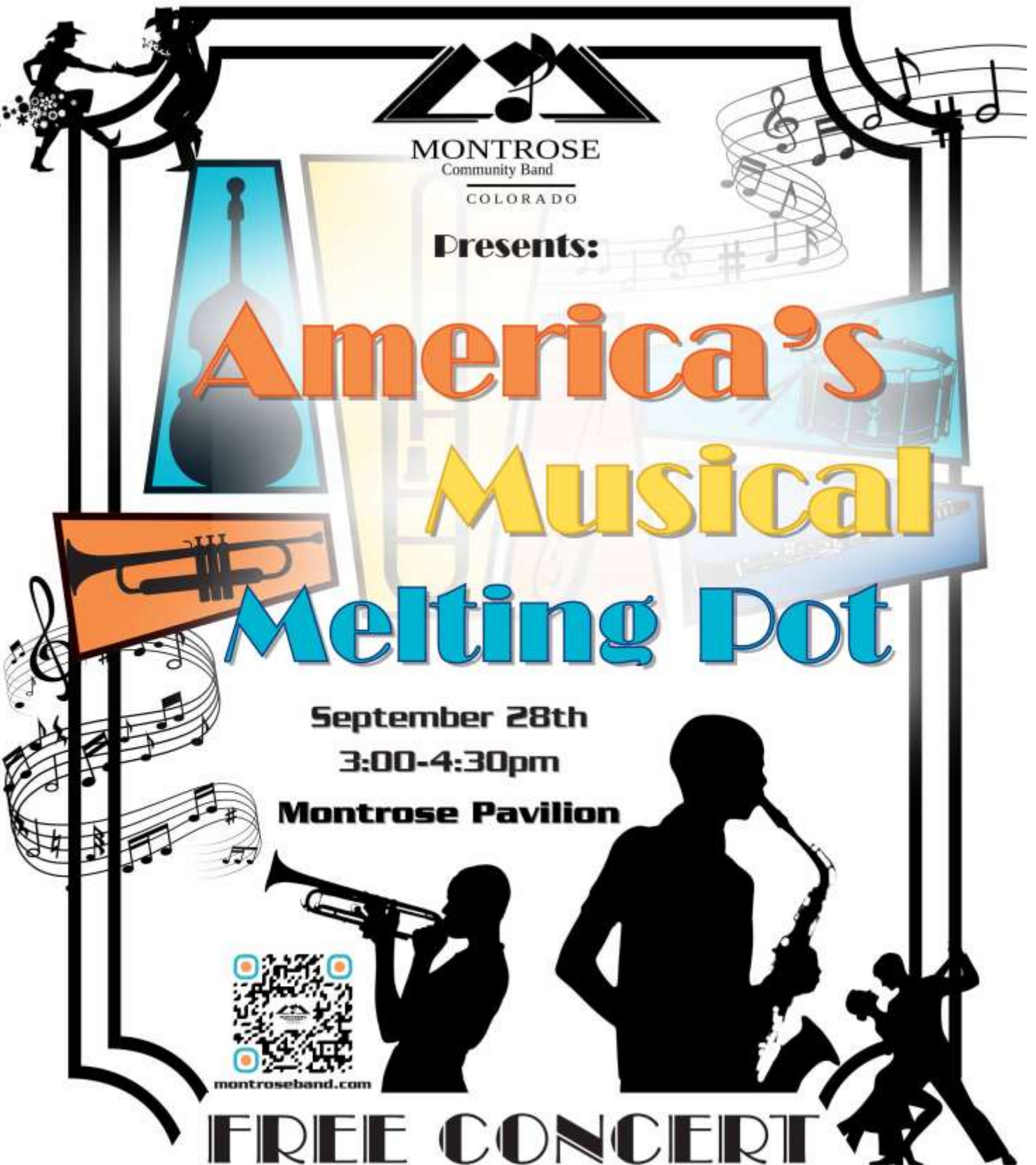
America's Musical Melting Pot

September 28th
3:00-4:30pm
Montrose Pavilion



montroseband.com

FREE CONCERT



Teri Farley
PHOTOGRAPHY

Ralph A. Miller, CPA



DELTA COUNTY
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**TURNER
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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. 17--We're back from our summer break! Our speaker for September is Susan C Ryan, Executive VP of the Research Institute of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Susan will discuss the Haynie Site, a multi-component ancestral village containing two great houses located in southwest Colorado. Sept. 17 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church, 19 S Park, Montrose. Chipeta Archaeological Society. Free.

Sept. 19-Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program will be Friday, Sept. 19 at Noon at the Hampton Inn Montrose. Brown bag lunch. MRW will have a meet and greet for the Montrose School District Board Candidates followed by Senator Marc Catlin discussing the recent "Special Session" at the state capitol. Come find out more and bring a friend! Doors open at 11:30a. Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.

Sept. 20-The community is invited to a Prayer Gathering at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park on Saturday, Sept. 20, at Noon to celebrate the International Day of Peace and the Autumn Equinox. Bring your drums and your prayers. Sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center, 970-252-0908. Everyone is welcome, children and adults.

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.

Sept. 28- **Free Concert** 3 pm Montrose Pavilion: "America's Musical Melting Pot" Dance to American Barn Dance, Hoe Down, and the Suite of Old American Dances. Enjoy Down in the River, St. Louis Blues and more from America. [Montrose Community Band](http://MontroseCommunityBand.org).

Oct. 1-The Montrose Forum, formerly held at 8am, is now to be held at 9am, as of Oct. 1. The Ballot Issue presentation by the League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley will now be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 9am in the Cascade Room, 3rd and Cascade, in Montrose.

Oct. 7-Tuesday Oct. 7 at 5 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs 504 N 1st Support for local mitigation of pollution. Non-partisan. All Welcome.info at 970-765-9095.

Oct. 9-On Thursday, Oct. 9, 7 pm - Floral Visitors, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly - hear more about how plants attract pollinators. There can be drama in the natural world involving pollen thieves, nectar robbers and other stranger things. Local ecologist, Dr Allison Brody will enlighten us on some of these fascinating interactions between plants and animals. Montrose Field House Summit Room B (25 Colorado Avenue). For more info visit: www.blackcanyonaudubon.org/

Oct. 11-33rd Annual Bosom Buddies Walk/Run fundraiser, To register for the 33rd Annual Walk/Run on Oct. 11 and for more information on the services offered by Bosom Buddies, visit their website at www.BosomBuddiesSWC.org.

TELLURIDE CELEBRATES BLUES AND BREWS!



Soaking in the sun, fun, craft beer and world class music on Saturday, Sept. 13 at Telluride Blues and Brews. Photo by B. Slate.

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