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## MONTROSE COUNTY BOCC REVISES NORTH CAMPUS PLANS



*During the public comment period, Ray Langston said he had filed a complaint with the Federal Office of Special Counsel for BOCC Chair Scott Mijares allegedly violating the Hatch Act. Meeting screenshot.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Following a special meeting on Tuesday, Sept 16, which focused on the ongoing water seepage problems impacting Kinikin Road, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) faced some tough decisions regarding the North Campus Project during the regular meeting of Wednesday, Sept. 17.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting, with BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond attending virtually.

Constituent Scott Riba led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Delivering the Invocation was Pastor Ben Garate of Calvary Chapel.

"Father God, we are grateful that we can meet. We ask you Lord this morning that you can give us a spirit of unity...we ask...that as you gave Solomon wisdom, you give and continue to give our commissioners wisdom...the business of government is never easy Lord. They

**Continued pg 4**

## RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP 9/22/25



*Red Hawks drive on the opposing ball. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

By Cliff Dodge

**RED HAWKS SOFTBALL:**

**MONTROSE RED HAWKS 11, CEDAREGE BRUINS 1**

MONTROSE—The Montrose Red Hawks welcomed the Cedaredge Bruins to the softball diamond on Wednesday for a mid-afternoon doubleheader. The Bruins scored what would be their only run of the contest in the top of the first inning. The Bruins bats went silent through the rest of the five-inning game.

The Red Hawks took total control of the game with six runs on six hits plus a couple of bases on balls. The Red Hawks added two additional runs in the third inning and capped the scoring with three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. The 10-run rule was in effect and the game was called after five innings.

**Continued pg 38**

[The Barefoot Laureate:](#)

[By Western Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Videlock!](#)

[The Satisfied Woman:](#)

[By Gia Pirelli!](#)

[Re-1J School Board](#)

[Election Information!](#)

[Red Hawks Sports Coverage](#)

[By Cliff Dodge!](#)

# 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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**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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## Health Insurance Information Session

**September 22**  
**6:00-7:30 PM**  
**Library Meeting Room**

The library and Tri-County Health are partnering for an information session about health insurance options available through the Colorado marketplace. Bring your questions for a Q&A at the end. Join us in the Library Meeting Room on Monday, September 22, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Contact Christine at [ctsharp@montroselibrary.org](mailto:ctsharp@montroselibrary.org) with any questions.

320 S 2nd, [www.montroselibrary.org](http://www.montroselibrary.org)  
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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:

a76 Andrea Thompson, Box 1946, Montrose  
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# MONTROSE COUNTY BOCC REVISES NORTH CAMPUS PLANS *From pg 1*

were tasked last night and again this morning. Lord, be with them Lord, for our governance, for our people...Bless them Lord..."

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

First to speak was Ray Langston.

"...Commissioner Scott Mijares, I have filed a complaint with the Federal Office of Special Counsel for you violating the Hatch Act. The rant you gave on July the 16<sup>th</sup> was basically you interfering in the election process. Because a recall election is a legitimate election process, and you used your office to campaign against it. So you will be hearing from them."

"Thank you," BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said.

Next to speak was Julie Yarnell. "Good leaders build trust, foster collaboration, listen, and lead by example," she said. "Montrose County residents have voiced concerns, advised leadership training, given book lists about collaboration, and pleaded with commissioners Mijares and Pond to do these things since taking office. But have they really listened. "Public comment given on September 3<sup>rd</sup>s BOCC meeting by Holly Speaks about fighting political violence in our county challenged commissioners to commit to this by opposing comments and actions on social media that would threaten or support violence against a person or political group in our community."

Yarnell continued, "After her comments, Commissioner Mijares replied, 'We all should be opposed to it.' Did he really listen and intend to follow through though. We are not okay that just two days after this conversation, Commissioner Mijares posted personal information about his 5,000+ constituents who signed the Recall Scott Mijares petitions on his website," Yarnell said. "For the record, he does have a website and two social media accounts. We are not okay with attacking language exposing those who signed the recall petitions. He originally posted, 'Want to know who wants Conservative leadership and who wants to either surrender to the Front Range or who doesn't know what the stakes are if this recall succeeds? Download the list.'

"Commissioner Mijares why did you do this. Trying to shame and intimidate citizens that challenge your leadership competency? Constituents are angered by

your actions. Commissioner Mijares later removed this statement and signer addresses, but kept signer names posted, and now calls it 'A Public Document Filed with the County Clerk.'

"While legal, this is a violation of public trust, unethical, and dangerous behavior, and not fitting for a leader in our community," Yarnell said.

"Citizens that signed the recall petition were exercising their constitutional rights. Commissioner Mijares claims to support the Constitution, but does he really. We're not okay with Commissioner Mijares spreading misinformation. On his web site, he states, 'Commissioner Mijares is the only commissioner currently serving on the board that was installed into office by a vote of the people.'

"Commissioner Hansen has been voted into office twice by the people," Yarnell said. "Commissioner Mijares, you represent all constituents of Montrose County regardless of party affiliation. Commissioner Mijares' actions are unacceptable behavior for a public servant in a county commissioner position.

"Vote yes to recall Commissioner Scott Mijares in the November Fourth election. Montrose County deserves better leadership..."

## INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager David White had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented, with Resolution 44-2025 assigned to Item 7.

## GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted to appoint Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall to fill a vacancy on the Southwest Colorado Regional Opioid Council.

The BOCC voted to approve [Resolution 45-2025](#), authorizing the donation of surplus property consisting of one vehicle, Ford F250 Truck, to the Town of Olathe.

Also approved was the Chair's signature on the [fifth amendment](#) to the Montrose County North Campus - Design, Architectural & Engineering Services Project services contract #2022-190, in an amount not to exceed \$49,400, to Wold Architects and Engineers, as reviewed by Counsel. This contract amendment represents [expanding Wold's services](#), per the County's

request, to include architect and engineering services to revise the second and third floors back to the Construction Documents originally issued with the RFP, in lieu of the open workstation layout that was part of the value engineering negotiation process.

Services will include construction plan revisions/updates and plan review support services, and no contract time extension.

The estimated cost of adding cubicles and furniture was higher than the cost of returning to the original construction documents. Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood noted. "For approximately the same amount of money you're going to have happier staff, and that building will house over 114 people, so happier staff means more productivity."

Additionally, Sherwood said that all Human Services staff require some semblance of confidentiality, as they work with the public.

Total post-plan cost for the North Campus will be just over \$600,000, Facilities Director Jennifer Murray said, in response to a question from Commissioner Sean Pond.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners voted to approve the [Gerken Minor Subdivision Two \[MI25-009\]](#) Proposal to divide 37.58 acres into a 1.67 acre lot and a 35.91 acre Tract at Parcel 399312400001, 68591 Racine RD.

The second Planning & Development item was continued after the BOCC heard from Scott Riba, who raised concerns that recorded information regarding the property had been overlooked due to multiple changes to the name of the parcel. Commissioners continued until Oct. 1 the [Old Valley Preliminary Plan \[MA25-006\] proposal](#) to divide 11.25 acres from three lots into five lots at Parcels 376532404003, 376532404001, and 376532404002.

Commissioners voted to approve the [Mountain View South Phase 3 Preliminary Plan \[MA25-011\] proposal](#) to divide 27.38 acres into 21 lots at Parcel 403901205010. Also approved was the [6600 Road Dedication \[RD24-003\] proposal](#) to build and dedicate 6600 Road for future Subdivisions at Parcel 399315300065.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## AMAZON EXPANDS COLORADO OPERATIONS NETWORK WITH NEW DELIVERY STATIONS, SAME-DAY SITE AND MORE FACILITY OPENINGS

### *Montrose Delivery Station: Under construction with plans to open in late 2025*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO — Amazon has announced expansion of its Colorado operations network with the opening of a new delivery station in Gypsum, marking the latest development in the company's investment across the state. The expansion includes additional delivery stations and facilities that serve mountain communities and the Denver Metro area, all of which are designed to improve delivery speeds while fostering economic opportunities throughout the state.

**Colorado Gov. Jared Polis** welcomed the expansion and investment in the state economy, saying, "Colorado is the best place to live, work, play and do business. Amazon's expanded operations into rural Colorado will support rural job creation, connect our mountain communities, and bolster economic growth in the region. I am grateful Colorado is being recognized for our strong business climate and talent to attract large business operations across our state."

This collective network expansion is expected to create thousands of full- and part-time jobs and additional flexible positions and driver opportunities.

The announcement builds on Amazon's growing Colorado presence, following the successful launch of delivery stations in Grand Junction and Sterling earlier this year.

"The opening of these facilities will continue to support faster delivery and better services for customers in Colorado," said **Sam Bailey, Senior Manager of Economic Development for Amazon in Colorado.**

"This investment reflects our long-term commitment to Colorado's economic future, bringing competitive-wage jobs while strengthening our delivery network for customers across the Rocky Mountain region. We're deeply grateful to Gov. Polis, local officials, and our economic development partners whose collaborative ap-

proach and unwavering support made today's announcement possible. This facility represents more than just a building—it's a partnership with Colorado communities that will create opportunity for years to come."

Amazon has also pledged \$100,000 in contributions to local youth STEM education nonprofits to coincide with each site opening. These nonprofits include Colorado Mountain College Foundation, Mountain Board of Cooperative Education Services, PEER Kindness, Totally Kids, Hope House and Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain to introduce youth to technology and innovation while creating a pathway for future STEM leaders.

Sites recently launched and upcoming facilities throughout include:

-Grand Junction Delivery Station: Opened in January 2025.

-Logan County Delivery Station: Opened in March 2025.

-Gypsum Delivery Station: Opened in August 2025 with ribbon-cutting event planned in October. (Media invite to follow.)

-Colorado Springs Delivery Station (Forge Road): Opening in Fall 2025.

-Arapahoe County Same-Day Delivery Facility: Slated to launch later this fall.

-Montrose Delivery Station: Under construction with plans to open in late 2025.

-Aurora Cross Dock Site: Slated to launch in late 2026.

-Loveland Robotics Fulfillment Center: Slated to launch in late 2026.

Delivery stations power the last mile of Amazon's order process and help speed up deliveries. Packages are shipped to a delivery station from neighboring Amazon Fulfillment and Sortation Centers, loaded into delivery vehicles and delivered to customers. Delivery stations offer entrepreneurs the opportunity to build their own business delivering Amazon packages, as well as independent contractors the

flexibility to be their own boss and create their own schedule delivering for Amazon Flex. A Same-Day Site is a specialized facility positioned in urban markets that enable ultra-faster delivery of packages for customers in the same day.

The new facilities feature Amazon's latest logistics technology, reflecting the company's commitment to superior customer service, operational excellence and environmental responsibility.

Since 2010, Amazon has created more than 20,000 full- and part-time jobs in Colorado and invested more than \$15 billion across the state, including infrastructure and compensation to employees. These investments have contributed an additional \$15 billion to the Colorado economy and have helped create more than 29,600 indirect jobs on top of Amazon's direct hires—from jobs in construction and logistics to professional services. In addition, thousands of independent sellers—most of which are small and medium-sized businesses—in Colorado are selling to customers in Amazon's store, creating thousands of additional jobs across the state.

"The opening of Amazon's new delivery station in Montrose is a game-changer for our community and the surrounding region," said **Sandy Head, Executive Director of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation.**

"With a \$25 million investment, Amazon's presence will not only improve delivery times and customer service but will also create high-quality jobs with benefits for our residents. As the service hub for the region, Montrose continues to be a strategic location for businesses looking to grow and serve a wider market. We're excited to see how Amazon's investment enhances our local economy and strengthens Montrose's position as a leading destination for business and innovation."





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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## HEADING TO THE HIGH COUNTRY IN SEARCH OF FALL COLORS: COLORADO STATE TROOPERS PROVIDE SAFE DRIVING TIPS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The fall colors have arrived early in Colorado. The stunning transformation from green to gold is underway on the western slope and will slowly migrate to the Front Range. Leaf peepers and outdoor enthusiasts are expected to grab their to-go mugs and camping gear to head for the high country to check out the changing of the seasons. Colorado traditionally sees a steady volume of in-state and out-of-state visitors throughout the autumn 'shoulder season' for premier

hiking, hunting, mountain biking, and scenic 'leaf peeping' drives.

Looking at 2024 crash data for western Colorado for a two-month period, September and October (leaf-peeping season), Colorado State Troopers investigated 212 injury and fatal crashes in the high country. The vast majority stemmed from two causes: lane violations (drivers traveling outside their designated lane, including dangerous or illegal passing) and speeding.

"Whether driving too fast for the winding



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roads or being distracted behind the wheel when a driver crosses into an adjacent lane or hits debris on the shoulder, the results can end in tragedy," stated Major Brett Williams, District Five Commander for the Colorado State Patrol.

"Drivers can ensure a safe trip by appreciating the responsibility of being the driver of this type of trip. Stay focused on the road, be patient in heavy traffic, and leave space between you and the vehicles ahead."

As a resource to visitors in the area, the Colorado State Patrol has updated its [Super Cruising in Colorado](#) web resource to help prepare visitors for the scenic byways and mountain roadways throughout the area.

In addition to videos of some popular leaf-peeping routes, visitors to the website can also find information on how to navigate various mountain conditions, such as steep turns and blind corners.

"Visiting the Colorado Rockies to see the changing colors is an annual tradition for many of us, so please remember to respect the speed limits and pull over at scenic overlooks or approved parking areas," explained Major Williams. "We want you to enjoy your view without becoming a hazard behind the wheel or leaving an obstacle taking up a portion of a needed lane by parking in hazardous or illegal areas."



# MONTROSE FOOTBALL JUGGERNAUT ROLLS ON

By Cliff Dodge

GRAND JUNCTION-The Montrose Red Hawks undefeated football team hit the road on Thursday evening and demolished the overmanned Grand Junction Central Warriors 41-0 at Stocker Stadium. The kickoff was moved back to 8 PM as several games were contested on the Grand Junction pitch. Judging from the results, the Red Hawks took the changes in stride and totally dominated the Warriors.

The homestanding Warriors received the opening kickoff, ran three plays and punted the football to the Red Hawks. It took the Red Hawks only five plays to dent the scoreboard as Junior Quarterback Cade Saunders bolted up the middle and found the end zone for the first of six Red Hawks touchdowns.

The Warriors had very little success in attempting to run the football as the swarming Red Hawks defense checked the Warriors, giving up virtually no yards rushing. The Red Hawks did give up some yardage through the air as the Warriors threw the ball in desperation and completed several passing attempts.

After the Warriors' second punt the Red Hawks put together a four-play drive, with Elijah Womack scoring from three yards out to make the score 14-0.

The Red Hawks kicked off to the Warriors with a couple of minutes left in the first quarter, only to have Cade Saunders (who plays both QB and DB) intercept an errant Warriors pass--setting up the Red Hawks for more scoring opportunities. The Red Hawks scored in five plays with Senior Chase Mehan scoring from five yards out. The Red Hawks missed the point after kick, making the score 20-0.

Another Warriors punt and another Red Hawks score. This time the Red Hawks saw Senior Elijah Wooten ramble four yards to pay dirt, increasing the score to 27-0. The Red Hawks unveiled their passing game in this contest as Cade Saunders completed a number of passes to Aadin Gonzales and Chase Mehan, diversifying the offense and giving opposing defenses much more to wonder and worry about.

Yet another punt and another Red Hawks score. This time it was Cade Saunders scoring again to make the half time score 34-0.

The Red Hawks received the second half

kickoff and Junior Rian Reeder fielded the kick deep in Red Hawks territory. Reeder bobbed and weaved through the entire Warriors team as he lugged the rock to the promised land and a 41-0 score.

The Red Hawks Head Coach Brett Mertens basically called off the dogs and played his entire bench for the rest of the second half, giving his team valuable game experience.

Four of the final six games the Red Hawks will play will take place at the Montrose Football Stadium, beginning with a visit from the Fruita-Monument Wildcats at the Red Hawks Homecoming game. The game is set for Friday, Sept. 26 with the kickoff slated for 7 PM. After the Fruita game, the Red Hawks play each of the five league games with an eye to moving on to the CHSAA playoffs.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CDOT TO PERFORM SURFACE TREATMENT ON US 285 IN VILLA GROVE: MOTORISTS CAN EXPECT BRIEF DELAYS SEPT. 22 TO 25

*Special to the Mirror*

SOUTH-CENTRAL COLORADO— Beginning Monday, Sept. 22, the Colorado Department of Transportation will perform surface treatment operations on US Highway 285 between Saguache and Poncha Springs. The four day paving operations will take place Monday through Thursday between 6:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Motorists will encounter full stops, alternating traffic, and 15 to 20 delays while crews make repairs to the concrete road surface in Villa Grove (Mile Point 104).

All work is weather-dependent. Motorists are encouraged to check the most current traffic impacts on [COTrip.org](https://cotrip.org).

#### Traffic Impacts

Monday through Thursday daytime work hours range from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Traffic impacts include:

- Motorists should plan for 15 to 20 minute delays and should allow for extra travel time
- Expect full stops and alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel
- Watch for flaggers and signage signaling lane shifts and lane closures



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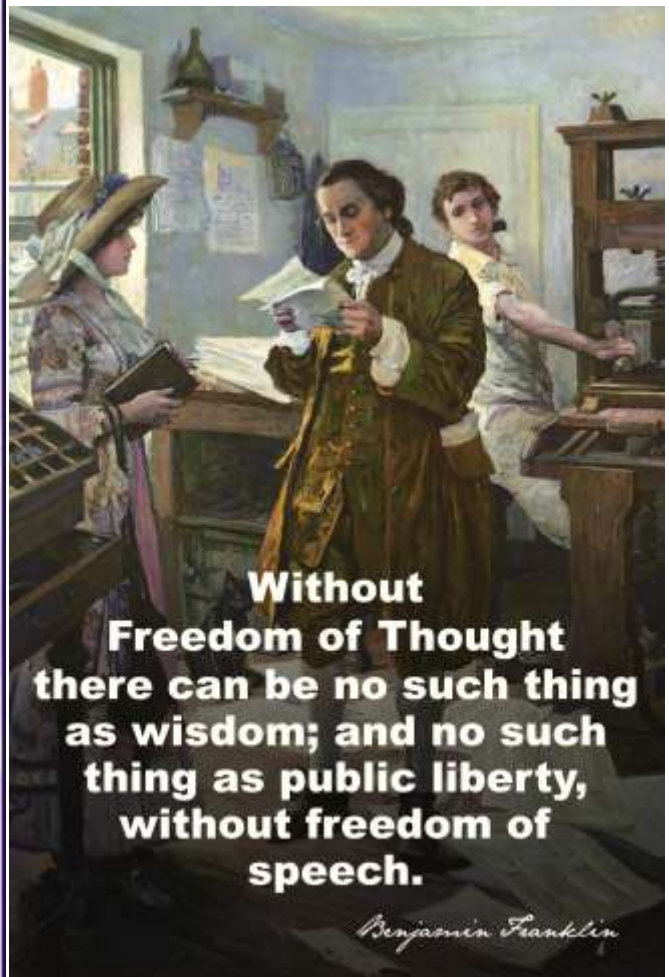
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

*Dear Editor,*

As our school board races come to the forefront of community conversation, I urge you to listen to the voices of teachers, parents, and students in Montrose. Roughly 85% of Americans—including most Montrose families—attend public schools. Having a school board that undermines public education or disrespects educators does not benefit, nor adequately represent, our community.

I encourage you to meet the candidates yourself and decide who will best serve our students and schools. You'll have several opportunities to hear directly from them:

- Wednesday, October 1 | 6–8 pm

Open House with MADA (Mexican American Development Association)

- Thursday, October 2 | 6–8 pm

Meet the Candidates hosted by UVEA (Uncompahgre Valley Education Association)

Holiday Inn Express, Montrose

- Tuesday, October 7 | 6:30 pm

Hosted by Charles Andrew & Ron Smith

Ute Museum

- Wednesday, October 8 | 9–10 am

Meet the Candidates hosted by The Forum

145 S. Cascade (CMU building)

- Thursday, October 9 | 6–8 pm

Hosted by League of Women Voters

Montrose City Hall

Many Montrose graduates have earned scholarships, grants, and internships across the country. Some return to raise families, contribute to local businesses, and serve in our community. Others start companies or enter the workforce directly, enriching our town in countless ways. These successes are the direct result of a strong public education system.

My father used to say there are two kinds of people in the world: givers and takers. The givers can never give enough; the takers can never take enough. Our teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, and school staff are the givers—working every day for the good of our children. When filling out your ballot, talk to them. They know who truly supports students, and they can help us elect candidates who will strengthen—not weaken—public education. For these reasons and more, I will be voting for Kris Besler, Jessica Corrigan, Alice Murphy, and Darren Sofka.

*Ellen Angeles*

*Montrose, CO*

## ORATORY OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE KIRK MEMORIAL: WELL DONE

*Editor:*

Watching the Charlie Kirk memorial, I'm hoping that a local adherent of the Party of Murder (D) will have their feelings published in this week's Montrose Mirror.

President Trump-- Hitler, Nazi, fascist, racist, etc etc -- is still number one on their list. But that's a little harder to do. So who else do you want dead? The list is getting longer. See this, 3 minutes in: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5RfZc89gUk>

The oratory of each of the participants in the Kirk memorial has exceeded anything that I have ever heard. Well done.

*regards,*

*Charlie Zimmerman, Montrose*





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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SCHOOLS RESPOND TO BAT PRESENCE AT DELTA FAMILY CENTER

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Delta County Public Health (DCPH) and Delta County School District, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), are working together to respond to the presence of bats at the Delta Family Center and BELA Preschool. Both organizations are working together to keep the community informed and safe.

Out of an abundance of caution, public health officials are conducting a thorough assessment to ensure the health and safety of children, staff, and community members.

At this time, all currently enrolled preschool children and staff are considered potentially exposed to bats. In addition, individuals who attended community events or activities and believe they or their child may have touched or had direct contact with a bat while at the Delta Family Center or during related activities since April 2025 may also have been exposed.

At the time of this press release, the bats sent from the school for testing have all tested negative for rabies.

While most bats do not carry rabies, bats in Colorado can sometimes spread the virus. In Delta County, a bat as recently as August has tested positive for rabies, which is a very serious health concern. Rabies is a rare but serious disease that is nearly always fatal if symptoms develop. However, it is preventable with prompt medical care known as rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

"Rabies is a serious but preventable disease," said Jacqueline Davis, Public Health Director at Delta County Public Health.

"We want families to be aware of the situation, understand the risks, and know what steps to take to protect children and the community."

Collaboration between schools, local public health, and state health officials is key to ensuring families receive timely information and support.

"The safety of our students is our top priority," states Caryn Gibson, Delta County School District Superintendent. "We are

working closely with Public Health to share accurate information and remind families about prevention steps. Our teachers and staff are also reinforcing safe practices with students."

Parents and community members are encouraged to:

- Talk with children if they have been in contact with a bat while at BELA/Family Center. Talk to children about avoiding direct contact with bats or other wild animals. Teach children never to touch or play with wild animals, alive or dead.

- Talk to your primary care provider or Delta County Public Health if anyone be-

lieves their child may have touched or had direct contact with a bat while at the Delta Family Center or during related activities.

-Contact Delta County Public Health at 970-874-2165 for a risk assessment and, if needed, referral to a regional provider for PEP.

Public Health and the school district have closed off the affected area, the north part of the facility, where the bats were found.

No students or staff will be allowed to access until the space is cleared, inspected, and confirmed safe.

**Welcome**

Delta Health Orthopedics is excited to welcome their newest provider, **PATRICK JON BEVAN, D.O.** to the team.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## HOME FRONT MILITARY NETWORK TO HOST 9TH ANNUAL HONORING THE BRAVE BREAKFAST, SEPT 23

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION - Home Front Military Network (HFMN), the Colorado nonprofit dedicated to connecting service members, veterans, and their families with essential resources and emergency financial assistance, will host its 9th annual Honoring the Brave<sup>SM</sup> Breakfast at 7:30 am on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at The Broadmoor International Center in Colorado Springs.

While headquartered in Colorado Springs, HFMN's reach and services are needed throughout the state for veterans and their families living in areas where military support services may not be readily available to them.

"I am most pleased with the kindness, respect, and generosity that has been shared with me during this difficult time of transition; it's definitely made a positive

and memorable impact," said Michael, an Army Veteran and HFMN client from Grand Junction.

The event will feature performances of the National Anthem and an original song by Army Veteran Norsia "Sergeant H" Harrison, and a keynote by Howie Sanborn, a Paratriathlete and Veteran. September is a month of remembrance and service for military families, including Patriot Day (Sept. 11), National POW/MIA Recognition Day (Sept. 19), and Gold Star Mother's Day (Sept. 28).

The Honoring the Brave<sup>SM</sup> Breakfast provides residents and businesses an opportunity to translate these observances into action by supporting those who have served.

Rebecca, an Army veteran, shared, "I have got to say this organization saved my life. I was so behind on bills from being

stuck in the hospital, I was on the verge of becoming another homeless veteran. This organization was the only military organization I reached out to that actually offered help instead of a t-shirt or hat. Home Front was quick and easy.

They assisted me through the process. When I tell you, I was ready to end my life because I felt like such a failure. I can't give enough thanks to you all. Thank you so much for actually saving veterans in need."

Proceeds from the event will directly fund HFMN's emergency financial bridge support and connection services.

For more information, visit [homefrontmilitarynetwork.org](https://homefrontmilitarynetwork.org) or contact: [KSamson@HomeFrontMilitaryNetwork.org](mailto:KSamson@HomeFrontMilitaryNetwork.org). To donate, visit <https://www.coloradogives.org/event/9th-Annual-Honoring-the-Brave-Breakfast>



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## LOVE YOUR GORGE, SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 9AM-1PM

*Special to the Mirror*

OURAY-Join the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Ouray Ice Park Love Your

Gorge on Saturday, Oct. 11 for a fun morning of volunteering.

Our 2025 work plan in the park includes

picking up litter above and inside the gorge. Inside the gorge, often log moving and large metal removal is also necessary. We will also be repairing some stairs that are being eroded by the weather and water. Plus, UWP has a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to address other erosion issues at the Uncompahgre Gorge that impact safety and water quality.

After volunteering, enjoy lunch sponsored by Ouray Grocery!

Thank you to our event sponsors: City of Ouray, Alpine Bank and Ouray Brewery!

Info & Signup: <https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

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## Location:

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

Light refreshments served. Everyone is welcome!



[MontroseHealth.com](https://www.MontroseHealth.com)

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



## Special to the Mirror

**MONTROSE**—The Montrose County Democrats sponsored a voter registration event on Constitution Day - September 17, 2025. Free copies of the United States Constitution were available for attendees, along with hotdogs and snow balls. It was a great time to interact with our area youth. Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, when delegates signed the document. Photo courtesy of Linda Gann.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## LET'S LET A LITTLE SANITY RETURN TO OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

*Dear Editor:*

Mr. Mijares styles himself as a fiscal conservative. The facts say otherwise — he has cost Montrose County taxpayers \$500,000+ and counting (we have the CORA documents), since taking office in January. In addition, his continued opposition to updated solar regulations may result in our county missing out on several million dollars from a proposed large-scale solar project. It seems apparent that Mijares is anti-solar, in opposition to the wishes of a majority of Montrose County residents, and after 2 1/2 years of negotiation with stakeholders. It's always been my belief that our elected officials should represent ALL of us, not just the minority who agree with them.

If you would like to see a return to integrity and fiscal sanity, vote YES in November to recall Mr. Mijares, and let's let a little sanity return to our county government.

*John Broadbooks, Montrose*

1747 Ironston St  
Montrose CO

## COMMISSIONER MIJARES' ACTIONS ARE UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

*Dear Editor,*

Good leaders build trust, foster collaboration, listen, and lead by example. Montrose County residents have voiced concerns, advised leadership training, given book lists about collaboration, and pleaded for County Commissioners Mijares and Pond to do these things since taking office, but have they really listened?

Public comment was given at the September 3rd Montrose BOCC meeting regarding fighting political violence in our county and challenged commissioners to commit to this by opposing comments and actions on social media that would threaten or support violence against a person or political group in our community. After comments were made Commissioner Mijares replied, "We should all be opposed to it." Did he really listen and intend to follow through?

We are not ok that two days after this conversation, Commissioner Mijares posted personal information about his 5000+

constituents who signed the Recall Commissioner Scott Mijares petitions on his website.

We are not ok with the attacking language exposing those who signed the recall petitions. Originally posted on his website, "Wanna know who supports conservative leadership and who wants to either surrender to the Front Range or who doesn't know what the stakes are if this recall succeeds? Download the list." Commissioner Mijares, why did you do this? Trying to shame and intimidate citizens that challenge your leadership competency? Constituents are angered by your actions.

Commissioner Mijares later removed this inflammatory statement and petition signer addresses, but kept signer names posted and now calls it a "public document filed with the County Clerk". While legal, this is a violation of public trust, unethical dangerous behavior, and not fitting for a leader in our community. Citizens that

signed the recall petitions were exercising their Constitutional rights. Commissioner Mijares claims to support the Constitution, but does he really?

We are not ok with Commissioner Mijares spreading misinformation. His website states, "Commissioner Mijares is the only Commissioner currently serving on the board that was installed into office by a vote of the people." Commissioner Hansen has been voted into office twice by the people. Commissioner Mijares, you represent all 44,000 constituents of Montrose County regardless of their party affiliation. Are you looking out for the best interests of Montrose County or just your personal agenda?

Commissioner Mijares' actions are unacceptable behavior for a public servant in a county commissioner position. Vote YES to recall Commissioner Scott Mijares in the November 4th election. Montrose County deserves better leadership.

*Julie Yarnell, Montrose*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SETTLING DISAGREEMENTS WITH BULLETS INSTEAD OF CIVIL DEBATE IS, WITHOUT QUESTION, FASCISM IN ITS PURIST FORM

*Editor:*

The tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk provided more revelations of the darkness that is today's Democrat party. With all the breaking news this week, it would be easy to miss the bombshell revelation that Biden's FBI was spying on 92 conservative targets, including the Republican National Committee and the Republican Attorneys General Association. Not only were they illegally investigating the entire Republican apparatus, they also targeted Kirk's Turning Point USA. So much for the left's attempt to re-write history and portray Biden's administration as anything other than corrupt and treasonous.

Because the left has largely controlled the print and broadcast media for decades, they revel in being able to re-invent and polish the lives of Democrats to hide their "accomplishments" and to disguise who they really are. Conversely, the lives of non-leftists are tarnished and lied about to dissuade the public from following in their footsteps. Islamic terrorists suddenly become "austere religious scholars." Weather Underground bombers and cop-killers are transformed into civil rights heroes (and professors). Charlie Kirk's murderer is a radicalized antifa activist with a transgender partner, but Democrats – simultaneously and using the same verbiage – declare him to be a MAGA supporter. Worse yet – when Charlie started effectively challenging the left's control of the minds and hearts of our university students, and continuing to this day – Democrats have demonized Kirk. Without once listening to him, and without a shred of evidence, they slandered him as a racist, a fascist, and a hater. Charlie never used hate speech. He used speech the left hated. Kirk's murderer pulled the trigger convinced he was striking a blow against fascism. But he murdered a gentle and kind family man and destroyed the assassin's own life and that of his family for a damnable lie. Settling disagreements with bullets instead of civil debate is, without question, fascism in its purist form.

The assassin's conservative Mormon family are asking themselves how in a short span of years their son became a hate-filled radical who thought it was OK to murder another father's son, a young wife's husband, two young children's father. The answer is: There is a destructive (many would say evil) force in this country that brainwashes its followers

into viewing violence against their political opponents as an acceptable tool to acquire total power – and that force is today's Democrat party. Scholars call what Democrats have done for decades stochastic terrorism. A stochastic terrorist uses mass communication to incite unpredictable, ideologically motivated violence against a person or group while maintaining plausible deniability. The terrorist uses hateful, fear-mongering rhetoric to dehumanize and vilify a targeted group, portraying them as an existential threat. The rhetoric is broadcast widely through mass media and social media platforms. The instigator is careful to use ambiguous language, stopping short of a direct call for violence. The repeated, demonizing rhetoric makes it likely that one or more individuals will hear a call for action and commit a violent act. The social media and partisan news echo chambers isolate audiences from alternative viewpoints and the truth. When their foot soldiers like Antifa and BLM react by rioting and burning down cities, Democrats claim there is no excuse for violence, while simultaneously bailing the rioters out and not prosecuting them. When a courageous Christian patriot like Charlie Kirk engages young people across the political side on ideas and is gunned down because the left has no answer for what he is doing, Democrats claim "that's not who we are." Newsflash. That's exactly who they are. The Democrats' promotion of violence killed Charlie Kirk. The killing is what happens when political violence is celebrated and excused by political leaders and their media stooges. Democrats know that when you scream that someone is a fascist, racist, Hitler, day after day, someone is bound to believe you. They know that when they dehumanize someone, they are giving their followers, including some mentally deranged people, a signal to do violence. When a party has nothing to offer the American people, and all their actions and policies have resulted in failure, that party becomes desperate. Desperate Democrats are now reduced to maintaining power by any means necessary.

After Charlie's assassination, conservatives held peaceful prayer vigils for his family and resolved to stick to their principles. On the other side, the "peaceful" left reacted to UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Wilson's murder by holding vigils for the murderer and raising funds for his defense. Even more telling is the

flood of leftist media figures, politicians, teachers, and professionals openly cheering Charlie Kirk's assassination. Voltaire is quoted as saying "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." The left has turned this inside out: "If I disapprove of what you say, I'm justified in killing you." They also want to deflect with the "both sides" argument, which no one is swallowing. Mainstream Democrats own this lock, stock, and barrel. They brought this on with their reckless tirades about "saving our democracy" "by any means necessary," and insisting that anyone who disagrees must be a Nazi.

It hasn't gone unnoticed that a disproportionate share of the people cheering Kirk's murder are teachers, from grade school through the universities. That's to be expected given the fact that our schools are among the places most hostile to civil debate. When they teach "inclusion" they actually practice exclusion – shouting down speakers they disagree with or barring them from their campuses. For years now, we've seen evidence of teachers indoctrinating their students to hate each other and to hate their country. No one should be blind to the fact that public schools have become cesspools of leftism, controlled by teachers' unions and staffed by people ignorant enough to dance on the graves of their political enemies online and in the classroom. Remember, the largest teachers' union in the state of Colorado, which also represents Montrose County schools, passed a resolution last year committing the organization to fight capitalism. Area conservatives have a great opportunity to step up and make a difference in the coming November 4th Board of Education election. Neisha Balleck, Scott Scarborough, Tiffany Vincent, and Shane Daly have stepped up to fight for our conservative values. Let's take control from the teachers' union and put it back in the hands of the people who actually care about our students – and who love this country dearly. We can also defend our conservative ideals by protecting County Commissioner Scott Mijares from the liberal mob by voting NO on their absurd recall attempt. Like their national counterparts, because they can't win at the ballot box, local Democrats are trying to create enough chaos that elected officials have difficulty governing.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHY IS THE MONTROSE DAILY PRESS ATTACKING THE CURRENT BOCC AND NOT REPORTING THE REAL NEWS?

*Editor:*

I have to ask the question why is the Montrose Daily Press attacking the current BOCC and not reporting the real news? Why have they not reported on Kinikin Road and the past board of commissioners wasting money on the project that should have been fixed two years ago and they wasted 1.5 Million of our tax dollars and now they are looking at spending another three to four million to get it fixed instead of doing it right the first time and hiring a good company instead of the cheapest bid. That Roger Rash, should have known could not do the job in the first place? He was supposed to know that from his previous job working for the state.

Why are they not reporting on the West End Administration Building? Around \$290,000 wasted on design and then abandoned the project by the past board, now the current board has to redo everything to get it done. Again, our tax dollars wasted by the past board.

Then we have the North Campus project that Scott asked to be paused but Sue Hansen and the past board pushed it through. Why did the past board of commissioners push it through so fast 28 days before the new commoners were seated. The change orders now that will raise the cost another Million before it is done.

Again, our tax dollars are wasted.

Every time Scott and Sean bring up these issues they are the ones being attacked by

the rag newspaper. Do not fall for the bad press, VOTE NO on the recall for Scott Mijares.

The one who should be recalled is Sue Hansen for all the bad projects and decisions she has made. She is the one wasting our tax dollars NOT Scott. She is the one who is causing problems at the county, NOT Scott.

I am sick and tired of all the lies about Scott, that Sue Hansen and her people trying to recall are spreading. We the people of Montrose County voted for Scott and now she is trying to take away our voice. **Don't let it happen let's stand up and say NO to this recall. VOTE NO on the recall for Commissioner Scott Mijares.**

*Doris Van Ness, Bedrock*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SCOTT MIJARES WASTES OUR TIME, MONEY, AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

*Editor:*

On Nov. 4th please vote yes to recall County Commissioner Scott Mijares. If you have attended the board meetings or watched the videos of those meetings as I have then you are aware that Mijares shows no respect for the perspectives and requests of his constituents. And unfortunately Mijares makes emotion-based decisions. During the April 15th meeting, Mijares shut down the public comment period despite the protests and complaints of his constituents. He had given no prior notice nor a valid reason. On June 4th, residents attended the meeting to comment on the use of utility scale solar power for the county. All of their comments were in favor of solar, such as Ryan

Sedgely who said, "We're losing investments in our county" because we don't offer the use of solar power.

Another comment was given by former Republican state senator Don Coram who said, "The enemy of good government is personal bias, and opinion, and emotion." He said, "It is important that we rely on facts," and that we need to move forward with solar power. Commissioner Sue Hansen agreed with Coram that they should "keep the emotion out" of their decision. But Mijares began his refusal of solar power by saying, "I feel that solar power is being pushed upon us through the state." He ignored all favorable public comments. 2 1/2 years of study and research by the previous board, and comments in favor of

solar by a former state senator. Mijares ignored all facts and input and made a critical decision based on his feelings and personal bias against solar.

We need a county commissioner who works from a broader, more reasoned perspective, who works to engage and include the voices and views of his/her constituents.

We cannot allow a county commissioner to run the county government on his personal feelings and biases rather than on research and facts. Scott Mijares wastes our time, money, and future prospects. Please vote yes to recall Scott Mijares, and therefore, vote yes to a prosperous future for Montrose County  
*Thank you, Jolene Buntin*

## PLEASE VOTE TO REMOVE SCOTT MIJARES

*Editor:*

Over 5000 Montrose Country residents- Republican, Independents, and Democrats - were successful in their petition drive to put the recall of Mijares on the ballot this November. I am sure many more citizens were in agreement, but reluctant to sign. Many county employees, undoubtedly, felt the same. Obviously, there was concern of possible retribution for signing. This was confirmed when Mijares posted the names of voters who signed the petition on his website (scottm4montrose.com). Granted it is public information, but consider the in-

tent by Mijares in doing so. As Interim Country Manager Leslie Quon stated publicly pertaining to Majaris in her resignation of the position, "I also have serious concerns about the potential for retaliation if I remain in this assignment. That concern is not hypothetical, it is based on a pattern of behavior previously directed not only at former County Manager Frank Rodriguez, but also at former County Attorney Martha Whitmore." His temperament and behavior are unacceptable for a position that is well compensated and requires thoughtful, rational decision making, and the ability to lead and work

with others.

Also, it should be noted that if the recall vote is successful this will lead to two commissioners that we can be comfortable in knowing will perform their duties with dedication, rational, and professional behavior.

Sean Pond will still carry-on with his rants on Facebook and elsewhere with limited impact as commissioner. As Montrose DOGE posted, "This uncomfortable and frankly angering situation stems directly from Mijares Himself". Please vote to remove Scott Mijares.

*Steve Welch, Montrose County*





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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## NIGERIAN NATIONAL SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING COLORADO WOMAN IN ROMANCE SCHEME

*US Attorney's Office District of Colorado*

DENVER – The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announces that Adetomiwa Seun Akindele, age 37, a Nigerian national who had been residing in Minnesota prior to his arrest, has been sentenced to 71 months in federal prison, ordered to pay \$1,692,945 in restitution, and a forfeiture money judgement in the same amount after pleading guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. Upon serving his sentence, Akindele will be deported to Nigeria.

According to the plea agreement, beginning in January 2018, and continuing until October 2018, Akindele posed as a wealthy Italian American businessman, "Frank Labato," on a dating website, where he met a widowed Colorado woman. In February 2018, Akindele began emailing the victim, and in March 2018, the two began exchanging telephone calls. During these communications, Akindele provided the victim with additional false details about his personal and work background, images, and photos, to substantiate his fictitious persona of "Frank." In March 2018, Akindele represented to the victim that he had encountered a financial crisis related to his purported work abroad for which he claimed to need money, funds, and assistance from the victim. At Akindele's direction, the victim opened a cryptocurrency exchange account, where she eventually wired over \$1.6 million dollars as directed by Akindele. From there, Akindele converted the money into various cryptocurrencies, laundered it across multiple crypto exchanges and then converted it back into U.S. dollars and deposited it into his own bank accounts. Akindele fraudulently represented to the victim that he would repay her for the requested "loans" to his business. Over the course of the scheme, Akindele executed three fraudulent "promissory notes" to reassure the victim that she would be repaid.

"This sentence both serves justice to the victim and helps prevent this individual from scamming someone else," said United States Attorney Peter McNeilly. "This case should be a reminder to the public to be cautious when engaging with people they meet online - especially when those people are asking for money." "Romance scammers are relentless and cunning, preying on trust and emotion to exploit victims," said FBI Denver Special Agent in Charge Mark Michalek. "This was an egregious case, and through relentless investigative work the perpetrator was tracked down and brought to justice." United States District Judge Charlotte N. Sweeney presided over the sentencing. The FBI Denver Field Office conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Martha A. Paluch handled the prosecution. Case number: 22-cr-00326-CNS

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ADVENTURE DAY  
Catch a fish  
Catch a view

**7AM - 10:30AM**

**FREE Tethered  
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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## CPW IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SPORTSPERSON'S ROUNDTABLE

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is accepting applications from hunters, anglers and trappers to join the Sportsman's Roundtable. The application period is open from Sept. 16 through Oct. 17, 2025.

Volunteering for the Sportsman's Roundtable is an opportunity to share insights with CPW on critical wildlife management and recreation issues.

CPW aims to maintain a geographically diverse membership on the Roundtable, ensuring that all regions of the state are represented. The Sportsman's Roundtable is currently accepting applications from sportspeople in the Northwest, Southeast and Southwest regions.

### How to Apply

Complete the [CPW Sportsman's Roundtable Membership Application online](#) before the deadline of Oct. 17, 2025, at 5 p.m. MT.

CPW staff will make selections and notify you about whether or not you are selected. For more information about the process, email Jonathan Boydston at [jonathan.boydston@state.co.us](mailto:jonathan.boydston@state.co.us) or Ben Sharp at [benjamin.sharp@state.co.us](mailto:benjamin.sharp@state.co.us).

### Sportsman's Roundtable

CPW depends on feedback and advice from our state's hunters and anglers to make the best decisions about managing fish, wildlife and habitat. The Sportsman's Roundtable fosters information sharing between the hunting, angling, and trapping community and CPW on issues related to wildlife recreation and management in Colorado.

Roundtable members serve two-year terms. Responsibilities of members include:


- Participating in a half or full-day in-person meeting twice a year and occasional virtual meetings. Travel to in-person meetings is at the member's expense.
- Attending regional CPW Sportsman's Meetings and other meetings with hunters, anglers and trappers in your area.
- Maintaining strong relationships with fellow sportspeople and staying informed about current events and emerging issues.
- Identifying topics for discussion at Roundtable meetings. Actively sharing information and ideas with Roundtable members and CPW staff during and between meetings.
- Providing your contact information on the CPW Roundtable webpage and being available to sportspeople around the state to discuss information pertinent to the Roundtable.

To learn more about the Sportsman's Roundtable and open seats, visit [EngageCPW](#).

Welcome

## Dr. Garrett Riggs


Neurologist



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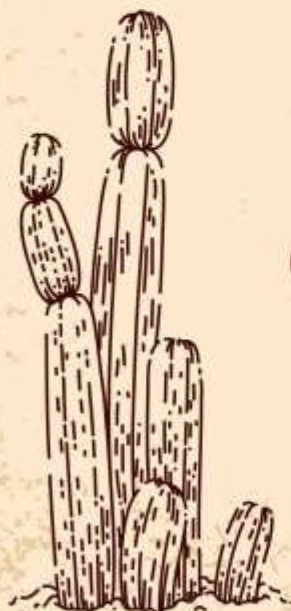


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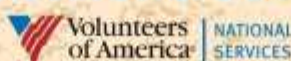
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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES ENTERPRISE AWARDS \$9.8 MILLION GRANT TO SUPPORT PIVOTAL RECYCLING PROJECT ON THE WESTERN SLOPE

*Special to the Mirror*

Denver — The Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise has awarded a multi-year \$9.8 million grant to the City of Grand Junction to dramatically increase recycling access on the Western Slope. The city is building a Material Recovery Facility to benefit rural and underserved areas in the region. The advanced sortation equipment will increase the amount of recyclable material that manufacturing can reuse.

The enterprise recommended the project after spending more than seven months assessing the request, partnerships, financial viability, and sustainability. The grant funds will support advanced sortation equipment to ensure high-quality commodities and affordable waste management fees.

“Increasing recycling access and expanding capacity are key steps to boosting the circular economy,” said Jeff Stalter, Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise Program manager. Tyler Bandemer, chair of the C3 Enterprise Board of Directors, echoed the sentiment. “This project will connect Western slope residents to recycling and give us an opportunity to keep these materials in circulation. The Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise board is proud to support this local government and industry partnership.”

The Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise, housed at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, helps Colorado businesses, local governments, and communities transition to a circular economy. This project aligns with the board’s strategic goals by keeping valuable materials out of landfills, extending the useful life of products, and supporting new or existing circularity markets.

Grants and funding opportunities for work that advances Colorado’s circular economy are continuously available. Local governments, Tribes, and public K-12 school districts can also receive no-cost technical assistance to support local circularity planning. To learn more about C3, visit [coloradocircularcommunities.org](https://coloradocircularcommunities.org). Businesses focused on establishing or expanding a circular end market may want to start with the Circular Economy Development Center.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CONSTITUTION DAY SEPT. 17



*MCSD Superintendent Carrie Stephenson receiving Pocket Constitutions and "We the People" inserts from Montrose Republican Women President Kerri Catlin and SD5 Senator Marc Catlin for distribution to teachers and students on Constitution Day. Courtesy photo.*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-SD5 Senator Marc Catlin is carrying on an educational tradition of donating Pocket Constitutions to the Montrose County School District for distribution to teachers and their students to emphasize the importance of our founding documents and for young people to know their rights are based on the Constitution. A companion piece, "We the People" was created by the Montrose Republican Women for their educational mission, in partnership with the Montrose Press, and Turner Chevrolet. The piece includes Constitutional facts and where to find more information at our Montrose Regional Library. Thank you to all our sponsors! Happy Constitution Day.

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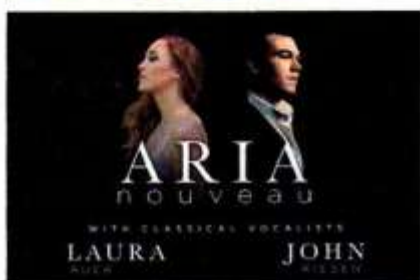
Thursday, Oct. 2 • 7pm | Doors Open at 6  
The Egyptian Theater, 425 Main St., Delta



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**PRESENTED BY: Charles Andrews and Ron Smith**

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Every vote matters when it comes to  
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- Darren Sofka

**Director District E:**

- Kris Besler
- Hollee Mundell
- Tiffany Vincent

**Director District C:**

- Alice Murphy
- Scott Scarborough

**Director District G:**

- Jessica Corrigan
- Shane Daly

**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD  
TUES, NOV 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**



# MOSAIC

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

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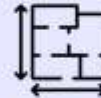
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# RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP From pg 1



*Red Hawks Abby Siegel banks a base hit to right field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

The Red Hawks scored their eleven runs on six hits with Junior Isabelle Mott and Senior Abby Siegel each getting two base knocks to lead the Red Hawks' attack.

The Red Hawks were the recipients of nine bases on balls surrendered by the Longhorns pitching staff.

The Red Hawks only had two strikeouts in the game while stealing three bases.

Freshman Bentley Schiller pitched a complete game giving up one earned run and five hits while striking out a dozen Bruins.

## **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 8, CEDAREdge BRUINS 2**

The second half of the doubleheader vs the Cedaredge Bruins proceeded very much along similar lines as the Red Hawks scored 3 runs in their half of the third inning. The Red Hawks were not threatened throughout the rest of the seven-inning contest. The Red Hawks added a single run in the fourth inning and brought the hammer down in the sixth inning as they scored four runs to make the final score 8-2.

The Red Hawks were led offensively by Senior Jaytli Cannizzo and Junior Arianna Mora with two base hits. Cannizzo also led the run parade with two runs batted in.

The Red Hawks struck out seven times, left four runners on base and were given two bases on balls. Freshman Bentley Schiller pitched a complete seven inning game for the win. She gave up two runs on five hits and struck out 10 Bruin batters.

## **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 14, BASALT LONGHORNS 2**

The Montrose Red Hawks participated in

their second doubleheader in a week as the Basalt Longhorns hosted the Red Hawks in Carbondale.

The Red Hawks put on their hitting shoes as they banged out 14 runs on 13 base hits and capped the offensive assault with a double, three triples and a home run.

Senior Jaytli Cannizzo led the offensive attack with three hits, and three RBI's along with a double and a towering home run. Sophomore Aubrey Blacker also had three base knocks, three RBI's and a double. Eight Red Hawks had base hits including Freshman Marlow Monson, Sophomore Alexis Garcia, Junior Arianna Mora and Bentley Schiller.

The Red Hawks put up a 4-spot in the second inning and scored in each of the five innings played. The Red Hawks left no doubt as they scored seven runs in the top of the fifth inning, thus invoking the 10-run rule.

## **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 16, BASALT LONGHORNS 1**

The Montrose Red Hawks softball team ended the doubleheader with the Basalt Longhorns as they started, clubbing the host team 16-1. The Red Hawks scored in each of the four innings because the game was shortened due to the 10-run rule.

They brought their thundersticks and dismantled the Longhorns scoring five runs in the first, five runs in the second, four runs in the third and finally two runs in the fourth and final inning.

Senior Abby Siegel led the hit parade with two base hits including a very loud home run. Others with two base knocks included Junior Maya Yocavetta and Sophomore

Aubrey Blacker. In all, the Red Hawks pounded 11 base hits to secure the victory. Isabelle Mott, a junior, was on the bump today and pitched a complete four inning game yielding one run on two hits while striking out a pair of Longhorn batters.

## **RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL: MONTROSE 3, FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 0**

The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team continued with their winning ways taking three matches and improving their overall record to 10-0 while improving their league record to 4-0. The first victims were the Palisade Bulldogs who fell to the Red Hawks three games to none. The Red Hawks prevailed 25-11, 25-20 and 26-18. Leading the offense was Senior Maggie Legg with 18 kills and Junior Marcella Mendoza with nine. Leading the diggers for the Red Hawks were junior Amaya Potter and Senior Lilly Nelson, each coming up with 11 digs.

## **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, GRAND JCT. TIGERS 0**

The Red Hawks set the tone for the match with the Central Warriors early in the first game. The Warriors tied the score at 1-1 but the Red Hawks then ran off 10 straight points to lead 11-1 and leave all doubt as to the outcome of this match. The Red Hawks won the three games by the following scores: Red Hawks 25-9, 25-12 and 25-20. The Red Hawks led 10-1 and 18-6 before closing out the game 25-12.

## **RED HAWKS 3, GRAND JCT. CENTRAL WARRIORS 0**

The Montrose Red Hawks headed up

*Continued next pg*



# RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg

north for a league match with the Grand Junction Central Warriors. The Red Hawks took the measure of the homestanding Warriors by the following scores: Red Hawks 25-23, 25-14 and 25-22.

Maggie Legg led the offensive assault with 20 kills. Leading point scorers for the Red Hawks were Junior Amaya Potter with 15 and Jordyn Simo with 11. Top Red Hawk diggers included Senior Lilly Nelson with 11 and Maggie Legg with 13. Montrose steady setter was once again Lilly Nelson with 33 handles.

## RED HAWKS 3, FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 0

The unbeaten Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team added another victim to their victory string when they defeated the Fruita-Monument Wildcats 3-0 on Thursday evening at the Fieldhouse. Outside hitters Maggie Legg and Marcella Mendoza led the kill parade with 18 and 14 kills respectively.

The Red Hawks were involved in a glove tight battle in the first game of the set. The Red Hawks finally prevailed by the score of 25-23. The second and third games of the set were kinder to the Red Hawks by the scores of 25-14 and 25-18.

The Red Hawks early season overall record stands at 10-0 with the league mark at 4-0. When asked, Head Coach Shane Forrest said she was most pleased with the tough play of both the offense and the defense and that she was very pleased with the overall team effort and looks forward to the second half of the season when league play begins. Forest said that will be the real test for our squad.

## RED HAWKS SOCCER:

### RED HAWKS 4, FRUITA-MONUMENT 3

The Montrose Red Hawks soccer team hit the road for a match with the Fruita-monument Wildcats last Thursday and came away winners, scoring a 4-3 victory. The Red Hawks took a while to become conversant with the Wildcats attacking style and fell behind 2-0 at the halfway mark of the contest.

The Red Hawks came out to open the second half, pushed their offense into overdrive and scored four second-half goals while surrendering a third goal for the Wildcats, thus winning 4-3. Junior Luke Senior scored two of the Red Hawks goals while Junior Eli Rodriguez and Sophomore Korey Metzger each scored goals to cement the Red Hawks victory. Senior Goal Tender Jude Carlton faced five shots on goal, saving two to preserve the win.

### RED HAWKS 5, GRAND JCT. CENTRAL WARRIORS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks played host to the Central Warriors last Tuesday and came away with a 5-0 shutout. The Red Hawks used two goal tenders, each playing 40 minutes, and each giving up no goals. Sophomore Kaiden Pollard and Senior Jade Carlton combined for the shut out.

Junior Luken Senior and Sophomore Erick Figueroa each had two of the Red Hawks five goals, while Sophomore Miguel Aguilar also dented the scoreboard.

### MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1, GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 1


The Montrose Red Hawks victory momentum was interrupted when the Grand Junction Tigers visited last Thursday and forced the Red Hawks to a 1-1 tie. The defenses stood tall for both teams in the first half as the half time saw no goals from either side. The offenses from each team managed a single goal in the second half and both had to settle for a 1-1 tie.

The Red Hawks overall season record stands at four wins, one loss and two ties. Their league mark stands at two wins, one loss and one tie. The next outing for the Red Hawks will be to host the Durango Demons on Thursday.

WELCOME

## Dr. Jessica Hellyer



Medical Oncologist



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# RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg



The Red Hawks defenders fly to block a kill shot from an outside hitter. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

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## 2025 Family Caregiver Summit

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The Montrose Pavilion

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19702753195



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# COUNCIL VOTES TO SPEND \$850,000 TO CREATE A CHILDCARE FACILITY



**Mayor Dave Frank did not bother to introduce the individual who stepped forward to accept the proclamation in support of Constitution Week. Meeting Screenshot.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council once again had a strong turnout as Mayor Dave Frank called to order the regular meeting of Tuesday, Sept. 17. There was one change to the Agenda, a Proclamation in Support of Constitution Week.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Frank issued the Proclamation in support of Constitution Week. The Mayor, clad in shorts and a short-sleeved shirt, did not bother to introduce the unnamed guest who stepped forward to accept the proclamation and to thank the council.

## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Frank read the rules for public comment into the record. In addition to the comments he regularly reads, Frank added an additional "Addendum," with strong emphasis. "...if your comments violate state or federal law, I will give you the opportunity to STOP SPEAKING. If you do not STOP SPEAKING you will be removed from the chambers."

Frank asked those who wished to speak to line up and reminded that each speaker has three minutes in which to speak. The Mayor said that he would remind them when they had 30 seconds of speaking time left.

First to speak was local Attorney Brad

Switzer. Switzer addressed the City's ongoing litigation against the Montrose United Methodist Church and suggested both parties reach a compromise.

Switzer said, "...I've watched as things have...devolved...I don't think they're headed in the right direction...why is the City wasting its legal resources and legal department pursuing dozens of petty offenses that are charged against the Methodist Church...Why isn't the church offering a deal for some sort of deferred prosecution...I think there are so many other priorities for the church and the city to put their time and energy into. It's time to move away from this and put this behind us...a stipulation can be entered into between the city and the church. No plea is entered...the case gets continued for six months, maybe 12 if you think that's more appropriate...that's flexible. Continue the case, and upon full compliance with the terms and conditions of the deferred prosecution, by the church when they fulfill those conditions, the charges are dismissed...if the church fails to comply with the terms and conditions then the church will be tried for the offenses charged..."

Next to speak was John Brown, who asked that Council declare the City of Montrose to be a non-sanctuary city. "...Is there some legal restriction that is preventing the council from even bringing up the topic in the working group...if we are indeed a non-sanctuary city, prove it...something needs to be written... not something that's hidden in the closing minutes of the Council meeting...what would be wrong with declaring Montrose to be non-sanctuary after you have already stated it being such, Mayor..."

Connie Pittenger was the third speaker to address Council. "I've been here several times before, expressing my confusion over your relationship with the Montrose United Methodist Church...it has been four weeks since we paid \$2,500 for an open records request and we have received nothing...you have not lived up to your part of the bargain of delivering materials that we have paid for...your cooperation is lacking and we don't seem to be

getting anywhere...it's really getting frustrating in our relationship..."

Next, a woman who identified herself only as "Linda" spoke. "...I want to be positive..." Linda said, "the cleanliness, the friendliness, and the acceptance of other people, the variety of people we have here, I love that about this town. I don't know much about the whole deal with the sanctuary city, my feelings are, everybody should be welcome, but that's just my personal beliefs, so I'd like to see the city encourage the open-handed and open-hearted feeling we got when we first came here...so on a positive note you guys are doing a great job."

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2025, regular City Council meeting.

## YOUTH CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

After speaking briefly with each of the applicants, Council voted to appoint Jordyn Simo, Graysen Vidmar, Sydney Bell, Robin Kittell, Niyati Patel, Kathryn Jakino, Shiloh Warthen, Reign Icasiano, and Vivika Printz to the Montrose Youth City Council for the 2025-2026 term. Simo and Warthen were unable to attend the meeting.

Councilor J. David Reed recused himself from chambers during Agenda Items 8, 9, and 10.

Council voted to approve the appointment of all of the Youth City Council applicants.

## METSA THIRD AMENDED AND RESTATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Council voted to approve the amended IGA, in a vote of four with one abstention.

## RESOLUTION 2025-10

Also approved with four votes and one abstention was Resolution 2025-10, appointing Deputy Police Chief Larry Witte as an alternate City of Montrose representative to the METSA Board of Directors.

## CHILDCARE FACILITY RENOVATION AUTHORIZATION

Council considered an overall authorization of \$850,000 for the creation of a childcare facility by renovating a City-owned facility located at 703 South 9th



## COUNCIL TO SPEND \$850,000 TO CREATE CHILDCARE FACILITY From previous pg

Street, including a contract award to Stryker and Company in the amount of \$530,000.

"I really think this is a benefit not only to the City of Montrose but to our residents as well," Mayor Frank said.

Two constituents stepped forward to speak. One was "Linda," who once again used only her first name. She asked who would be responsible for certifying and credentialing teachers.

Next to speak was Leah Vandersluis. "I'm just concerned because I know that as a city we are in the red," she said.

"And I'm not sure why the City is going into the childcare business, that just doesn't seem right. I know you say it's a childcare desert, but there's a childcare center right next to Gold's Gym and they have lots of room in there. I know a lot of people take care of their own kids...but why is the City spending money that we really don't have to create this. It would be one thing if we had the money but we don't. We're in the red."

City Manager Bill Bell said that the City is not in the red and is in sound fiscal shape. He dismissed Vandersluis's comment as

"misinformation."

Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt said that a licensed operator will be contracted to run the Childcare Center.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said the voters approved using city funds for a childcare center when they voted for an increase in the Lodging Tax, "Basically the only reason I supported it was when we took it to the voters they approved it...I think we as a council should provide 'em with what they wanted."

With four votes and one abstention, Council voted to authorize the expenditure of \$850,000 for the creation of a childcare facility by renovating a City-owned facility located at 703 South 9th Street, including a contract award to Stryker and Company in the amount of \$530,000.

Councilor J. David Reed returned to Council Chambers.

### SUNSET VILLAGE PRELIMINARY PLAT

Council voted unanimously to approve the Sunset Village Preliminary Plat expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinance and

Municipal Code provisions are met and that the Applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to execution of the Final Plat.

### STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker delivered the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Collections Report for July, 2025 as well as the area report.

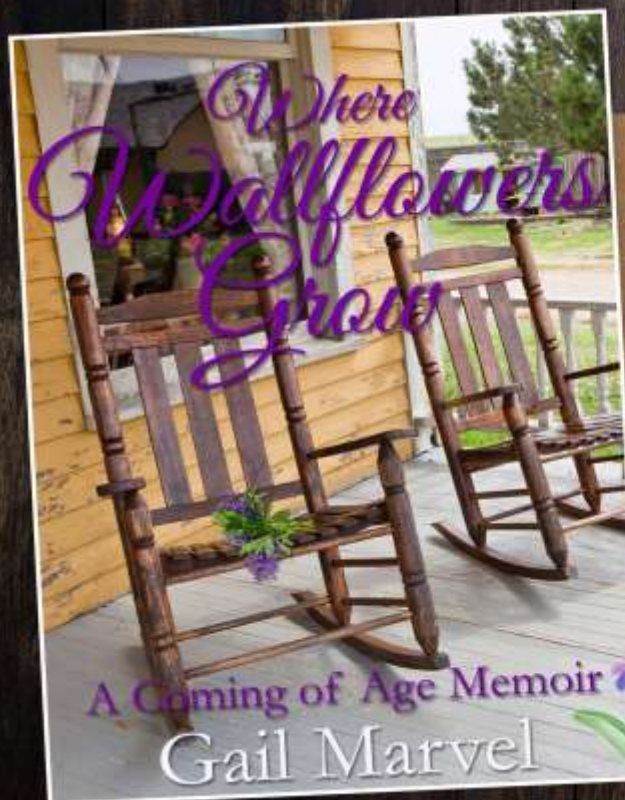
City Engineer Scott Murphy gave an update on city roads.

The new roundabout was set to open around midday on Friday, Sept. 19, he said. West Main has been chip-sealed; striping and crosswalks will be completed by next week.

East Main utility work is wrapped up, milling work will occur the week of Sept. 29, with paving scheduled for the week of Oct. 6, Murphy said. Striping will then be done, with everything generally wrapped up by the third week of October. There will be a celebration when the project is complete.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said he was happy to see the new curb, gutter, and sidewalk.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**

*Montrose Author & Reporter*

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





# Montrose County Republicans Ballot Information

(Save for filling out ballots that drop October 10th)

**CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES**

**VOTE THESE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES! TUES, NOV 4TH**



<b>TIFFANY VINCENT</b> DISTRICT E	<b>SCOTT SCARBOROUGH</b> DISTRICT C	<b>NEISHA BALLECK</b> DISTRICT A	<b>SHANE DALY</b> DISTRICT G
--	--	---	-------------------------------------

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Protect our Sheriff funding (PSST)  
Preserve our land (No GORP)  
Defend 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights  
Uphold our Conservative Values



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# SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION INFORMATION

## CANDIDATE BIOS AND FORUM INFORMATION

[CLICK HERE TO READ CANDIDATE BIOS](#)

### UPCOMING FORUM DATES BELOW:

#### 2025 RE-1J Board of Education Candidate Forum Dates

- Wed. Oct. 1:6 pm-Mexican American Development Assoc. MADA, 17 N. 6th Street
- Thurs. Oct. 2:6 pm-UVEA Forum-Holiday Inn Express, Three Rivers meeting room
- Tues. Oct. 7:6:30 pm-Charles Andrews/Ron Smith, Ute Museum, Chipeta Room
- Wed. Oct. 8:9 am-The Forum, CMU Montrose Campus, Cascade Hall
- Thurs. Oct. 9:6 pm-League of Women Voters, Montrose City Council Room, 107 S Cascade



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## BLM TO SELL 880,000 BOARD FEET OF TIMBER

*Special to the Mirror*

LAKEWOOD— Starting on Sept. 18, 2025, the Bureau of Land Management will host a sealed bid timber sale in Cañon City, and is planning to sell 880,000 board feet of timber.

The Zion Timber Sale includes salvage of lodgepole pine on 125 acres of forest lands.

“Forest management efforts like the Zion Timber sale provide significant benefits,” said Chris Zeigler, Rocky Mountain District Manager. “We are focused on creating jobs, reducing wildfire risk, and making timber available for communities.”

Sealed bids must be received by the Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 3028 East Main, Cañon City, Colorado, 81212, prior to 10 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time on Sept. 25, 2025. Any bid received after 10 a.m. on Oct. 14, 2025, either by mail or in person will not be accepted.

For more information on sealed bid requirements please visit our [timber sales website](#).

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MLS - 820132

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Holly Hensley

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500 E. Main St.,  
Montrose, CO 81401

HollyMontroseRealtor@gmail.com

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Real Estate



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- 1,667 Sq. Ft.



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## TELLURIDE RIVER TRAIL DETOUR SEPT. 17-SEPT. 26

*Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE-The Town of Telluride Public Works Department has begun a restoration project at the river confluence, between Pinion and Columbine Streets, to address significant rock and sediment buildup following this summer's heavy rainfall and debris flows.

### Project Schedule:

- Equipment Delivery: Tuesday, Sept. 16 (to the shoulder of East Colorado Avenue)
- Work Begins: Wednesday, Sept. 17 through Wednesday, Sept. 24, Weekdays only, 8 am to 6 pm.
- Equipment Removal from River: Wednesday, Sept. 24
- River Trail Site Restoration: Thursday and Friday, Sept. 25-26, 8 am to 6 pm

### What to Expect:

Crews will remove excess rocks and debris from the river confluence to restore the natural flow of water. This work helps reduce the risk of flooding and erosion downstream and supports a healthy river ecosystem. Once river work is complete, Public Works will restore sections of the River Trail impacted by the project.

Detour signs will be positioned on both sides of the impacted area, directing pedestrians to the north side of E. Colorado along the sidewalk between Pinion and Columbine.

Please plan accordingly and use caution when taking alternate routes around the work.

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# NEW CONSTRUCTION

asking price \$699,900

## Features

- ✓ 3 Bedrooms
- ✓ Covered back patio
- ✓ 2,030 sq ft
- ✓ 3 Bathrooms
- ✓ Three-stall garage
- ✓ Stainless steel accents

## Property Information:

Located in the highly sought-after Brown Ranch subdivision, this thoughtfully designed home maximizes interior space while offering a generously sized backyard. The open-concept floor plan features a split-bedroom layout, providing ample room in the common area along with large windows to fill the home with natural light, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Lovingly crafted, the builder brings a personal commitment to quality and detail in every corner of this exceptional home.



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**PROPERTY FEATURES**



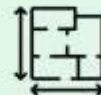
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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT SEEKS COLORADO HELP IN 1984 COLD CASE MURDER

### Colorado Bureau of Investigation

CBI – WIZARD WELLS, TX – The Jack County Sheriff's Office and Texas Rangers identified the victim of a homicide which occurred near Wizard Wells, Texas, in 1984 as Roberta "Berta" Mumma. Roberta "Berta" Mumma's skeletal remains were discovered in a remote area in Jack County over 40 years ago, and her identity remained a mystery until 2024. Roberta "Berta" Mumma was identified using advanced forensic techniques and DNA analysis.



*Age progression photos courtesy CBI.*

The victim, identified as Roberta "Berta" Mumma, was 25 years old at the time of her death. The Jack County Sheriff's Office and Texas Rangers are actively investigating this cold case and seeking justice for Roberta "Berta" Mumma. Roberta "Berta" Mumma's killer may have been in Colorado, specifically Denver and Boulder. The Texas Rangers want to speak with anyone who knew Roberta "Berta" Mumma when she was in Colorado, Tennessee or Texas. Furthermore, authorities urge anyone with information about Roberta "Berta" Mumma or the circumstances surrounding her death to come forward. The smallest detail could be crucial in solving this case and bringing closure to Roberta "Berta" Mumma's loved ones.

The Jack County Sheriff's Office and Texas Rangers are committed to pursuing justice for Roberta "Berta" Mumma and ensuring those responsible for her death are held accountable. For more information or to provide tips, please contact Texas Ranger Michael Schraub at 940-549-0549 michael.schraub@dps.texas.gov or Jack County Sheriff's Office at 940-567-2161 or chauger@jackcounty.texas.gov

### Welcome Dr. Craig Peterson Urologist



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## PROPERTY FEATURES



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**2 Bathroom**



**Lovely Open  
Concept Home**



**1141**





**8x8 Matching Shed**

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL SERVICES OPENS RENDEZVOUS, EXPANDING AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING IN MONTROSE, COLORADO

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Volunteers of America National Services (VOANS), in partnership with Volunteers of America Colorado and key community collaborators, proudly announces the grand opening of Rendezvous, a new 52-unit service-enriched affordable senior housing community in Montrose, Colorado.

**WHAT:** Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Rendezvous

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Rendezvous, 2366 Robin's Way, Montrose, CO 81401

Rendezvous is a \$23 million investment in affordable housing, combining the renovation of the former 30-unit Pavilion Gardens (built in 2000) with the construction of 22 new senior apartments on adjacent land. The development offers permanently affordable rentals to residents aged 55 and above with incomes between 30% (\$21,000) and 60% (\$49,000) of the Area Median Income (AMI). With access to both housing and healthcare services, the community reflects VOANS' mission to provide more than just housing, offering spaces for connection, access to healthcare, and modern homes that support dignity. Features include welcoming gathering areas, beautiful gardens, and amenities such as in-unit washers and dryers, private patios/balconies, and contemporary kitchens, ensuring residents have both the comfort of home and the resources to live well. On-site management and resident services will be provided by Volunteers of America Colorado.

"Our priority remains providing older adults in Colorado with affordable housing that offers both comfort and quality," said Dee Dee Beaty, senior vice president of housing at Volunteers of America National Services. "Rendezvous demonstrates how thoughtful housing can strengthen health and well-being while also easing the financial pressures of rising housing costs."

"Affordable housing shouldn't feel out of reach for older adults who have given so much to our communities," said Dave Schunk, president and CEO of VOA Colorado. "Rendezvous provides not just a roof, but a home, a place filled with dignity, stability, and the kind of connection that makes life meaningful."

Doug Snyder, vice president, Regional Real Estate Development for VOANS, added that, "the opening of Rendezvous is the result of years of collaboration, planning, and commitment to addressing the growing need for affordable senior housing in Montrose. This community not only provides high-quality, affordable homes but also creates a place where older adults can feel supported, connected, and valued. We are proud to see this vision come to life in Montrose."

The project was made possible through an allocation of state and federal tax credits from the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, US Bank, and the Colorado Division of Housing, as well as critical support from community partners.

Project partners include the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, State Division of Housing, Volunteers of America Colorado, US Bank, the City of Montrose, FCI Constructors, Shopworks Architecture, Mandil Inc., and Group 14 Engineering.

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Dr. Rasheed Abiola | Dr. William Summers | Dr. Ryan Hagens

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN LEADS TO PARTIAL FISH KILL AT SWEITZER LAKE STATE PARK



**A dead largemouth bass is pictured in a fishing net. CPW courtesy photo.**

### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Colorado Parks and Wildlife has evaluated an ongoing fish-kill event at Sweitzer Lake in Delta County. While CPW will not enact a fishing closure at this time, anglers should expect poor fishing conditions at [Sweitzer Lake State Park](#) until conditions improve. After receiving reports of several dead fish around the lake and at the bottom of the boat ramp, CPW aquatic biologist Eric Gardunio responded and measured low dissolved oxygen levels within the reservoir. This has led to stressed fish populations and several dead fish washing up on shore.

"The fish behavior coupled with the recent low-water levels within the reservoir made me suspect low dissolved oxygen

levels, and sure enough, we measured levels low enough to kill fish," Gardunio said. "Sweitzer Lake is a shallow, nutrient rich water body, and this coupled with recent reservoir water management likely led to this fish kill."

For much of the open-water season, the reservoir was drawn down several feet for necessary spillway construction. This left large clumps of aquatic vegetation exposed on the shallow shorelines.

During the last month, the reservoir has refilled. This has inundated the dead vegetation that has consumed oxygen as it decomposes, causing the low dissolved oxygen levels observed.

"This was likely accelerated by the four consecutive days of cloudy weather we had from Sept. 10-13," Gardunio said.

"Cloudy weather causes aquatic vegetation and phytoplankton to stop producing oxygen through photosynthesis and is known to cause fish kills. This likely caused the oxygen levels in the water to further decline."

The fish kill has impacted all species in the reservoir, including black bullhead catfish, bluegill, common carp, green sunfish and largemouth bass. However, CPW has only observed a partial fish kill at this time with fish still able to survive where there is fresh water feeding into the lake

from the inlet.

With improving conditions expected in the coming days and with fresh, oxygenated water flowing regularly into the irrigation reservoir, CPW has opted not to enact a mandatory fishing closure at this time.

"While we don't have a closure in place, please help us protect this fishery during this period of stress for the fish," said Sweitzer Lake State Park Manager Scott Rist. "The fishing is likely to be poor for a bit until the conditions improve. We understand this can be frustrating for anglers who were excited to get back out on the lake once it refilled, but protecting the fishery over the next few weeks will help all of us enjoy better fishing days in the future. Hopefully, this is a one-time event."

Gardunio will continue to sample dissolved oxygen levels over the next few weeks to assess if other management actions need to be taken. CPW will also conduct a survey of the fishery next spring to determine if there were any long-term impacts from the fish kill to inform future management of the fishery.

Anglers are reminded that Sweitzer Lake is a catch-and-release-only lake. Fish in this lake contain selenium and are not edible.



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## NEW Listing

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2 Bathroom



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**Hidden  
Lake**



## Kate's FALL Creative Classes CRAFT Workshops



Info, details, registrations  
<https://kathrynrburke.com/education>

## Mosaic Fall Wreath

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

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



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

## Endless Pastabilities Paint a Taste of Italy Houses of Venice Craft Workshop



Thurs. Oct 9th  
6-8 pm,

With Kate Burke

8" wooden house, paints, decals provided  
LED lights & extra houses available



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDS FIVE NEW OFFICERS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The Montrose Police Department has welcomed five new officers to its ranks, filling vacant positions within the agency. Officers Kelsey Phillips, Harrison Hall, Jaidyn Platt, Roberto Contreras, and, Braeden Martin, were officially sworn in during a ceremony held prior to the City Council's regular meeting on Tuesday evening, September 16.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall, along with Commanders Chris Velasquez and Jonathan Roberts, welcomed the officers before an audience of friends, family, City Councilors, city staff, and fellow Police Department officers in the City Council Chambers.

Hall said the swearing-in process for new police officers is one of his favorite responsibilities as chief of police. All the new officers are recent graduates of the 2025 Western Colorado Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA) that was held in Montrose during the summer.

Before officially swearing each officer in, Hall pointed out that they begin their tenures with the department with a high level of support from city administrators, staff, City Councilors, and Montrose residents.

"This level of community support does not exist everywhere," Hall said. "Do not do anything to cause that uniform, that badge, to be tarnished."

To maintain that support, Hall said, requires local police officers to hold themselves to the highest personal standards, both on and off duty. Hall said the officers are embarking on a career in a profession that is only meant for a few because to



*From left to right, Officers Harrison Hall, Kelsey Phillips, Roberto Contreas, Jaidyn Platt, and Braeden Martin after officially being sworn in Tuesday, Sept. 16. Courtesy photo City of Montrose.*

become a police officer "is a special kind of calling."

Hall told the new officers that, while they will make mistakes, they should never compromise their morals or integrity because their actions are a reflection of the Montrose Police Department as a whole.

"You're going to see things that no human being should see, you are going to experience things no human being should experience, so I want you to know we are all family, and you are supported," Hall said.

Hall then spoke directly to the families of the police officers, telling them the level of support from the City of Montrose for

training, protection, safety, and support is of the utmost importance.

"We take it seriously the safety of your sons, your daughters, your husbands, wives, your partners, we take their safety extremely seriously," Hall said.

Hall also thanked the community for their support of the Police Department and its mission to make Montrose a safe and welcoming place for everyone. Hall noted the WCLEA has become a valuable annual program for training and certifying new police officers in Montrose.

For more information about the Montrose Police Department, visit [www.MontrosePD.org](http://www.MontrosePD.org).

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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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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## NORMAN SMITH

NORMAN SMITH exemplified the quote by Plato: "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." Norman's entire life was dedicated to helping others unlock their own song of life.

He was born and raised in Delta, CO into a very musical family. His grandmother used to play piano for the silent movies and he credits listening to her improvisation to his own composer talent. He heard what others did not, including when he was an Eagle Scout he created a silly jingle about it. His mom Chuck would do musical pageants where neighborhood kids would join in; yet, the family was also an avid swim family.

He became a pre-Olympic swimmer while being the Delta High band major and doing the lead as Billy in Carousel. Although he excelled in other sports, he always returned to music. He was given a full-ride scholarship to swim at CSU but chose the music program at Adams State. He was selected as a freshman to go with the senior choir to Europe. His favorite places to sing were always the cathedrals. He had great faith and felt it an honor to sing for God.

When asked at a young age what he wanted to be, he would always say a teacher. He was an excellent teacher. Throughout his 32+ years at Columbine Middle, Delta High and Montrose High, there are many who give him credit for being who they became as adults. He always believed in every person he met whether student or adult. Beating the odds of a small rural choir being chosen, he took his Star Makers Delta show choir twice to Nationals. There they took 2nd and 7th place. When they returned, the Delta community gave them a parade. He humbly stated it wasn't me but them.

Due to severe knee issues, he was forced to retire but because needed, went back on three different occasions as long term sub. He remained a clinician, a contest judge, a guest conductor, and individual



voice lesson teacher. He was a well-known composer, including writing Where the Columbine Grows for the Columbine High choir after their tragedy. He was commissioned or inspired to write for many choirs throughout the state, including the many cantatas for varying churches. He wrote for many, to many and about many. His most renowned Jesus Now is Born was written for son Jeremy who was in preemie unit. This piece is still being published. After retirement, he discovered another amazing talent of woodworking. He became quite the craftsman.

Besides God, his family was his major love and priority. Even when he got terminally ill, he would make sure each was doing okay by texting or mentioning on Facebook. The saying that family is not born into but made aptly describes his view of family. Together with his wife AJ, the Smith clan accepted many into their family. He was preceded in death by his parents Ivan and Charlene "Chuck Smith", his brothers Jim Smith and Rick Smith, sister-in laws Nita and Susan Smith, nephew Trevor Smith and only 43 days prior,

the most beloved youngest son Tyler Smith.

He is survived by his children: Alissa (Mike, Hannah, Megan, Kaitlyn) Branson; Rachel (Steve Caulk, Soren, Olivia) Zen-zinger; Derek (Liam, Kamala) Smith; Jeremiah (Karen) Smith; Bart (Joseph, Jacob) Palmer; Jeremy Smith; Jerusha (Elliott, Calvin, Skylar) Siegel; Angelica (Riley) Smith-Hendricks; niece Meghan (Ty, Gabbi, Jessi Ann) Gallenbeck; nephews Terrill, Aaron, Josh, Jace; goddaughters Tasha (Michael) Roettger & Amelia Weltch, foster kids, especially Yvonne Armour & Hannah Zepp from Germany, acquired grandkids, especially Mia Bella Polizzi, friends considered family, and special x students. He was loved by too many to continue to list. He is temporarily in a long-distance relationship with his soulmate AliceJean "AJ".

Maya Angelou stated "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies."

Norman Smith is indeed a great soul. A memorial will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Friday, November 14th at 10 am.

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

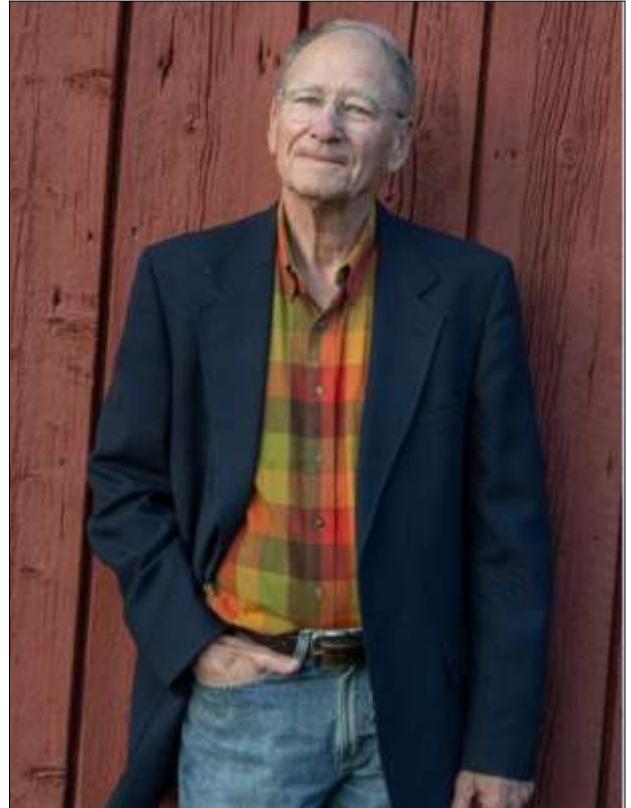
### **DONALD JAMES "DON" NORTHEY** **1942-2025**

DONALD JAMES "DON" NORTHEY, born in Waterloo, Iowa in 1942, lived a life marked by faith, family, and a spirit of adventure. He earned a master's degree in audiology from the University of Northern Colorado and married his lifelong love, Rebecca M. Mettlin, in 1962. Together, they built a life of purpose-first in Denver, where Don founded Northey Audiology Consultants, and later in Montrose, where he expanded his practice and eventually retired.

Don was a man of boundless energy and curiosity—an avid skier, dirt biker, horseman, hunter, and "rompy stompy" outdoorsman. He loved horses, often quoting Churchill: "There's something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."

But above all, Don was led by his faith. A devoted student of the Bible and prophecy, he taught and mentored across generations, always pointing others toward "The Hope of Israel." He fell asleep awaiting his Master's return, resting in the promise of resurrection.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Rebecca M. Northey of Montrose, CO; his children: Thomas J. (Shana) Northey of Montrose, CO; Lizabeth J. Northey of Montrose, CO; and Joel P. (Hannah) Northey of Ridgway, CO, sister Dee J. (Richard) Forbes of Lakewood, CO and their children Nina L. (Rob) Longbrake and Brian J. (Alaina) Forbes. He was deeply proud of his seven grandsons: Colton J. Northey, Blake W. Sankey, Parker C. Northey (Elissa), Seth J. Sankey, Grant T. Northey, James R. Northey, and Ty W. Northey (Delaney). In lieu of flowers, Don asked that you spend one hour with a young person who needs guidance or an elder who needs company—a simple act of love, in honor of a life well lived.



### **JOHN HENRY YOUNG** **March 27, 1987 - September 14, 2025**

John Henry Young passed away on September 14, 2025 in Montrose. Crippin Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting Mr. Young's family.





# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## JUDY FAYE MARTIN

***October 23, 1947- September 6, 2025***

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved, Judy Faye Martin, on September 6, 2025, at age 77. She passed away peacefully at her daughter's home in Palisade, CO surrounded by her loved ones. We cherish the last moments of feeling her gentle hands in ours, the soft murmur of her voice when she shared stories of her youth, and the twinkle in her eye when she talked about her family.

Judy was born on October 23, 1947, and was raised by her parents Fred and Wilma (Flowers) Flanigan, alongside her sister Bonnie. She married Bill Deines in 1964, and together they had two children, Marchelle and Shane. In her early years, Judy was a farmer's wife, homemaker, and swimming instructor.

Later in life, Judy married Rod Martin with whom she did lots of canoeing and tandem cycling. In quirky Judy fashion, she and Rod enjoyed eating popcorn for dinner every Sunday night! Judy was a devoted member of Grace Community Church and lived a life rooted in faith, compassion, and service.

As a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, aunt, and occasionally "Uncle Judy" she brought joy, laughter, and love to all who knew her. While Judy was a stern disciplinarian, she was everyone's favorite person! Among Judy's

many talents were her amazing culinary skills. As a young mom, she once served a single package of hotdogs for dinner and was able to easily feed six adults and three children!

She was the life of the party, and her choice of drink was a fancy Alka-Seltzer. Judy will always be remembered for her fun-loving sense of humor.

In 2022, Judy's heart returned to her first love and soulmate, Bill Deines, with whom she enjoyed the remainder of her life creating endless laughter and memories. Together they spent many hours riding four-wheelers, camping, and collecting rocks. Judy always liked bright colors and during the last years of her life she loved collecting red bows!

Judy is survived by her daughter, Marchelle Hubbartt, bonus-children Ralph Martin, Rachel Monger, Heather DenBoer, grandchildren Zerah, Nesha, Kayla, Colin, Benjamin, Natalie, Aiden, Zac, Mariah, and seven great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Rod Martin, son Shane Deines, sister Bonnie Andrews, and grandson Bryce Deines.

A celebration of life service will be held on September 24, 2025, at 2 pm, at Cripin Funeral Home at 802 E Main Street Montrose, CO 81401. Following the service, a reception will be held at Cerise Park at 400 Shane's Way Montrose, CO



81403. Since cookies were Judy's favorite snack, please feel free to bring some cookies to share! Drinks will be served, and the family asks everyone to bring their own chairs. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Abode Hospice Care in Grand Junction, CO for the amazing end-of-life care and comfort they brought to Judy.

Judy maintained the innocence of a child in her attitude toward much of life, making laughter and fun her priority. We will miss you dearly, Judy, but we are comforted knowing that we will see you



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### STEPHEN "STEVE" HAMBLIN *April 28, 1950 — September 11, 2025*



STEPHEN "STEVE" HAMBLIN, 75, passed away on September 11, 2025, in Rifle, Colorado. Born on April 28, 1950, in Delta, Colorado, Steve was a proud lifelong resident of the Western Slope—a region he held close to his heart and called home throughout his life.

He was the son of Kenneth and Bonnie Hamblin, both of whom preceded him in death. Steve is lovingly remembered by his daughters, Candy and her husband Devan Salazar, and Arlena and her husband Michael Longo. His legacy continues through his grandchildren: John Austin Vaughn, Shannon Vaughn, James Vaughn, Ian Vaughn, Hollie Vaughn, Olivia Salazar, Ashalee Canavan, Michael Canavan, and Mylee Longo. He was also blessed with great-grandchildren: Kye, Hayden, Isaak, Eevee, Atlas, Valkyrie, Ana, Evelyn, Leo, Eliana, Lukas, Xion, Melanee, Daelee and Majteo. Steve is also survived by his brother Chuck Hamblin and wife Vicky.

Steve took great pride in his heritage and found joy in sharing stories of the past. His attention to detail was evident in the way he preserved family traditions and memories for future generations.

An avid outdoorsman, Steve enjoyed hunting and fishing as meaningful ways to connect with nature and others. He especially loved coyote calling and four-wheeling across the rugged terrain.

In quieter moments, Steve could be found watching westerns or war and action films—genres that reflected his admiration for courage and resilience.

## Gone Fishing!

**ALBERT (BERT) HENRY BELLGARDT** (1951-2025) went on the greatest fishing trip of his life- with Jesus - on Monday, September 15th, 2025. Not even cancer kept him from fishing here on earth, and he even fished just days before his death.

Albert was the son of Albert and Luella (Flowers) Bellgardt and a 3rd generation Montrose native. His grandpa moved here in 1906 and helped build the Gunnison Tunnel.

He is survived by his faithful wife of 53 years, Sheri; his daughter, Jodi Woodden (Adam); son, Albert (Allen) Bellgardt; and grandchildren: Samuel Woodden (Kylie and great grand baby, Madi), Adeline Austin (Benjamin and great grand baby), Mykal Woodden, and Deklan Woodden; his sister, Dolores (Ron) Eden; his brother-in-law, Richard (Wendy) White; his sister-in-law, Cyndy Bartel; and several nieces and nephews.

After high school, Albert worked for Hartman Brothers as an auto body technician. He then started his own 30 year taxidermy business (Big Horn Taxidermy) and had an amazing gift of being able to create life-like animals. He loved his family and friends, wildlife, nature, hunting, and of course, fishing. His mother would tell stories of him at 5 years old pretending to fish from the ditch in the yard, even when there was no fish in the ditch! He was known for making homemade jerky and jelly to share with friends, loved ones, and even strangers that he considered friends. Another favorite pastime was wood carving and arrowhead hunting.

We will have a memorial service at a later date, most likely in October. The family appreciates all the love and concern we've received and in lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to Montrose Hope West, who was such a huge blessing to us in so many ways.

We're comforted knowing Albert is now at Home with Jesus and that we will see him again





## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### ROBERT THOMAS "BOB" DIETRICH *September 30, 1953 — September 8, 2025*

ROBERT THOMAS "BOB" DIETRICH, 71, beloved husband, father and friend, passed away on September 8, 2025, in Montrose, Colorado. Robert was born in Warren, Ohio, on September 30, 1953, to William and Eileen (Collins) Dietrich, and grew up in Orwell, Ohio. Eileen passed away in 1962 and William married Kathryn Clarke in 1963.

Bob married the love of his life, Mary Grose, on June 5, 1971 in Jefferson, Ohio. Together they had two children, son, Rob and daughter, Bambi. They shared a dynamic life together full of love, laughter, family and adventure.

In 1979, Bob and Mary moved to Olathe, Colorado with their children. Later settling in Montrose, he became a vibrant fixture of the community. Whether through his professional contributions or his personal connections, Bob left an indelible mark on those around him.

One of his greatest passions was community theater. He was a longtime participant at the Magic Circle Theatre in Montrose, where he brought characters to life with his own unique energy and heart.

Those who knew him will remember his

easy-going nature, quick wit, strength of character, and unwavering kindness. He had a unique ability to make everyone feel welcome—true to his belief that there are no strangers in life, only friends he hadn't met, yet.

When asked how he wanted to be remembered, he once wrote: "One thing about old Bob—he kept breathing right up 'til the day he died." That spirit—resilient, humorous, full of life—will live on in all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Mary; son Rob Dietrich (Kelly); daughter Bambi Dietrich; bonus son Donny Morales; grandchildren Coral Skye Dietrich (Derek Hawkins), Kyron Robert Dietrich, and Kali Mae Dietrich.

He is also survived by his sister Sharon Dudinsky (Bob); brothers Fred Stuble (Sue), Bill Dietrich (Lyn), Hal Stuble (Sharon), Jim Dietrich (Linda), Dave Dietrich (Florence); sister-in-law Barb Dietrich; brothers-in-law Ed Grose (Ronda) and Elmer Grose (Peggy); sister-in-law Roni Vencill (Al); several nieces and nephews; many close friends and very honora-



ble mention Ralph Mraz.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Don Dietrich and Jim Stuble. Crippin Funeral Home will handle his private interment for immediate family only.

May his memory continue to bring laughter, inspiration, and comfort to all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, please make any contributions to the Magic Circle Theatre.

### PATRICIA ANN BAIN *April 5, 1941 — September 12, 2025*



PATRICIA ANN "MURRAY" BAIN was born on April 5, 1941, to Lewis E. Greenwood and Lula E. Greenwood. Pat passed away peacefully on September 12, 2025, at the age of 84. Pat was married to Tom Bain of Montrose, Co for 23 years.

Pat was preceded in death by her late husband Roger D. Murray Sr (1997), her son Steven E. Murray (2018) and her beloved granddaughter April L. Murray (2006).

Survived by her daughter Cathy Shepperd (Carey) of Montrose, Co. Also survived by her granddaughter Tiffany Sauer of Littleton, Jesse Murray of Westminster, Ryan Murray of Loveland, Tyler Murray of Villa, Illinois, Travis Murray of Tuscola, Illinois and Deserae Murray of Hereford, Arizona. Pat had 8 great grandkids.

Pat will truly be missed by many but is now at peace.

ISSUE 540 Sept. 22, 2025

## ART &amp; SOL

## THE BAREFOOT LAUREAT: WITH WESTERN SLOPE POET LAUREATE WENDY VIDELOCK

### *Where the Wild Comes and Goes*

By Wendy Vidlock  
PALISADE—Here on the edge of the world where we watch the wild creatures come and go, we had an unusual visitor at the beginning of summer. We're accustomed to squirrels and quail and fox and coyote, scorpion and funnel spider, skunks, raccoons, jays and the occasional deer, but this little guy came as a complete surprise.

*Here where  
the globe mallow  
bloom,  
not a silly  
but a serious goose.*

Though our home is surrounded by mostly dry land, a Canada Goose had quite suddenly appeared out on the back field. When I first spotted him he was standing quite still on the path as I approached on my morning walk.

He looked so utterly out of place, so strangely bizarre, I almost laughed.

He did not appear at all surprised as I came upon him. He must have been watching me as I approached for some time.

After a few moments of looking at one another, he shook himself with purpose, (as geese seem to do), then walked past me and toward the rim of the ravine just a



few yards away. He went back and forth a few times like this before I, somewhat bewildered, followed him to the edge. There he stopped and seemed to gaze downward.

I sat on a rock next to him and followed his gaze, which led down a steep incline to the floor of the ravine where thick plots of rabbit brush and greasewood grow.

There we remained. As he gazed downward, I gazed upon him. A beautiful animal he was.

But was I imagining that he seemed glad I was there? Was I imagining that he seemed, well, sad?

It began to dawn on me that this little guy must have lost a mate.

Perhaps she'd been dragged by a predator down into the arroyo, or perhaps she'd simply fallen from the sky in flight. I pondered all the possibilities.

A couple of hours later as dusk came on, I walked back to the house alone.

He was still there in the morning. As sunlight filled our bedroom window we could make out his distinct silhouette there on the edge of the draw.

He certainly cut a striking figure, at once familiar and eternal. Cloaked in sleek brown feathers, with a breast the color of pale earth and a neck dipped in midnight, the Canada Goose carries itself with dignity and grace.

On the ground, the goose is deliberate, its gait almost ceremonial as it bends to

graze.

In flight, the goose becomes something more: a line of resolve, a chevron written across the sky, each bird lending strength to the other.

In short, our new friend took my breath away, reminding me that the ordinary world still carries splendor. In truth, I'd never much considered the goose as a thing of beauty.

And of course my husband and I were doing our research —and had discovered that indeed, on losing a mate, Canada Geese, (who mate for life) remain where the mate was last seen, sometimes days, sometimes weeks before rejoining a flock or finding another mate. Some of them, we learned, never rejoin a flock and eventually seem to die from grief.

We began bringing him water and seeds and other things it would seem a goose in mourning would need.

After a few days I became increasingly concerned that our visitor was in danger of becoming a hungry coyote's dinner. I was able to coax him, (we'd now taken to calling him Neil), along the path that leads to the house and miraculously in through the gate to the safety of our front yard.

There my husband had placed a plastic kiddie pool filled with water. When Neil carefully slipped into his little plastic pond we were delighted.

He stayed there in the front yard for a couple of weeks, even as our dog and two

*Continued next pg*



# Where the Wild Comes and Goes From previous pg

cats tiptoed around him, sniffing at his great webbed feet. He was unfazed by any of us and spent a good deal of his time perched on the gate, gazing out onto the rugged terrain where his life had so suddenly changed.

Though science has long resisted the idea of animal grief, observation continues to reveal its presence across species. Elephants linger over the bones of their dead, caressing tusks and skulls with their trunks, returning year after year as though honoring memory. Orcas have been seen carrying stillborn calves for days, unwilling to release them to the sea. Like geese, crows emit plaintive cries and alter their behavior when a mate is lost. Even domestic dogs and cats are known to withdraw into silence, refuse food, or rest in places where their companions

once slept.

*The older I grow  
the more I come to know  
the pleasures of togetherness,  
the gravity of tenderness  
and the holy practice  
of deep remembrance.*

As time passed, Neil became more active and more driven by appetite. He spent less time perched on the gate and more time investigating the yard. The little guy was recovering.

And then one morning, as I stepped out into the yard I realized our unusual visitor, as quickly as he had come, had gone.

*A gentle life lesson,  
an altered sense  
of time  
and a handful  
of feathers*

*were what the great  
waterbird  
left behind.*

Grief in animals demonstrates a shared depth of attachment. To mourn is to recognize the absence of one who mattered, to acknowledge that relationships shape the self. In this way, grief is not only sorrow but also testimony: it speaks of love, loyalty, and the invisible threads that hold living beings together. That animals grieve reminds us that we are not alone in the inevitable ache of separation that shadows every bond.

-----

Wendy Videlock serves as poet laureate of the Western Slope. Her books are available wherever books are sold. Reach her at [westernslopedword@gmail.com](mailto:westernslopedword@gmail.com)



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## GROW COMMUNITY CENTER: A RESOURCE FOR MONTROSE

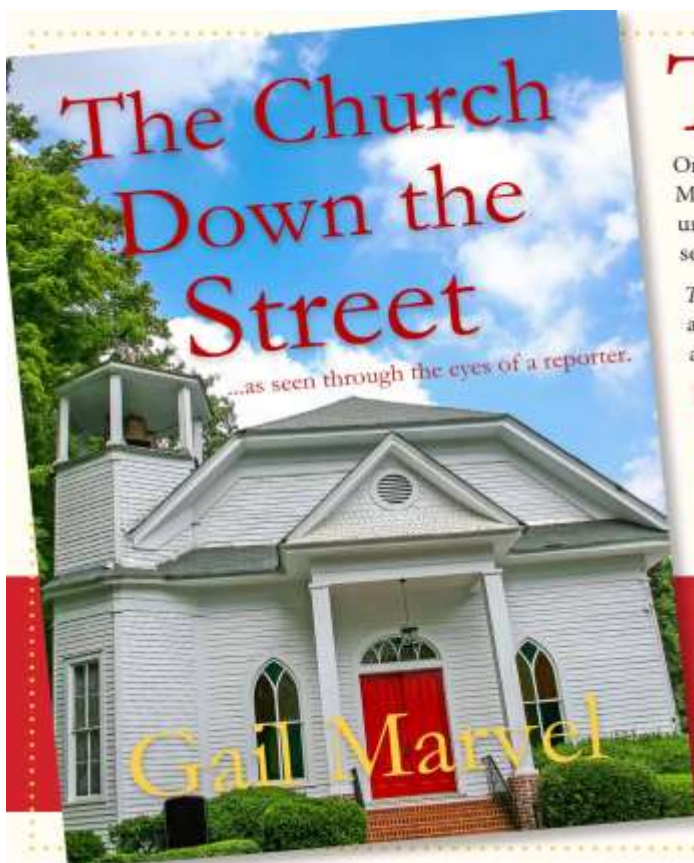
### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Grow Community Center is a non-profit organization in Montrose, Colorado serving the community by offering once a month free events and paying for scholarships for tutoring, music lessons, art lessons, dance fees, and sports fees to Montrose kids. Grow Community Center also hosts a homeschool co-op for our growing homeschool community. Grow's number one commitment and mission is to show the love of Jesus Christ to the community so that people know that they are loved and that they matter. Anyone can sign up for a scholarship on the website and view the calendar of events there as well. To sign up for the homeschool Co-op, visit the website and click on Homeschool Co-op there you can read a description and fill out the form to be contacted.

We are 100% donation funded, and donations are always welcome! To donate visit the web site- <https://www.growcommunitycenter.com/>.



*At left, Rachel Burris of Grow Community Center. Above, Burris with recent guest speaker Caitlin Switzer.*



**T**he *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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# SAN JUAN PUBLISHING AUTHOR WINS CIPA AWARD

## Special to the Mirror

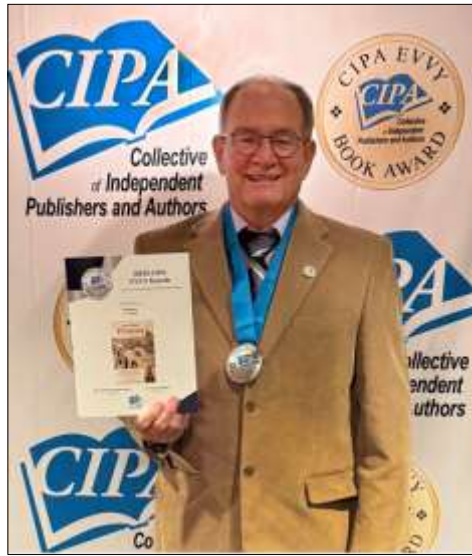
MONTROSE-Joe Zeni, author of *Promise*, published by San Juan Publishing, took home a Silver at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual CIPA EVVY awards ceremony Thursday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. His book relates the true story of Harold Aupperle who grew up in Grand Junction and served in the French Ambulance Corps during WWI.

This is the fifth EVVY award for books published by San Juan Publishing Group, Inc. (SJPG) founded in Ouray, Colorado in 1993 by publisher Kathryn R. Burke. SJPG is now based in Montrose, Colorado.

*Promise* is well-written and historically documented with explanatory footnotes and references.

It is a fascinating story, a mesmerizing read as Zeni describes the exponential changes at the turn of the last century in the Grand Valley and Western Colorado contrasting that to the Balkans during the Great War, where Harold served in the ambulance service. The Grand Valley prospered and flourished, while Eastern Europe struggled with poverty, disease, and post-war recovery. Harold Aupperle played an important role in both communities.

Well-researched, with maps, newspaper articles, and over 200 historical photographs, Harold's story is told in the context of the time and places he experienced

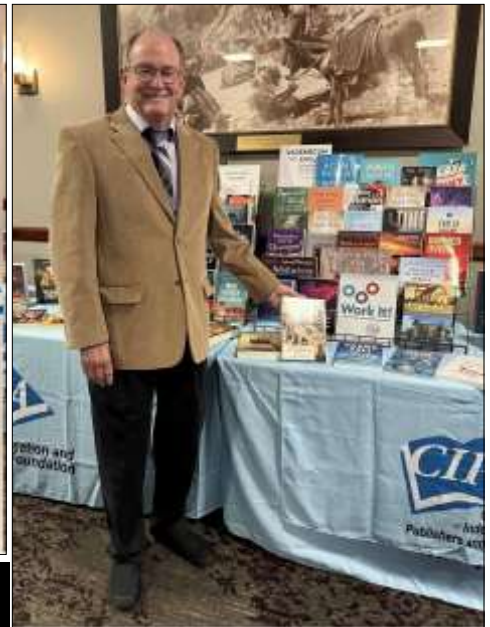


Joe Zeni, author of *Promise*, published by San Juan Publishing. Courtesy photos.

at home in Grand Junction, as a student at Stanford, and in Eastern Europe.

Joe Zeni, historian and retired educator, is involved with regional historical museums and is a frequent presenter about local historical events.

He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation resident of Grand Junction and became interested in the life of Harold Aupperle from neighbors who had known Harold's younger brother. Intrigued by Harold's story, they collected material chronicling the life of a young man, who like the times at the turn of the



last century, was filled with *Promise*—a legacy unfulfilled until Zeni wrote this book.

Dave Fishell, historian, author, and KAFM radio host, says this in his review of *Promise*: "Good job, good design, good use of photos. Very well done with excellent research. I even learned some new local history."

Read more about *Promise* and find out where to get a copy of the book, now in its Second printing. <https://sanjuanpub.com/Promise/>



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MOUNTAIN VILLAGE TO HOST OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY, OCT. 11

### Special to the Mirror

**MOUNTAIN VILLAGE**-Grab your lederhosen and dirndls and join the Town of Mountain Village for the highly anticipated return of Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 11.

The Telluride Conference Center Plaza will transform into a high-alpine Bavarian setting to bring the classic German fall festival tradition to the San Juans.

Under a large festival tent, attendees will find long communal tables perfect for sharing authentic Bavarian dishes, including warm pretzels with beer cheese, schnitzel, bratwurst with tangy sauerkraut, and traditional apple strudel.

"Many will remember the beloved Oktoberfest that used to take place in Mountain Village, and we are thrilled to be bringing the spirit of Munich back to the mountains," said Mountain Village Economic Development Director J.D. Wise. "This is a perfect way to celebrate the fall season with authentic German traditions, great food and the stunning backdrop of our Colorado peaks."

The beer garden will feature festbiers, Märzens and local craft pours available by the stein, while live entertainment throughout the day will include traditional oompah bands, polka performances and DJ sets. Festival-goers can participate in classic Bavarian lawn games and test their endurance in stein-holding contests.

The celebration welcomes all ages, though alcoholic beverages will only be available to those 21 and older. Attendees are encouraged to embrace the Bavarian spirit by wearing traditional dirndls, lederhosen, or cozy fall layers appropriate for the mountain setting.

A kid-friendly Oktoberfest will be held 9

a.m. to 11 a.m. and the Beer Garden will be open 1 to 6 p.m. Tent seating for ages 21 and over will be available for purchase for two time slots: 1-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.

A \$25 ticket includes beer garden entrance and two beer stein fills. For \$50 per person, you can upgrade to snack on a Bavarian smorgasbord served family-style at each table under the tent, in addition to the two beer stein fills.

Due to the expected popularity for this inaugural event, table and seat reserva-

tions for prime spots under the festival tent will open on September 19. With limited inventory available, early reservations are strongly recommended. General admission to the beer garden will be available while capacity allows.

The festival represents Mountain Village's commitment to creating unique experiences that blend international traditions with the natural beauty of the San Juan Mountains.

Tickets are now on sale!



**Fiesta Guadalajara**  
970-249-2460

**Alpen Confections**  
970-648-0609

**Jimmer's Steak & BBQ**  
970-252-1227



**Pahgre's**  
970-249-6442

**Rib City**  
970-249-7427

**Stone House**  
970-240-8899



**Beer Barn II**  
970-249-5550

**READ ALL ABOUT IT**  
IN THE  
**MONTROSE MIRROR**



**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](mailto:lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com)

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>





# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

## WEEKLY CARTOON

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by Tim Jones



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

# The Satisfied Woman



By Gia Pirelli.  
Courtesy photo.

**W**e all know the feeling: a sudden intense unease before making a decision, a tightening in the chest, a whisper that says something isn't right. But is that inner voice your intuition guiding you—or is it anxiety clouding your clarity? Learning to tell the difference between the two can

be one of the most empowering skills you develop.

Intuition and anxiety both live in the body and mind, and at first glance they can feel strikingly similar. Yet their roots, tone, and outcomes are very different. Understanding those differences allows you to lean into intuition as a source of wisdom, while meeting anxiety with compassion and grace.

Intuition often arrives quietly, like a calm knowing or gentle nudge. It feels grounded, steady, and clear—even if it points you toward something uncomfortable. Intuition doesn't usually argue or spiral; it simply offers insight. It enters the mind quietly, sliding through your thoughts like smoke.

Anxiety, on the other hand, tends to feel loud, urgent, and frantic. It spins stories in your head, pulls you into "what if" loops, and often feels heavy or constricting in the body. It gives you fear-based ultimatums and invites knee-jerk reaction. Anxiety wants certainty and control, while intuition is more about clarity and alignment.

A helpful litmus test: intuition feels like a guiding light, while anxiety feels like a wildfire.

We live in uncertain times—socially, economically, personally. The constant shifts in the world around us feed anxiety, and as a result, many of us stop trusting ourselves. When everything feels unstable, it's natural to doubt whether your inner compass is still pointing north.

But intuition hasn't gone anywhere. It's

still within you, steady beneath the noise. The challenge is remembering how to hear it. For some of us, that is through meditation, prayer, a walk outside, time with your dog, or maybe even a nap. Whatever it is that brings you to center and out of panic and fear, that's the first step. Your intuition is still there within you, steady beneath the noise. The challenge is remembering how to hear it.

In order to discern the voice that's speaking within you, you must first pause before acting. When you feel that rush of emotion or inner signal, resist the urge to react right away. Give yourself a few breaths to create space. Maybe take a walk. Intuition can withstand stillness; anxiety tends to escalate in silence.

Next notice the sensations in your body. Intuition often feels expansive: a deep exhale, a loosening in the chest, or a sense of "rightness." Whereas anxiety often feels contracting: tightness in the shoulders, a racing heart, or shallow breathing.

Now trace it back. Ask: Where is this feeling coming from? If it stems from a past wound of fear of rejection, or need for control, it's likely anxiety. If it arises without emotional charge but with quiet clarity, it's intuition.

Sit with it. Meditation, prayer, or stillness allows you to separate noise from wisdom. Fear thrives on speed and urgency, while intuition is patient and steady.

Accept the fact that fear will still be there. Leaning into intuition doesn't mean fear disappears. As humans, we are wired to fear the unknown. Even when your intuition is guiding you, fear may still be riding shotgun. That's normal. The key is to let intuition drive while fear simply comes along for the ride.

Courage isn't the absence of fear—it's the decision to move forward anyway. Whether you're navigating a relationship, a career shift, or a single difficult decision, trusting your intuition helps you step beyond your comfort zone and closer to your purpose.

Once we recognize that fear for what it is,

we then can make a choice to not respond from that place. We respond from wisdom. Once we've identified the triggering thought process, the response shifts. If it's anxiety, meet it with compassion. Ground yourself with deep breathing, journaling, or prayer. Recognize it as fear—not truth. You can thank your nervous system for trying to protect you, and then choose not to let it drive the bus.

If it's intuition, trust it. Even if it doesn't make logical sense in the moment, intuition is an inner compass honed by lived experience, subtle awareness, and deeper knowing. Acting upon it builds self-trust and sharpens your inner guidance.

Like any muscle, discernment between intuition and anxiety grows stronger with practice. Some ways to develop that strength include:

**Journaling:** Write down the intuitive nudges you feel, and later reflect on whether they proved insightful. This builds a record of trust.

**Body scans:** Regularly check in with how different emotions feel in your body so you can spot the difference between contraction (fear) and clarity (intuition.)

**Daily quiet time:** Meditation, prayer, or even mindful walks help you attune your inner voice.

When you lean into intuition, your life opens in new ways. Decisions become less about fear of the wrong choice and more about alignment with your deeper self. Fear and doubt no longer steer the wheel—you do, guided by an inner wisdom that's been with you all along.

Your intuition is not only a personal resource but also a powerful guide. The more you choose to trust it, the clearer it becomes, helping you navigate challenges with steadiness and grace.

So, yes, fear may always show up when you step into the unknown. But that's part of the growth. Trust your wisdom. Lean into courage. Let intuition lead you beyond your comfort zone and toward your purpose, one choice at a time.

If nothing else, remember this: anxiety shouts; intuition whispers. The more time



# The Satisfied Woman

you spend listening in stillness, the easier it becomes to tell them apart—and to let your intuition lead you toward a life of trust, clarity, and courage. Rise above the noise and trust your inner wisdom.

**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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS OF WESTERN COLORADO WILL MEET SEPT. 25

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, Sept. 25, from 9am - Noon at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Wear stripes and show off your projects made with stripes. Also bring a "burrito" style pillowcase for a community collection. Margaret Noah will lead us on a journey into her creative process in the making of her 2025 Black Canyon Quilt Show Best of Show quilt, "The Big Sunflower". Come see "How Did She Do That?" for a fascinating deep dive into Margaret's inspired development of her vision for this gorgeous art quilt. Don't miss it! Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

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A festive poster for the Annual Holiday Crafts & Bazaar. The background is a light green with white snowflake patterns. In the top right corner, there is a decorative branch with red berries and pinecones. The title 'Annual Holiday Crafts & Bazaar' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'Annual' in green, 'Holiday' in blue, and 'Crafts & Bazaar' in red. Below the title, the dates and times are listed in bold blue text: 'FRIDAY, OCT. 31ST 9AM TO 4PM', 'SATURDAY, NOV. 1ST 9AM TO 4PM', and 'SUNDAY, NOV. 2ND 11AM TO 4PM'. To the right of the dates is a large, colorful stack of wrapped gifts in various colors (red, green, blue, orange, purple). Below the stack, the location 'MONTROSE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS FRIENDSHIP HALL' is written in white text on a green background. Below the location, 'FREE ENTRY' is written in red, and 'HOURLY DOOR PRIZES' is written in blue. In the bottom left corner, there is a blue vintage car with a large green bow on its roof and a string of colorful lights. A Santa Claus figure is visible in the driver's seat.

# Annual Holiday Crafts & Bazaar

**FRIDAY, OCT. 31ST  
9AM TO 4PM**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 1ST  
9AM TO 4PM**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 2ND  
11AM TO 4PM**

**MONTROSE COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS  
FRIENDSHIP HALL**

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DOOR PRIZES**

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

# YOUNG ORIGINAL TO PERFORM OCT. 2



***Young Original is a vibrant and dynamic musical act that breathes fresh life into every venue they perform. Courtesy photo.***

### *Special to Art & Sol*

DELTA-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association presents Young Original as the first concert in the 2025-2026 season. This group will bring their fresh take on American classics, folk, and pop to The Egyptian Theater in Delta on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 7 PM. Doors open at 6 PM.

Young Original is a vibrant and dynamic musical act that breathes fresh life into every venue they perform. Known for their innovative sound and energetic performances, they blend contemporary beats with timeless melodies, captivating audiences of all ages.

Their youthful enthusiasm and creative flair make each performance an unforgettable experience, leaving listeners eager for more. With roots in both Nashville and Branson, their unique fusion of jazz, classical, folk, and pop is a must-see for all!

Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the night of the performance : \$25 for adults and \$5 for students.

For more information please contact Anna Marie at 801-870-8621 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit [www.deltamontroseconcerts.com](http://www.deltamontroseconcerts.com).

# 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com)

Website: [ccvmontrose.org](http://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](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:spirit@communityspiritucc.org)

**Website:** [communityspiritucc.org](http://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](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),  
[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://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](mailto:info@fpcmontrose.com), [www.fpcmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)  
 Website: [montroseucc.org](http://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](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

[montroseumc.org](http://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](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)  
 email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)  
**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson  
**Worship Service Times:** Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.  
 Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.  
 We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.  
**Children's services:** We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.  
 We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

**Denomination affiliation:** Independent Spiritual and Interfaith Community  
**Address:** Services at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose  
**Office hours:** Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, Home Office – 970-252-0908  
**Contact information:** Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, 970-252-0908, [arlyn@spiritaware.org](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org), [www.spiritaware.org](http://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., 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://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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## Kate's FALL Creative Classes ART



Info, details, registrations  
<https://kathrynrburke.com/education>

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



### Friday Afternoon Art with Kate Montrose Senior Center

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

\$40/pp. [montroserec.com](http://montroserec.com), Registration Code: 50+ART - 03

## Create a Decorated Corkbox 1-3:30 pm, Sun. Oct. 12th.



Turn your old  
corks into a  
work of art!

Class includes  
Wine Tour  
& Tasting

Everything  
provided plus  
glass of wine  
& a snack.



LA NOUE DUBOIS WINERY

\$50-\$55. Register <https://kathrynRburke.com/101225wine>

## ALCOHOL INK

Drip, drop, spritz, splatter, sponge, pour, and paint vibrant abstract color

THR  
OCT  
16



5:30  
-  
7:30  
pm

This is a "foolproof" medium. Anything goes. Everything works.

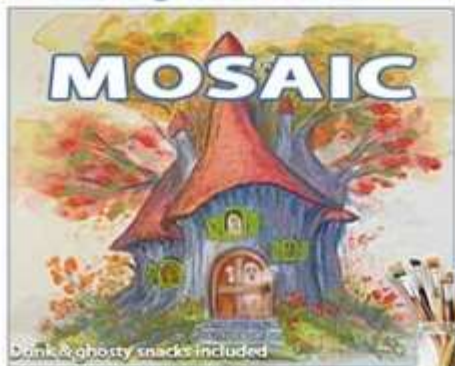
Everything included plus adult beverage or soft drink & snack.

\$43-\$48. Senior discount available. 21 N. Cascade Ave.  
Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/101625M>



## Haunted Cottage 5:30-7:30 pm, Thur., Oct. 23

With Kate Burke Ghosts optional!



Everything provided plus art template.

Drink & ghosty snacks included

\$43-\$48. Senior discount available.  
Register online <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/102325M>



## Friday Afternoon Art with Kate Friday, October 24th 1-3 pm



Step-by-step instructions to paint this on  
14" x 11" canvas. No experience necessary.  
Everything included plus cookies and cider

\$40/pp. [montroserec.com](http://montroserec.com), Registration Code: 50+ART - 05



LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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1 bathrooms

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🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>







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SATURDAY · SEPT 27 @ 7:30PM

SUNDAY · SEPT 28 @ 2PM

**TICKETS ONLY \$5**



by William Saroyan • Directed by Meghan Deets

A story about the power of human connection...how even a fleeting encounter can be felt more deeply, and prove more meaningful than relationships which span a life-time.



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.



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.



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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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### MEET FAITH KING—PROOF THAT ONE PERSON CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING



warmth for the children who come into her care. Her story isn't just about fostering—it's about following a call to serve, even when the journey is uncertain.

"Faith reminds us that what makes a great foster parent is simply a willing heart and a steady presence," said Lisa McGinnett, Western Slope Director for Project 1.27. "At Project 1.27, we believe that every child deserves to know they are safe and loved, and Faith's story shows how one person can offer exactly that."

Faith's story underscores a core message of the Fostering Hope campaign: All kinds of kids need all kinds of families. Whether married or single, with children or without, homeowner or renter, what matters most is the willingness to show up, offer safety, and provide love.

If fostering isn't possible for you, there are many ways to support the Project 1.27 program — from providing respite care and donating supplies to offering meals and mentoring.

For all the ways you can help make a difference, visit: <https://www.project127.org/delta.html>

To watch the Faith's full video and learn more about becoming a foster parent in Delta County, visit [www.Project127.org/Delta](http://www.Project127.org/Delta).

**To watch Faith's full video, get involved, donate, or begin your journey as a foster parent, visit [project127.org/delta](http://project127.org/delta). Courtesy photo.**

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

DELTA COUNTY— In the third video installment of Delta County's Fostering Hope campaign, the spotlight turns to Faith King—an inspiring example that you don't have to fit a traditional mold to make a difference in a child's life.

Faith King, a single woman who teaches pre-K and kindergarten at a public Montessori school in Crawford, answered the call to foster. Her story is a powerful reminder that families come in all shapes

and sizes—and that every child deserves someone who will step up for them.

In her candid interview, Faith shares how her heart for children led her to open her home to those in foster care. "I've always wanted to help children who needed a safe place, King said. "Even as a little girl, I would play games where I imagined running an orphanage. It's something that's always been on my heart."

As a foster mom, Faith has poured her heart into creating structure, safety, and

## SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



# 970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS




MONTROSE  
Community Band  
COLORADO

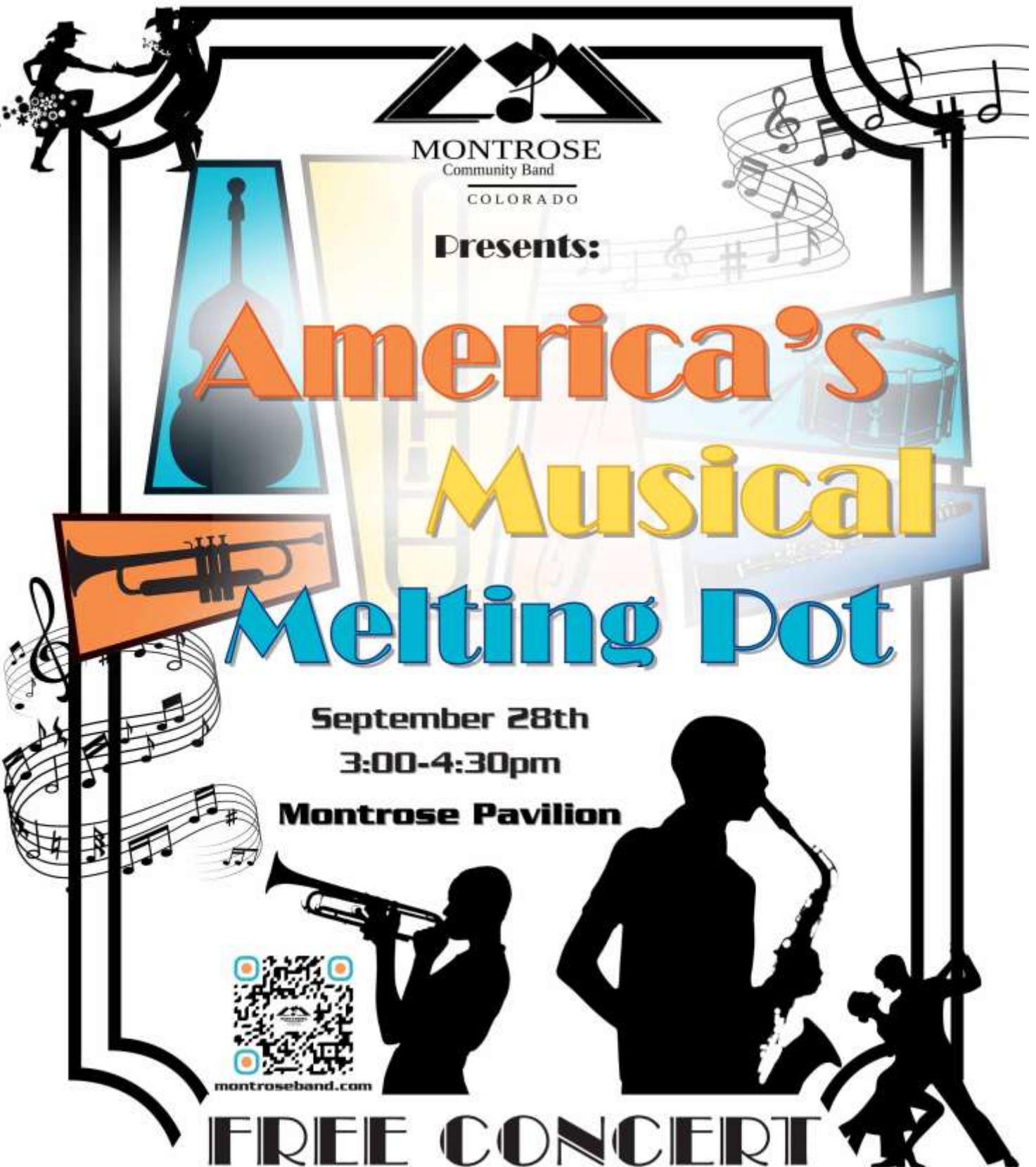
Presents:

# 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  
**INDEPENDENT**

**TURNER  
AUTOMOTIVE**

The Montrose Mirror  
PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN



DELTA  
HEALTH  
A Division of Delta Community Services



MONTROSE PRESS

Poster  
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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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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. 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](http://www.montroselibrary.org) 970-249-9656.

**Sept. 25**-CMU Montrose Campus Lecture Series presents:"Heatwaves and Human Health" with Charles Geoffrion, President of the Board of Health for Tucson, Arizona, 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, at Cascade Hall, S. 3rd St. & Cascade Ave.,CMU Montrose Campus. Free and open to the public.

**Sept. 25**--Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, Sept. 25, from 9am - Noon at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Wear stripes and show off your projects made with stripes. Don't miss it! Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

**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](http://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.com).

**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 at5 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/](http://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



## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: B. SWITZER



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