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© Issue No. 657 Sept. 29, 2025

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CDE 'STEPPED WELL AND TRULY OUTSIDE THEIR BOUNDS' BY REMANDING CHARTER APPLICATION, FISHERING SAYS, AS RE-1J BOARD APPROVES MCA APPLICATION WITH CONDITIONS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- The Montrose County School District Re-1J Board of Education voted on Tuesday, Sept. 23 to approve the Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) Charter School application with conditions.

Despite the local school board voting twice previously to deny the application, it was remanded to RE-1J by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for reconsideration several weeks ago.

During Tuesday's special meeting, directors entered an Executive Session at the start of the meeting and then engaged each other in a public discussion. Present for the meeting were Board President Sarah Fishing (District E); Board Vice President Steve Bush (District G); District A Director

Continued pg 28



Montrose County RE-1J School District Directors engaged in a public discussion prior to approving the MCA Charter School Application with conditions. Meeting Screenshot.

7 BREW CELEBRATES NATIONAL COFFEE DAY!

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Monday, Sept. 29, Montrose's 7-Brew celebrates National Coffee Day. On Thursday, Sept. 25, the Mirror stopped by the 7-Brew Stand at 1433 Encanto Place.

7-Brew Manager Brandi Fresquez said that the Montrose stand now has 23 employees, many of whom are high school students. "It's a good night job," she said, "with good tips. We're a really good little family, and we have fun on our shifts."

Even the music playlist here is upbeat, with popular songs adding to the vibe—a standardized playlist for all 7-Brew locations.

What's not standardized is your choice of drinks. You can have your beverage customized however you choose; the top seller here is the Blondie, a vanilla and caramel breve, but there are plenty of options. You do not even have to drink coffee—last Thursday, my choice of hot cocoa was just right for a chilly morning.

Also, many of patrons here are

Continued pg 4



Team members at the 7 Brew Stand in Montrose fill customer orders on Thursday, Sept. 25.

[Friends of Youth and Nature:](#)
[The Fun of Fall is Outdoors!](#)

[Project 7 Water Authority Meeting:](#)
[By Gail Marvel!](#)

[Local Photos!](#)
[Calendar of Events!](#)

[Reader Photo Spotlight:](#)
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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,
 Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror



Fresh news for busy people

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

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Publisher: Harry Switzer

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

For information, advertising opportunities, or to submit content:

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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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS PHOTO EXHIBITION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, Oct. 1, Montrose County Historical Society presents Sally Johnson sharing "Through the Lenz," a review of the photographs of Thomas McKee, the renowned western slope photographer. The public is welcome to attend this free program at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.

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7 BREW CELEBRATES NATIONAL COFFEE DAY! From pg 1

are regulars, Fresquez said, noting that the team tries to go the extra mile for loyal customers. "We love our regulars--we spot their cars and get their drink ready."

And for those visiting 7-Brew for the first time, Fresquez had this to say, "We're here, and ready to welcome you to our family!"



Above, 7 Brew Montrose celebrates National Coffee Day today. At right, the menu is posted outside the drive-through stand, and all drinks can be customized.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DRIVER ARRESTED IN HIT AND RUN

Colorado State Patrol News Release

MONTROSE—On Sunday, Sept. 21, a 68-year-old male was walking on the right shoulder of the roadway, northbound on 6400 Road. A vehicle, also traveling northbound on 6400 Road, went onto the right shoulder and struck the pedestrian. The vehicle fled the scene. The pedestrian was transported by ambulance to a local hospital with serious injuries.

The 68-year-old male victim was identified as Michael Keenan from Montrose. He was treated for his injuries and released from the hospital on Sept. 24, 2025. The Colorado State Patrol identified the suspect vehicle that struck Mr. Keenan as a black 2007 Chevrolet Silverado.

Troopers were able to locate the vehicle, as well as the driver, who was identified as Johan Duarte Javalera, a 21-year-old male from Montrose. He was arrested on Sept. 25, 2025, and received the following charges when he was booked into the Montrose County Jail:

- Failed to remain at the scene of a crash that caused serious bodily injury (Felony Offense)
 - Tampering with Physical Evidence (Felony Offense)
 - Failed to notify police of an accident (Misdemeanor Offense)
 - Careless Driving causing Serious Bodily Injury (Misdemeanor Offense)
 - Using a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle and was the proximate cause of bodily injury to another (Misdemeanor Offense)
 - Drove without a valid driver's license or instruction permit (Traffic Offense)
- Thank you to the community for your outpouring of support for the family of Mr. Keenan and the Colorado State Patrol. Arrests and charges are merely accusations until and unless a suspect is convicted of a crime. All suspects and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH EXPANDS ACCESS THROUGH ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS (APP)

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Advanced practice providers (APPs) have long been part of care at Montrose Regional Health (MRH), and their impact continues to grow. These highly trained professionals include physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), and clinical nurse specialists (CNSs). They partner with physicians to improve access, spend more time with patients, and support high-quality care across the community.

A key difference between APPs and physicians is their day-to-day clinic availability. Physicians often spend more time performing specialized procedures



Nurse practitioner Lori Hull-Grommesh, DNP, ACNP-BC, FAANP, an advanced practice provider at MRH, talks with a patient during a cardiology clinic visit. MRH Courtesy photo.

and surgeries, which can limit how often they are available in clinic. APPs are typically available five days a week, giving patients more consistent access to care.

APPs play a vital role in MRH clinics by managing common health concerns, providing follow-up care and helping reduce physician workload. Both APPs and physicians undergo extensive medical education and clinical training. APPs complete a health care-related bachelor's degree, followed by two to four years of graduate education, earning at least a master's degree and sometimes a doctorate. Physicians complete four years of medical school after their undergraduate studies, then three to seven years of residency training to prepare for advanced procedures and surgeries.

APPs are integrated into many MRH specialty clinics to expand access and strengthen patient care. Physician assistants and nurse practitioners work alongside physicians at the Alpine Women's Centre, Cardiology Clinic, Digestive Health Center, Pulmonology Clinic, and Spine & Pain Center. At the Family Center, four full-time certified nurse midwives provide comprehensive, around-the-clock maternity care.

Although their training differs, both APPs and physicians are highly qualified to care for patients and work together to provide timely, safe and effective treatment. By making APPs an essential part of its clinical teams, Montrose Regional Health ensures patients have consistent access, stronger continuity of care and high-quality services close to home. Patients are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an advanced practice provider today to experience the value of this team-based approach.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH HOSTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HEALTH FAIR EVENT FOR 2025 *The 2025 Health Fair helps community members with thousands of blood tests administered*



Montrose Regional Health hosts another successful Health Fair event for 2025. Courtesy photo Montrose Regional Hospital.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— For more than 36 years, Montrose Regional Health (MRH) has helped thousands of individuals gain life-saving insights into their health at significantly reduced costs. This past August, MRH hosted its annual health fair, and the 2025 event was a resounding success.

"The 2025 Health Fair was tremendously successful, and we couldn't be more grateful to our community for showing up with such enthusiasm, Leann Tobin, Chief Ancillary Services & Marketing Officer said. "It's clear that Montrose values wellness, and events like this reflect our shared commitment to proactive, accessible healthcare. We're proud to partner with local organizations and volunteers to make preventive care a reality for everyone."

A total of 2,156 community members attended this year's health fair, highlighting just how important this event is to the region. Over the course of the fair, 9,421 tests were performed. Among the most popular were:

- HealthScreen panel – 2,069 tests
- Complete blood count (CBC) – 1,616 tests
- Hemoglobin A1C and estimated average

glucose (EAG) – 1,130 tests

Other tests included the advanced lipid panel, female hormone panel, high-sensitivity cardiac C-reactive protein (hs-CRP), PSA, testosterone, vitamin B12/folate, and vitamin D. All participants are encouraged to follow up with their primary care providers to review results and determine the best next steps for managing their health.

MRH sincerely thanks its 2025 sponsors, including Alpine Bank, Avient, Mountain

West Insurance and TEI Rock Drills, along with the nearly 60 volunteers and local food trucks, The Grill Good Gravy Boat and Twisted B's Soda & Teas, for helping create a welcoming and successful event. The organization also extends appreciation to its community partners, including DMEA, the City of Montrose, Montrose School District and Ridgway School District, who continue to support preventive care by covering low-cost blood tests for their employees.

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The Red Hawks ready to take the football field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SEEKS AGRICULTURAL IMPACT FEEDBACK FOLLOWING SOUTH RIM FIRE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Has your agricultural business been impacted by the South Rim Fire?

-Economic impacts can include business disruption, staffing issues, lost revenue, inventory loss, increased operating costs and delayed operations.

-Physical damages include any agricultural-related property damaged by fire, ash, smoke, fumes and flood after fire.

If you have been impacted, please take the agricultural impact survey to help local, tribal, and state authorities to understand South Rim Fire impacts and needs.

Survey link: [https://](https://survey123.arcgis.com/.../257685ebd8fb413d8ac99bab...)

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Questions and Technical Assistance:

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**Congratulates
Leann Tobin**



ON HER RETIREMENT

Montrose Regional Health proudly acknowledges and thanks Leann for over 36 years of dedicated service.

Your compassion, commitment, and care have made a lasting difference for our patients, their families, your colleagues, and our community. We are deeply grateful for your many years of service and the positive impact you have made at Montrose Regional Health.

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Montrose County

AGRICULTURE IMPACT SURVEY

Understanding Economic Stress to Agriculture

Has your agricultural business been impacted by the South Rim Fire?

Information collected in this entry form will help local, tribal, and state authorities understand disaster impacts and needs.

The availability of disaster assistance is not guaranteed. This entry form does not serve as an application for assistance programs.

Economic Impacts

Economic impacts can include: business disruption, staffing issues, lost revenue, inventory loss, increased operating costs and delayed operations.

Physical Damages

Physical damages include any agricultural-related property damaged by fire, ash, smoke, fumes and flood after fire.

[Montrose County Agriculture Survey Link](#)

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MISCOMMUNICATION AND MISPERCEPTIONS

Editor:

I believe one of the most challenging struggles in our homes, our communities and throughout the world is that communication has broken down. Communication starts in childhood when conflicts begin, and boundaries are tested. It seems like, not much has changed, now it's the lefts vs the right, the rich vs the poor, the young vs the aged. Whatever happened to the truth, timely thought-out consideration, transparency of purpose, respect for our civil rights, especially freedom of speech?

I remember the days when Walter Cronkite read the news, especially by him, it must be true. Words and handshakes meant something, sworn oaths were rooted in one's soul freely and the belief that everyone is accountable for their actions rang true. It saddens me to say; I no longer feel that way. As a freelance writer and student of communication, I value clarity!

Without clarity all we have is static! I think most people want that too, while others choose to distance themselves the best they can because they're uncomfortable communicating.

Lately, I've come to discover that the truth often depends on one's perception of what it means to communicate. Since we all have different perceptions, the sooner we find our shared purpose, the smoother things will move forward until they don't. When communication becomes static... we've reached a point of miscommunication, and, according to Alex Lyon, PhD in Communication, a communication coach, "Miscommunication is usually the norm. It's a starting place of our interactions with each other and communication is the process to overcome the gap to a place of shared meaning and perception." I believe we all want to be heard, understood and validated. So why are so many people at odds with one another?

To me, breakdown in communication is a sheer sign that "something isn't right" and you have to ask yourself why. To me, the lack of transparency usually is the root cause of miscommunication. Disregard and rudeness sometimes comes from the people we least expect and at any level, I have to sit up, take notice and pray, "God help us all. We are in a world of hurts. I truly believe that the truth does set us free regardless of when and how it comes about because the principle of the matter is: Right is Right. Set the record straight. We can and we owe it to ourselves, our families, and our community to do better. **If you're working as a team, be sincere and bring your "A" game. If you're volunteering, bring your smile and talent. And, if you're serving the people, serve nobly, honestly and with integrity.** Thank you for reading.

Siggie ~ Sieglinde Carpenter, freelance writer and PR volunteer

ENCOURAGE DISSENTING OPINIONS

Editor:

First, I would like to quote something published in the *Montrose Mirror* on Monday, 9/22/2025 that I agree wholeheartedly with "Without Freedom of Thought there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech". Benjamin Franklin. The opinions contained in the letters by Charlie Zimmerman and Ed Henrie on 9/22/2025 are certainly not conducive to encouragement of dissenting opinions. I am a Democrat. I am a Christian.

However, the Jesus Christ I believe in is inclusive. He is not exclusive. Charlie Kirk did not speak to me nor for me. I am sorry he was murdered. I give my sincere condolences to his wife, Erika and his family. I do not believe anything is ever settled by violence. I do not own a gun. I do believe that more dollars should be spent on mental health in this country. Currently monies for any health care are being diverted for other purposes. I also believe in the Second Amendment to the US Constitution. But without some kind of sane

control of guns, more innocent people will die.

One more thing...I believe in vaccinations. I am a retired registered nurse with a baccalaureate degree from the University of Texas at Austin. I believe that an unnecessary, absolutely atrocious number of deaths will occur because of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s influence as HHS Secretary. I remember friends who survived polio but were crippled for life as a result. Measles can kill.

Raye Highland, Montrose

KUDOS TO THE CITY OF MONTROSE FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Editor:

Kudos to the City of Montrose for the infrastructure projects this summer: West Main, new water and sewer pipelines, Round About on East Oak Grove, sidewalks and pavement overlay. An example of government and taxpayer money working for the taxpayers. I'm grateful. Thank you.

Jo Clugg, Montrose



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FEATURES

- 3 Bedrooms
- Covered Porch
- 3 Baths
- Shed/Storage
- Spacious Deck
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The survey collects details on a range of challenges businesses may be facing, including:

-Business Impacts: Operational disruptions, staffing shortages, lost revenue, inventory loss, increased operating costs, and delays in services or production.

-Physical Damages: Harm to business property caused by fire, ash, smoke, fumes, or post-fire flooding.

This survey is not an application for financial assistance and does not guarantee disaster aid. However, the data will play a critical role in assessing the overall impact of the South Rim Fire and supporting future recovery and planning efforts.

The survey is open until October 14, 2025. To complete the survey, visit: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/c12e85c2dbef4ce79d90fa03faf20e41>

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Montrose County

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The availability of disaster assistance is not guaranteed. This survey form does not serve as an application for assistance programs.

Business Impacts
Economic impacts can include business interruption, staffing issues, lost revenue, inventory loss, increased operating costs and delayed operations.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TAXPAYER-FUNDED PERKS FOR THE ELITE: TIME TO RECLAIM MONTROSE'S PRIORITIES

Editor:

The Core Issue: Favoritism Over Fairness

Montrose, Colorado, was once a beacon of Western resilience, a place where hard work and community spirit built a thriving small town. But under the stewardship of City Manager Bill Bell, that spirit has been supplanted by a vision that prioritizes the comforts of a privileged few over the needs of the many. The latest example? **A taxpayer-funded daycare center exclusively for city employees**, carved out of a renovated old charter school **at a cost of \$850,000**, with ongoing operational expenses sure to follow. While city workers enjoy competitive salaries and robust benefits packages, the majority of Montrose residents scrape by on minimum-wage retail jobs. This is not governance; it is favoritism, funded by sales taxes that already burden our community more heavily than many expect from a Rocky Mountain outpost.

Economic Disparities in Montrose

Consider the irony. Montrose's economy, shaped by Bell's "grand vision," revolves around tourism, outdoor recreation, and service-sector gigs that pay little and demand much. The median household income here hovers around \$50,000, with countless families juggling multiple low-wage roles just to cover basics. Retail clerks at local shops, servers in our diners, and seasonal workers in the orchards earn Colorado's minimum of \$14.42 per hour, often without the overtime or stability afforded to public servants. Yet Bell, ever the architect of elite enclaves, has convinced the City Council to greenlight this employee-only childcare facility. Approved unanimously in a recent work session, the project will serve up to 50 children of municipal workers, with the city handling renovations before outsourcing daily operations. No provisions for the broader community, no sliding-scale fees for struggling parents, no outreach to the underprivileged families who truly need affordable

care. This is daycare as a perk, not a public good.

The Financial Sleight of Hand

The financial sleight of hand is staggering. That \$850,000 could have bolstered our parks, repaired pothole-riddled roads on North Townsend Avenue, or expanded mental health services at the local clinic. Instead, it funnels directly into a benefit that mirrors corporate executive lounges more than small-town equity. City employees, already drawing average annual salaries exceeding \$60,000 plus health coverage and pensions that outpace private-sector norms, now get subsidized childcare to boot. Meanwhile, a single mother working checkout at the grocery store faces waitlists for private daycares costing \$1,200 a month per child, forcing her to choose between employment and family. Bell's proposal, passed without a whisper of public input, underscores a disconnect: our leaders serve their court, not the commons.

Montrose's Crushing Tax Burden

Worse still, this largesse arrives amid a tax regime that squeezes residents dry. Montrose boasts a combined sales and use tax rate of 8.53 percent, comprising 2.9 percent state, 1.75 percent county, and a hefty 3.88 percent city levy that includes the Montrose Recreation District. For restaurants and lodging, it climbs to 9.33 percent and 9.43 percent, respectively. *Adding insult to injury, Montrose is one of the few places in Colorado that levies sales tax on food for home consumption, a policy that hits low-income families hardest. Unlike most of the state, where groceries are exempt from sales tax, Montrose residents pay the full 8.53 percent on every loaf of bread and gallon of milk, further straining budgets already stretched thin.* In a town where the cost of living edges higher due to our remote location and reliance on imported goods, every purchase feels like a toll. Groceries, gas, school supplies, all inflated by this

rate, which ranks among the highest in Colorado.

A Pattern of Insider Favoritism

This pattern is no anomaly. Under Bell's tenure, Montrose has seen a parade of projects that favor insiders: lavish public works facilities rubber-stamped for efficiency, yet ballooning in cost; sales tax hikes floated to fund pet initiatives without voter say. Recall the proposed county sales tax increase he championed earlier this year, layered atop our already steep local rates. Each increment chips away at our disposable income. Childcare deserts plague rural Colorado, with only 22 spots per 100 children under five in Montrose County, far below national averages. A true leader would partner with nonprofits or leverage state grants for universal access, not lock the doors to city hall's inner circle. Studies show public-sector perks like this exacerbate inequality, widening the gulf between haves and have-nots in towns like Montrose.

A Time for Change

Attend the next council meeting on October 7. **[VOTE NO to the City Charter Amendment](#)** on the Ballot this fall! Tell the City Council and Bill Bell they do not need ANY MORE expansion of power given to them by the ***"We the People"*** of Montrose.

As we see new candidates in January for City Council's election in April of 2026, support candidates who champion the people of Montrose over the bureaucrat. Montrose's soul is in its people, not its City worker perks. Are you tired of funding oblivion yet? Join the chorus demanding change. Our taxes built this town; they should rebuild it for everyone, not just Bill Bell's court.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FOR BETTER EDUCATION, CHANGE THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING

Editor:

We have an election coming up in early November. It contains 2 state propositions concerning our state legislatures and access to TABOR, 2 Montrose Regional Library District Measures that want to increase our library taxed and to make a temporary tax passed a number of years ago permanent, a city Municipal Ballot Measure to amend the city charter (too many changes to be properly published), a County Ballot measure to recall one of the conservative county commissioners. (If this passes then the BOCC will become progressive again instead of remaining conservative as it is now with Scott. That is primarily what the recall is all about and the bringing of light to the prior activities

of the previous board.). There has been only one filing as a successor to Scott if the ballot question passes.

And there are 4 conservative challengers to the Montrose County School Board. The school board has also been a majority of progressives and has put out children in the lower 1/3 of the state for the 3 Rs. After saying the school board was open to new ideas they have denied the Montrose Classic Academy from being one of the choices to help our children achieve better scores.

The MCA went to the Colorado State Education Office to appeal the MCSD decision. The CSE voted 8-1 in favor of the MCA, the CSE sent a letter admonishing the MCSD for not permitting the MCA in

the first place.

If you want better education you need to change the way things have been going the last few years with the same negative results.

Please consider Neisha Balleck, Scott Scarborough, Tiffany Vincent and Shane Daly as your next MSCD board members. Do it for the education of our children and our children's children. If you are a believer and a follower in Jesus Christ then you have exchanged your will for His. So when you go to vote whether it be at your kitchen table or the polls remember to be informed, pray for His leading and vote His conscience.

John Brown

WE THE PEOPLE

IF THE SYSTEM WILL DO THIS TO US, IT WILL DO IT TO YOU

Editor:

As President and Founder of Forsaken Soldiers, I feel it's important to speak directly about an issue that affects veterans across every branch and generation.

I live daily with the burden of broken health care: costs I should never carry, emotional isolation, and the loss of independence. The delays and missteps I've experienced are not unique—they reflect a system where bureaucracy and provider shortages replace competence and timely care.

But this isn't just about me. It's about all veterans. In 2022, over 6,400 veterans died by suicide—about 17 every day.

Since 2001, more than 120,000 veterans have died by suicide. In 2024, nearly 33,000 veterans were homeless, over half with disabilities. These are not just numbers—they are lives, families, and brothers and sisters in arms.

Veterans should not be sleeping outside VA gates. We should not be losing more lives to suicide here at home than we lost to combat overseas. We should not be forced into poverty or despair because of systemic neglect.

This is bigger than insurance. Whether it's the VA or private coverage, provider networks mean you're stuck with whatever doctors will participate. If there aren't

enough providers—or if competence is lacking—patients suffer. Veterans suffer.

We must demand a system that honors veterans with dignity, competence, and urgency. Because every day we wait, more lives are damaged—and some are lost forever. And let this be a warning: what happens to combat veterans is something society should pay close attention to. If the system will do this to us, it will do it to you. If it hasn't touched you yet, be prepared—because it's coming.

Donald W. Lesser,

Sergeant First Class, United States Army, Retired President and Founder, Forsaken Soldiers LLC

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE COUNTY DESERVES BETTER THAN PERSONAL VENDETTAS DRESSED UP AS JOURNALISM

By Sean M. Pond, Montrose County Commissioner, District 3

MONTROSE—Last week Dennis Anderson published an opinion column titled “Sean Pond should resign ... but he won’t.” It was heavy on personal attacks and light on facts. Montrose County deserves the truth.

When Mike Keenan was tragically struck in a hit and run, the first reports came from his family and early law enforcement briefings that suggested it could have been intentional. I shared those early reports and called for transparency as the investigation unfolded. When Colorado State Patrol later clarified that distracted driving was a possible factor, I shared that as well. To this day, CSP has not issued any public release saying whether the crash was intentional or not. Some outlets speculated about distraction, but there has been no definitive statement confirming or ruling out intent. My goal was, and remains, to ensure the public receives accurate information as it develops.

Anderson also misrepresented what I said about national violence. In my video I re-

ferred to the insane liberal left while discussing the assassination of Charlie Kirk, a description of violent extremists, not an attack on every Democrat or every person with liberal views. Anderson chose to lump that into a sweeping claim that I was calling all liberals or our entire community radical. That’s not what I said, and it’s a deliberate distortion.

Anderson called me a “conflict entrepreneur” who thrives on division. In reality, standing up for rural Colorado and insisting on accountability isn’t division, it’s representation. I was appointed after the passing of Commissioner Rick Dunlap created a vacancy. I stepped in to serve my community during a difficult transition. Demanding transparency and reform isn’t stirring conflict; it’s doing the work people expect of a commissioner.

He claims my judgment is clouded by political ambition. The truth is simpler: every decision I make is about protecting jobs, land use, and freedom here at home. I have no plans to run for any office other than the one I currently hold. My focus is on serving the people of Montrose Coun-

ty, not climbing a political ladder.

Anderson accuses me of contradicting Commissioner Scott Mijares about leadership resignations. I said what I’ve said from the start, restoring accountability was necessary.

Several senior staff members left after losing the Board’s confidence. It was a lawful, professional process, not a coup or a power grab.

Finally, he says there were no reports suggesting the hit and run could have been intentional when I first spoke. That is untrue. At the time, multiple sources, including the victim’s own family, believed it was intentional. My call was for a full investigation and transparency. As the facts changed, I updated the public.

Montrose County deserves better than personal vendettas dressed up as journalism.

We need honest reporting and respectful debate. I will keep fighting for transparency, standing for our rural way of life, and representing the people who asked me to serve, even when it’s uncomfortable or unpopular with the press.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE YES TO RECALL SCOTT MIJARES

Editor:

Scott Mijares is a bully who regularly abuses his power and does not believe rules (or laws) apply to him. He needs to be recalled this November.

You can go directly to recallscottmijares.com and click on the “news” link to educate yourself, from a variety of western slope news sources, on all of the chaos he’s created in his short tenure as a county commissioner. If you are on Facebook, you can scroll back on the Recall Scott Mijares page and see him in action at a few different meetings. Just the bullying lowlights of his tenure so far...

-Demanding that standard public comment time limits be altered for him. (before he was a commissioner)

-Demanding that he, as a sitting commissioner, get to make public comment, and then proceed to drone on and on for way

over 3 minutes.

-Pushing Commissioner Sue Hansen aside as board chair, even though she had the seniority and knowledge for properly running a BOCC meeting.

-Threatening the newly hired public health director with losing his job for no good reason.

-Forcing the resignation of the long-term county attorney and recently hired county manager, fully solidifying a toxic work environment (fearful workplace) for everyone working for the county.

-Posting the names and addresses of everyone in our community who signed the recall petition on his website. Thus, encouraged his thug-like following to go after people. On his website, Mijares says that the “fearful workplace claim” is false. This is a relatively small community. You don’t have to go far to find someone who

works for the county who can tell you firsthand how toxic and dysfunctional their working environment has become due to the actions of two of our commissioners. Please take the time to talk to your neighbors, friends, and coworkers. All it took for me was walking around at the county fair with a petition and having numerous county employees tell me “thank you” for working on the recall to realize that it’s important he be recalled. Of course, I’m not even addressing the misinformation he regularly disseminates or the money he’s cost us as county taxpayers. You can read about that as well. We need someone who cares about our community and will make decisions based on what’s beneficial for the community, not what feeds a power-hungry ego. Vote YES to recall Scott Mijares.

Jill Haga, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FAITH IS FLOURISHING

Editor:

Is it just me, or have you noticed a resurgence of faith too?

The news reports say more people are flocking to church than ever before, but on a personal level I've noticed something deeper: friends and family are becoming more open about their faith in Jesus Christ.

Just last week we had friends over for a casual dinner. I'll admit—we don't always pray before every meal. But that evening, as we sat down, there was a moment of hesitation before anyone picked up a fork. I finally asked, "Can we pray?" and immediately saw a sigh of relief around the table. Everyone had been thinking it, but no one had spoken up.

After dinner, we talked about it and realized we all need to be more open and courageous about expressing our faith. Too often, we've allowed society to silence us out of fear of offending someone. But maybe we've reached a turning point.

I want to encourage everyone: have the courage to live your faith. Be thankful. Show gratitude to your Creator. Our time on earth is short, but eternity in God's Kingdom is forever.

Let me know what you think.

Scott Mijares

Montrose County Commissioner

District 1

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RE-1J BOARD APPROVES MCA APPLICATION WITH CONDITIONS *From pg 1*

Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; and District D Director Tom West. District F Director Jody Hovde was absent.

The Board voted to approve the meeting agenda.

Prior to entering Executive Session to confer with the district's attorney, District B Director Ted Valerio raised concerns over holding discussions in Executive Session rather than in Regular Session.

"What happened at the state level and everything that went on was absolutely public," Valerio said.

Board President Sarah Fishing said that an Executive Session would allow the board to ask questions of their attorney; Board Vice President Steve Bush said that he had some clarification questions for the attorney, "before we go public."

Valerio said that he had questions as well. "I just want to make sure that we are going to do as much we can in public, since this whole thing is public."

The board then entered Executive Session; upon returning to Regular Session, Fishing asked for a motion. District C Director Alice Murphy moved to adopt Resolution 10-2025, "approving the application by the Montrose Classical Academy to open a charter school for the 2026-2027 school year, subject to conditions recommended by the State Board of Education and as determined by the Montrose County School District Board of Education."

District A Director Neisha Balleck seconded the resolution.

Board President Fishing asked whether there was any discussion. Board Vice President Steve Bush said that he had concerns. "...They've changed buildings. We haven't seen a new plan for this building, for security, anything like that, playgrounds, anything on their budget about any remodel, anything like that or what their lease is going to be, that just gives me a concern that all of a sudden we're approving an application on a part of it we haven't even seen yet.

"That does cause concern for me."

Board President Sarah Fishing said that she also had "significant concerns regarding the moving nature of the application,

in that...I don't feel that 100 percent of the time they were reviewing the same application that we were reviewing...it just feels like a moving target...they reviewed additional new information...the process is completely broken...I just don't think that they were making their decision based on a fair review of the application and the materials that we reviewed...I have significant issues with the remand notice, which also is two pages long but the meeting was eight hours of discussion...the state board's decision wasn't completely based on the merits of the application that we reviewed...I personally feel that the state board stepped way outside of their regulatory and statutory bounds in this particular case...this board had problems with the budget and the state board has completely glazed over those issues...I just don't think the state board was reviewing the same application...I take issue with that. I don't think it's ok...it takes away all of our local control...I don't believe they even looked fully at the application that we looked at...that's not how this process is supposed to go. They have well and truly overstepped their bounds...this was not the same set of conditions that we were presented with.

"I also heard state board members say things that were just patently untrue and make assumptions...I heard state board members state that our local board is anti-school choice....it just isn't true. We have multiple campuses with many different modes of education.

"Nothing about our local board is anti-school choice...I see an application that changes with every stage, I don't see a steady plan for a location...I don't see a good budget...there's lots of problems with this plan. And I think it's really fraud...for basically the state board to continue to move this process out in a way that's not fair either on the charter school board or our local board in terms of decision making...I think they moved way outside of their bounds...I haven't had an opportunity to review any plan for a new location because it hasn't been presented to me...and I still don't see enough intention to enroll.

"I still don't see a solid application in front of us...," Fishing said.

District B Director Ted Valerio was next to speak. "Checks and balances," Valerio said. "That's what the state board's about. That's what the law provides for someone else to take a look at it.

"...I was pretty surprised that it happened that way," he said. "It's a very bipartisan board...for that whole board to take a look at this application as they see other applications on a regular basis—I know that we don't see applications on a regular basis...new applications, I don't know of another one, at least not in our tenure, that we've seen.

"So as far as experience and expertise, I would think that they would have more than us, just in general," Valerio said.

The facility was not a major factor for CDE, he said, adding, "...as far as changes with every stage, I would hope so, because that's kind of the whole point of going through this process, is to make them better, help them improve, help them get to the point where they might be a viable entity for our community."

Valerio continued, "I'll be honest with you, I'm not sure any application from the MCA, for some of our board members, would be sufficient. It's possible; I'm honestly not convinced of that."

The board has options, he noted, adding that there are two points of view on how to do a charter school. "...There's a difference between a level of scrutiny to help you do better, or to make sure you don't succeed," Valerio said. "As far as this school goes, it should have scrutiny, and it should maintain our oversight if we choose to do that...what can we do to help them succeed..."

"Some of the opposition always has been, hey this is going to take money away from the school district," Valerio said. "Once again, as far as the law goes, we can't consider that. We have to decide, is this a school that can function and provide that service to the community. Because technically we're in a position where, because it's going to affect us, we're going to say no.

"I'm not going to say that's what happened, but yeah, it kind of puts us in the

RE-1J BOARD APPROVES MCA APPLICATION WITH CONDITIONS *From previous pg*

position of having that part of the stake in the game," he said. "A lot of community members, the ones who did speak on that, that was kind of the major thing for the most part. They didn't want their money going to this school."

Board President Sarah Fishing interjected. "Mr. Valerio, are you accusing members of this board of making decisions for reasons that is not legal?"

Valerio said, "No, and I already covered that."

Fishing said, "Because it sounds like that's what you're doing."

"No, I'm not," Valerio said.

Fishing said, "So, make it very clear. You are accusing the rest of the board...of making a decision for an illegal reason, or you are not."

"No," Valerio said.

Fishing said, "You are not."

"I am not," Valerio said.

Fishing pressed on. "You are accusing us of making a decision about this charter school..."

Valerio cut her off. "I've already answered that."

Said Fishing, "Just to be very clear, ok, because you sort of construed that members of this board are making a decision based on the financial impact to the district. And I think that members of this board have been very clear that that is not why we're making this decision. And I just want to be very clear about whether you are accusing us of that or not."

Said Valerio, "I've answered your question. Now, if you feel guilty about that, that's something else."

"I don't," Fishing said. "But it does seem like you are accusing us of that."

"You've already asked that about ten times," Valerio said, "So, no. I've already said no."

"Just making sure," Fishing said.

"Ok," said Valerio, and continued speaking. "...I think we should still keep them accountable, we want them to be the best that they can be for our community, and

follow the law...I think it's awesome that the state board gives us a chance to try to do the right thing..."

"Any further discussion?" Fishing asked.

District C Director Alice Murphy said, "I think I went with this motion as kind of a compromise. Because I see that if it goes back to the state board, they're to do the same thing, so it's this ping pong game. And every time that we do that I feel like it's taking money away from our school district, because you have to pay for the reviewers, lawyers, and they'll come back. I just feel like they'll come back, they'll have a new application, and it starts the whole process again and it's going to go on and on."

"And so I thought a compromise would be to accept it with conditions, and there are conditions. I felt that the conditions that were brought up were the same conditions that were brought up in the meeting. The expressions of interest, which appear to be 200...the ELLs, the special ed populations, which I think is very important and should be addressed. In those conditions, the building...that was totally a surprise when I heard the state board talking—I hadn't heard about that building...I feel like having that secure and safe, and making sure that it's an ok building is ok. It isn't a church and I think the community members might have something to say about that...I thought it was a compromise and that's why I made that position..."

"It doesn't seem unreasonable," Fishing said.

She turned to Board Vice President Steve Bush. "You had a sharp intake of breath which made me think you have something to say."

"No," Bush said. "I've said my piece."

District A Director Neisha Balleck spoke. "When I was at the state Board of Education...I was present, watching all of it."

There were many questions that all the board members asked. And the MCA had

their vice chair answering all the questions, and from what I saw, she answered all of their questions.

"And they heard that," Balleck said. "And the other thing that I heard from the state board members was their experience reviewing charter school applications, reviewing appeals. They have extensive, extensive experience reviewing charter applications, so for them to vote eight to one made sense, because it confirmed everything about the application that I was looking at, for both of the applications, and the second one was much more thorough, and they confirmed that...I appreciated their experience, because we as a board, this was our first time reviewing a charter application, and we did not get CACSA training for any of this...when we could have had CACSA training. So, to just get confirmation, because I have voted to approve twice, that they had voted eight to one was significant..."

The hard work that MCA proponents had put in was evident, Balleck said.

"They were extremely thorough with their answers, because the application was extremely thorough. Facilities, if that's an issue, can be a condition...it's hard to get a place...we have to...look at the big picture and understand that this is a process...the conditions on here are reasonable to me...all my questions have been answered, I think it's sufficient. And there needs to be something in the contract about the facilities, then, that can be worked out."

Board President Sarah Fishing turned to Board Vice President Steve Bush. "Are you having thoughts?"

Bush said, "Does Tom have something to say?"

District D Director Tom West apparently had nothing to say.

Resolution 10-25 was approved unanimously, approving the MCA charter school application with conditions. With no further business the Special Meeting was adjourned.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

82% OF BEER DRINKERS ARE SPORTS FANS COMPARED TO 60% OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — Tonight, the Denver Broncos will host the Cincinnati Bengals for Monday Night Football and local breweries are banking on the support of sports fans.

"With home games at Mile High, we see an average increase of 300-400% over a usual day's traffic," said Tim Myers, Founder and Head Brewer of Strange Craft Beer Company. "Many of our loyal Broncos regulars have been visiting us for 15 years since we opened near the stadium. Before a game we are packed to capacity with a line out the door. After the game, the same regulars return to celebrate a win, commiserate a loss, or responsibly

wait for rideshare surges to recede. I am incredibly grateful for the support we receive from these loyal fans."

Beer drinkers are disproportionately sports fans. According to the Brewers Association, 82% of weekly craft beer drinkers say they're sports fans compared to just 60% of the general population. But it's more than football that brings sport fans together celebrating with a beer.

"The community that is building at Lady Justice around women's sports and its fans is very fun and we're so happy that we get to be a part of the growing movement of support for professional women athletes," said Betsy Lay Co-Founder and

Owner of Lady Justice Brewing Company. "It's inspiring to watch huge crowds of people in our taproom cheering on women in a sector that has largely and historically been held for men."

According to [Beer Serves America](#), Colorado's nearly 450 breweries help create 61,000 jobs, \$4 billion in wages and \$13.1 billion in economic activity for the state each year. However, according to the Brewers Association craft beer sales are estimated to be [down -5%](#) halfway through 2025. Colorado lost 85 breweries, taprooms or brewpubs in recent years due to economic pressures and slumping sales as people drink less.



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Premier Sponsor:
Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

**Jimmer's BBQ,
Burgers & Beer**
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

7:00AM - 3:00PM

SEE YOU
THERE!



HOOKS & HEIGHTS ADVENTURE DAY

Catch a fish
Catch a view

7AM - 9:30AM
FREE Tethered
Balloon Rides!

More Fun!

Free Facepainting

7am-3pm

Free Balloon Artist

6:30-10:30am

Ghost River Band

9:30am-12:30pm

Food Trucks

6:30am-3pm

Craft Vendors

7am-3pm

Horses For Healing

7am-3pm

Model Home Tours

7am-3pm

7AM-3PM Access to the Private
Onsite "Catch & Release"
Fishing Lake!



Hidden
Lake

62650 LaSalle Road
Montrose, CO

(970) 615-9412

www.TheHiddenLakeCommunity.com



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MICHAEL S. TONZI, MD, JOINS MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH UROLOGY CLINIC *Tonzi brings statewide leadership in Axonics® Therapy; joins colleague Craig Peterson, MD*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) is excited to welcome Michael S. Tonzi, MD, to the new MRH Urology Clinic, located at 3330 S. Rio Grande Ave., Suite 140, Montrose, CO. The clinic opened September 2, 2025, with urologist Craig Peterson, MD, and now expands to include Tonzi, who has been serving patients in the Montrose area for the past two years. The two physicians, longtime colleagues, are working together to grow access to urologic care on the Western Slope.

Tonzi is one of the most experienced providers of Axonics Therapy in Colorado, performing more implants than any other physician in the state. Axonics Therapy is a minimally invasive treatment that uses a small device to gently stimulate the nerves that control bladder and bowel function, helping patients overcome incontinence and regain quality of life.

"Bringing advanced therapies like Axonics to Montrose means patients can access world-class care close to home," Tonzi said. "I am passionate about helping people live pad-free, with dignity and confidence, and I look forward to continuing that work here on the Western Slope."

In the past two years, Tonzi has performed nearly 140 minimally invasive incontinence procedures, giving patients lasting relief and independence. His clinical interests include benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), kidney stones, pelvic organ prolapse, prostate cancer, and bladder cancer. Tonzi also offers other minimally invasive BPH treatments including Uro-Lift™, a catheter-free procedure to hold enlarged prostate tissue out of the way, and Aquablation® therapy, a procedure that uses a high-velocity water jet to remove excess prostate tissue.

Tonzi earned his medical degree from the State University of New York Upstate Medical University in Syracuse and completed his internship and urologic surgery residency at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine-Chattanooga. He is board eligible with the American Board of Urology.

An avid outdoorsman, Tonzi was drawn to the San Juans by his love of the mountains. He enjoys skiing, trail running, rock climbing and gardening.

Free Community Health Talk: Regain Bladder & Bowel Control

Community members are invited to attend a free health talk with Michael Tonzi, MD, on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Montrose Regional Health, Conference Rooms A/B, 800 S. Third St., Montrose, CO 81401. The event will cover Axonics Therapy and other treatment options for incontinence and pelvic floor disorders.

Appointments: MRH Urology Clinic, 3330 S. Rio Grande Ave., Suite 140, Montrose, CO 81401. Call 970-497-8100.

Welcome

Sierra Sanders-Vigil

Physician Assistant



"I'm **excited** to be back home and am looking forward to **serving my community.**"

To schedule an appointment with Sierra, call the MRH Spine & Pain Center at

970-252-2584



MONTROSE
REGIONAL HEALTH
MontroseHealth.com

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY

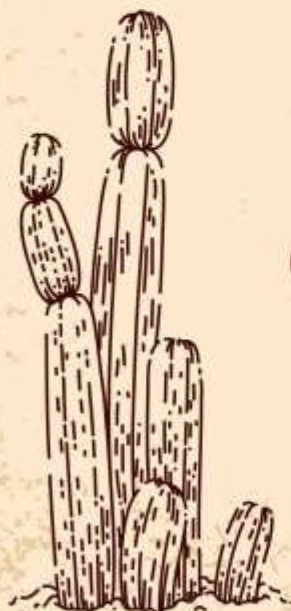


Music by
Donny
Morales
LIVE!

HOWDY- TOBERFEST

Saddle up and join us
for our rodeo-themed
**Open House at
The Homestead at Montrose**

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with live
entertainment, delicious finger foods,
and exciting raffle prizes—
come for the fun and stay for the rodeo spirit!



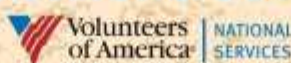
• FREE ENTRY •
**THURSDAY,
OCT. 2, 2025**

2 pm - 4:30 pm

**TOUR OUR
BEAUTIFUL
COMMUNITY!**



**The Homestead
at Montrose**



1819 Pavilion Drive, Montrose, CO
970-964-3400 | MontroseInfo@voa.org



Paint a Taste of Italy at Endless Pastabilities
1544 Oxbow Dr., 6-8 pm, Thr. Oct 9th

Houses of Venice Craft Workshop

8" wooden house, paints, decals provided
 Extra houses and LED lights available



with Kate Burke. 1544 Oxbow Drive, Montrose. \$45/pp. \$80/couple
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/100925pasta>

ALCOHOL INK Mosaic Montrose
October 16th 5:30-7:30 pm

Drip, drop, spritz, splatter, sponge, and paint vibrant abstract color.
 One of our favorite classes!
 This is a "foolproof" medium. Anything goes! Everything included plus adult beverage or NA drink & snack.



Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/101625M>

Halloween Wreath
1-3 pm, Fri., Oct. 10

TWO Hoop wreaths with garlands. Lots of fun stuff to play with. Plus cookies and cider.

\$40 pp. Instructor Kate Burke
 Register thru MRD

1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colo.
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/101025mrd>

Get your ghost on!



PUMPKIN PAINTING AT PASTABILITIES
SAT., OCT. 18TH 1-3 PM IN THE CRAFT AREA.

Open to Adults and Kids ages 8-15.

With Kate Burke
 Bring your own pumpkin. Paints, decals, provided. Plus ideas and painting help. Workshop includes adult beverage or soft drink, snacks and candy.

Class: \$40pp. \$75for two.
 Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/101825pasta/>



Warrior Resource Center
PAINT GLASS MUGS
Sat., Oct. 11th, 1-3 pm

Make personalized mugs for family & friends with dishwasher-safe paint!

With Kate Burke. Everything provided including 2 mugs, paint & decals plus soft drink & snack

Beer & Football - Fall Tradition

\$40-45. Military or Senior Discount available
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/101125whatv>



Paint a Haunted Cottage
Mosaic Montrose
21 N. Cascade Ave.
5:30-7:30 pm, Thur., Oct. 23rd

Demo & step-by-step instructions to paint this colorful fall cottage with acrylic, watercolor-style, on 11"x8" canvas. Ghosts are optional. No experience necessary. Everything provided including template for cottage. Plus Halloween cookies and adult beverage or cider.

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



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

LA NOUE DUBOIS WINERY
 Includes a Winery Tour

Everything provided plus glass of wine and snack.

67289 Trout Rd., Montrose - With Kate Burke
 \$50-\$55. No additional discounts except Wine Club due to materials cost.
 Register <https://kathrynrburke.com/101225wine>

What do you do with old corks? Turn them into a work of art!



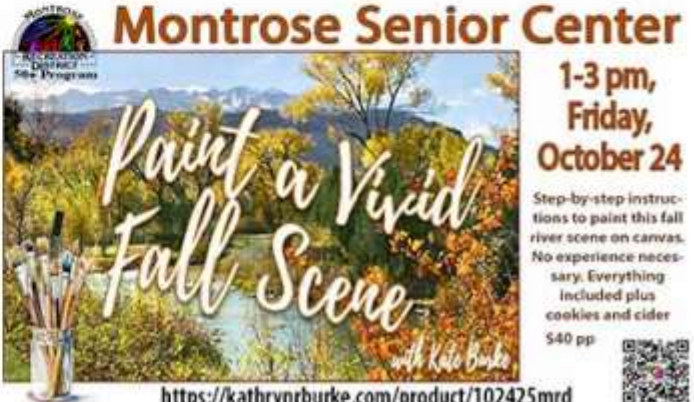
Montrose Senior Center
1-3 pm, Friday, October 24

Paint a Vivid Fall Scene

Step-by-step instructions to paint this fall river scene on canvas. No experience necessary. Everything included plus cookies and cider

\$40 pp

<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/102425mrd>



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PEDESTRIAN DEATHS UP 88% STATEWIDE SINCE 2015

Special to the Mirror
COLORADO-

Yesterday the Colorado Department of Transportation and Bicycle Colorado launched a campaign in Colorado Springs to bring awareness to pedestrian and bicycle safety in the state. Signs placed around Memorial Park near the city's downtown highlighted recent fatalities and the laws in place to protect bicyclists and pedestrians. Since 2015, pedestrian deaths in Colorado have increased by 88%.

This effort comes ahead of Pedestrian Safety Month, which takes place in October. In addition, the end of daylight savings time is a historically dangerous period for pedestrians.

Last year, October was the deadliest month in Colorado for pedestrians with 17 fatalities. In total, 120 pedestrians were killed in 2024.

In 2024, 16 pedestrians were killed in El Paso County, a concerning 167% increase from the six fatalities that occurred ten years earlier.

During the targeted activation, CDOT, Bicycle Colorado, safety advocates and victims of pedestrian-related fatalities gathered to raise awareness about Colorado's laws and address the rising number of pedestrian fatalities in El Paso County.

"Simply put, the safety of pedestrians is the safety of all roadway users. Ahead of Pedestrian Safety Month, CDOT and our partners are reminding all Coloradans to look out for one another, whether you're driving, walking or biking," said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. "The rise in pedestrian deaths over the past decade is alarming. All road users have a responsibility to keep themselves and others safe."

Last year, the counties with the highest number of pedestrian fatalities were Adams (22), Denver (18) and El Paso (16). Together, these counties account for 47% of all fatalities that occurred in 2024. Additionally, most pedestrian fatalities occur during the darker hours of evening or nighttime. In fact, 65% of 2024 pedestrian fatalities occurred in these conditions. During Pedestrian Safety Month and the upcoming end of daylight savings time, CDOT urges drivers to use extra caution when driving near bicyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable people, especially in the dark.



2 New Services

Your health needs are always growing, and so are we. Montrose Regional Health now offers Neurology and Urology care with expert treatment...close to home.

Neurology • 970-497-8080

Specialized care for brain, nerve, and movement issues (Migraines, seizures, neuropathy, Parkinson's, etc.)

Urology • 970-497-8100

Helping you take care of what matters the most – bladder, kidney, and prostate health (Urinary symptoms, prostate issues, kidney concerns, etc.)



MONTROSE
REGIONAL HEALTH

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

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

LEADVILLE MAN CHARGED WITH SECOND-DEGREE MURDER IN ROAD RAGE INCIDENT

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

CBI – LEADVILLE – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation, (CBI) with assistance from the Lake County Sheriff's Office and the 5th Judicial District Attorney's Office, is investigating a fatal road rage shooting.

The suspect, identified as Robert Price Chase, 31, of Leadville, CO, has been arrested on a charge of second-degree murder. He's currently in custody at the Lake County Detention facility.


On Sept. 23, 2025, at approximately 10 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 13200 block of US Highway 24 following a report of a shooting. Upon arrival, they located an adult male who had been fatally shot.

The victim has been identified as 40-year-old Landon Lavelle Mentink of Leadville. Investigators believe the two men were involved in an apparent road rage incident that escalated to violence, when Chase allegedly shot the victim during the altercation.

Chase made his first court appearance this afternoon where his bond was set at \$100,000 dollars. His next court appearance is set for October 16, 2025 at 2 p.m.


The investigation is active and ongoing, led by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of the Lake County Sheriff's Office and investigators from the 5th Judicial District Attorney's Office. No further information will be released at this time.

Welcome
Dr. Garrett Riggs
Neurologist

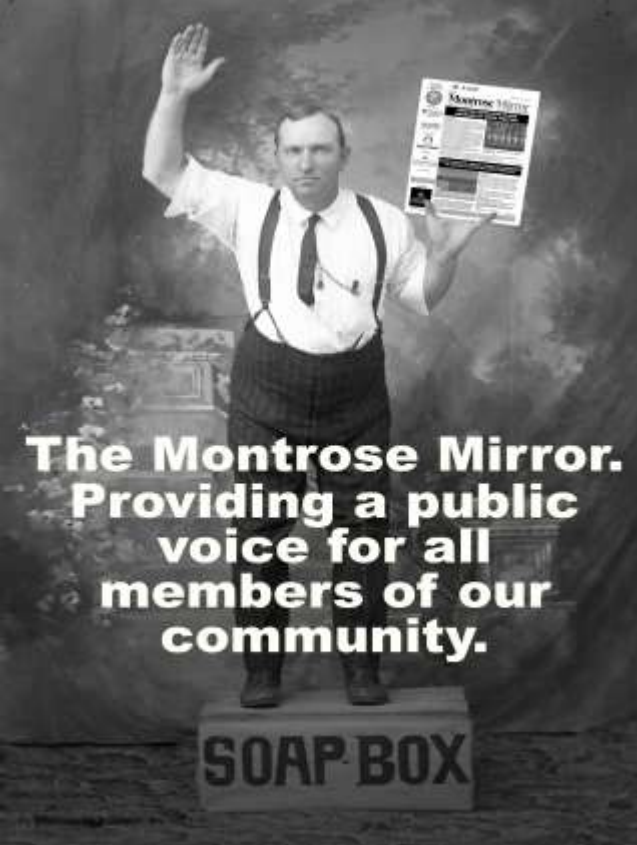


"I look forward to supporting Dr. Hehmann's tradition of providing excellent care to the Montrose Region"

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Riggs, call the MRH Neurology Clinic at
970-497-8080



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The Montrose Mirror.
Providing a public voice for all members of our community.

SOAP BOX



Delta-Montrose
*Community Concert
Association*

WELCOME TO OUR 2025-26 SEASON

All Tickets: Adults \$25 | Students \$5
<https://concertassociation.net/DeltaCo/>



YOUNG ORIGINAL

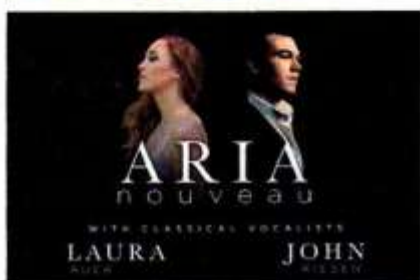
Thursday, Oct. 2 • 7pm | Doors Open at 6
The Egyptian Theater, 425 Main St., Delta



PIANO POTPOURRI

Nate Hance

Thursday, Nov. 13 • 7pm | Doors Open at 6
Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Ave.



ARIA NOUVEAU

Laura Auer & John Riesen

Wednesday, Feb. 25 • 7pm | Doors Open at 6
Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Ave.



THE FRENCH FAMILY BAND

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



Last Show of the Season!

THE SUITS

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



MATT MILES REPLACES JOHN MCCOLLUM AS CHIPETA REP TO PROJECT 7, SUGGESTS HITTING PAUSE ON RESILIENCY PROGRAM

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—The Sept. 25 meeting of the Project 7 Water Authority (Project7), which lasted more than three hours, was called to order by Chair Jake Foreman. Delta Representative Kevin Carlson attended by Zoom, and City of Montrose Alternate Doug Glaspell attended in place of David Bries. Since the last Project 7 Board meeting, the Chipeta Water Board has elected Matt Miles to replace John McCollum as their representative. Other than a smile from the secretary during roll call, there was no introduction, acknowledgment, or welcome to Miles as a new board member. The minutes of the Aug. 28, 2025 meeting were approved; there were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comment: Participants are given three minutes to speak. Chair Jake Foreman reported on a conversation he had with Menoken Representative Randy Meaker, and asked Meaker to “talk about some stuff in Public Comment.”

Citizen Rick Hill spoke, “I understand that having a second source of water for the customers of Project 7 has been contemplated for almost 50 years. That doesn’t mean the Resiliency Project is a good idea. The Gunnison Tunnel was constructed to provide the water users a source of safe, reliable, easily treated water. It is no secret that the water from the Uncompahgre River and Ridgway Reservoir is an awful source of water. For \$180M there has to be a better way to provide backup to our current water system. In a previous project meeting, I had suggested building more reservoirs. I have since been enlightened that I should have used the term water storage. The idea is to have storage tanks built downstream of the treatment plant we currently have, to provide additional time if the raw water access is compromised. Additionally, I am once again going to ask the Project 7 Board, what is the cost of 1,000 gallons of water from [just] the Resiliency Project? That is something everyone here and everyone paying for this water should know. Thank you for your time.” Hill’s comments in a written

form were provided to the *Mirror*.

Mark Houston, a Chipeta Water user, expressed concerns with the Project 7 legal counsel also representing those who are being contracted with. Houston emphasized the importance of having separate legal representatives to avoid a conflict of interest.

Patti Hill said, “I’m skeptical. It seems like the numbers are not there. We don’t know what’s going on. It’s the cart before the horse and the cart is running away. There are more and more questions—questions, but no answers. I’m very skeptical.”

Board member Randy Meaker said, “I’ve been on the board 25 years. I have a little history that most of you don’t have.”

Meaker acknowledged that some of his fellow board members have history as well.

He said, “We have lost our unity on the board. In 2018 we were unified that building a water plant was a good idea. All six entities were in agreement. The City of Montrose, in promoting Montrose to the world, saw that we were going to double in size by 2030. If we doubled in size, can we run that much water through the plant? We worked through all the possible scenarios. We looked at 18 different possibilities of what we could do. We went into what we call a Risk Assessment in 2013; in 2013 we were coming out of a recession. In 2018, the city was saying we’re going to grow storage, but what about capacity...?”

Meaker mentioned the need for engineers, consultants, people in their court, and the effort to get the message out to board members and the community.

He said, “The perception of the public today. It was the right dream then but isn’t the right dream today. Chipeta has adamantly opposed the project. Some questions among the entities—some



The Project 7 Water Authority board meeting was held on Thursday, Sept. 25. During the Call to Public, Constituent Rick Hill (center) spoke to the board about the proposed second water treatment plant. He said, “I understand that having a second source of water for the customers of Project 7 has been contemplated for almost 50 years. That doesn’t mean the Resiliency Project is a good idea.” Photo by Gail Marvel.

questions are not satisfied. We need to come back to a point where we are unified. Go back to the 2013 Risk Proposal and look at the top four or five solutions. The [second] water plant will be one of those possibilities. It’s a lot of bucks. We understand that. It may be a solution; it may not be a solution. You [customers] charged us [the board] to look at all these things. This is not to terminate the water plan, but to look at the Risk Assessment.”

Citizen Rick Hill said, “Is there a copy of the 2013 Risk Assessment?”

Project 7 Manager Adam Turner said, “Yes, it’s available.”

Foreman said, “I think it’s a good idea to have a Risk Assessment done. I don’t know what it would cost us.”

Engineer Rick Huggins said, “It would be basically updating; figure cost in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range. My advice would be to broaden the scope. Governmental risk as well, not just engineering.”

Foreman said, “A timeline, a couple months. Between two and three months? Is that something you would do?”

Huggins said, “If you want it quickly, it

MILES REPLACES MCCOLLUM AS CHIPETA REP TO P7 From previous pg

would probably be me.”

Matt Miles said, “I’d like to add to Randy’s comments. We [Chipeta] were too late in getting our arms around this. In February Mr. [Greg] Swartz said that we were not going anywhere when we didn’t have finances. Mr. Swartz gave us [Chipeta] five criteria — none of that criteria has been met.” Miles noted each of the five items.

He continued, “The elephant in the room is, what is the obligation for the entities? The city has superior credit. It all has to be talked out. I agree with you that we need to hit the pause. There is \$20M sunk into this to date. Let’s hit the pause button tonight.”

Meaker said, “Greg will be presenting some of that tonight. Is there agreement on how the cost is allocated?”

Swartz said, “I’m not going to point to anyone. How you [entities] allocate cost is how it has been done historically. The impact could be as high as \$500 a year for the average user. Range between \$500 and \$600 a year for 2026 for Project 7 to recoup the costs. It could in 2065 transition into \$1,500 per residence increase.”

Glaspell asked about the elevation between Ridgway and Montrose and the possibility of raw water, rather than treated water, being piped to the current plant. Turner said that they looked at that possibility, but the cost of the pipeline would be about \$45M.

Meaker noted that since 2018, the board started down the road to build an expandable plant. He said, “Our expectations got bigger, and bigger, and bigger. We started out at about \$70M, not \$180M. We wanted the biggest bang for the buck. We turned it over to our [contracted consultant] engineer to take the monkey off the back of this board of being out of our mind! That’s my spiel.”

Citizen Rick Hill said, “The current system, any distribution problems?”

Turner said, “We have adequate distribution now.”

Meaker inserted that the recent wind event which lifted the roof off a storage tank was not the result of deferred maintenance. Matt Miles said, “But [in general] we need to look at deferred maintenance.”

Swartz said, “I don’t want to pick on any one entity. All of you have a right to worry about your own water system. Costs are driven by each entity. It’s frustrating for me to not be able to tell you what it’s going to cost. Costs depend on each entity and on Project 7.”

Turner said that the pursuit of a second water treatment plant fixed a lot of potential issues. He said, “Since 2008 the water quality of Ridgway, testing has come back really, really, good.

“Hardness is a problem, but people can drink hard water. Ridgway water has a bad reputation that we’ve got to fight.”

Manager’s Report – Adam Turner

Consumption Report – August 2025

Turner said, “We had a historic August in water usage. A really big month [with little rain].”

Cash Flow Report – August 2025

Turner said, “A big number for water used. We had \$400,000 more from water sales in August 2025 than in August 2024.”

Process Control – August 2025

Turner said, “August was a pretty good month.”

Updates – August 2025

Turner spoke to the levels of water in reservoirs and dams, the wind/roof event, clean-up and still no landline phone service.

Legal Update – Attorney James Silvestro (Zoom)

Fiscal Operations Policies (potential action)

The attorney circulated a revised policy; however, Chipeta and their attorney submitted a letter asking half a dozen questions and asking for clarification.

Matt Miles said, “It needs to be cleaned up before we can support it. I’m surprised that Chipeta is the only one who had questions about it.”

Meaker said, “I’m not familiar with Matt’s letter. I’m not going to say his concerns are valid...”

Miles said, “They are.”

Attorney Silvestro asked the board for direction. One policy question would be, should the board pull back some of the authority they have given the manager? Board member Vicki Ripp expressed frustration that she received the Chipeta

letter/questions just 20 minutes before the meeting.

After lengthy discussion, it was determined to table the issue and that Attorney Silvestro would meet with Chipeta and their attorney. Then Silvestro suggested Chipeta do a redline on the draft.

Swartz said, “Will there be action in October? Any policy can be put in place, and policies can be amended. Seeking perfection would be great but having anything in place is better than what you have now. I don’t mean to be a jerk; I know I’m being a jerk, but anything is better than what we have now.”

Kevin Carlson said, “However, get the best we can [now] and do tweaks later.”

Miles responded to the implications that Chipeta was causing issues. He said, “We got this [draft] two or three days ago.” Speaking to Swartz, he said, “Don’t sit there and act like we are being overzealous when we got it two or three days ago.”

Consultant Contracting Update

(informational)

Background: The project team was originally contracted under Garver; however, with the exception of Jessica, the other team members now want to be contracted individually with Project 7. Team members include Engineer Rick Huggins, Program Manager D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz, Deputy Project Manager Miles Graham, and Jessica.

Ripp said, “We are re-doing our Risk Assessment. Why would we need Garver right now?”

Huggins said, “I have delegated things to Jessica [Garver employee]; easement acquisitions, Buckhorn survey. It will take a couple months for transition. We should keep Garver while we are going through the transition.”

Matt Miles said, “We need to discuss if we are going to hit a pause button — before we approve contracts.”

Meaker said, “Whether we hit the pause button. Who is not in favor of the update to the Risk Assessment? I think it’s important to keep our team in place.”

Ripp reiterated that the scope of work might change, and Huggins suggested the board remain with the status quo.

Ripp said, “Keep the team together, but

MILES REPLACES MCCOLLUM AS CHIPETA REP TO P7 From previous pg

at a lower movement."

Swartz said, "I cannot provide work moving forward until the contract is resolved. I've heard that we've missed deadlines. This is an evolving project. We have not missed one. If we don't have a contract, I can't offer services."

It was approved unanimously to update the Risk Assessment.

Tri-County Water Conservancy District, Funding Sources and Uses (informational)

Jerry Young, representing Tri-County, gave a brief presentation on their funding sources and structure.

Resiliency Program:

Program and Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) Updates

Permitting and Communications Update

Project Manager Miles Graham discussed the press release on the wind event, grant funding for USBR, Title XVI, and upcoming Bureau of Reclamation grant funding.

Old Business:

Cost Allocation Methodology

(informational)

Hazen Sawyer report/recommendations.

Swartz said, "Before the rate is approved, there are five items. Checks and balances. Nothing moves forward until entities understand and agree to it. Some have said I've missed deadlines, but the deadlines keep changing."

Regarding the rate survey, Matt Miles said, "It looks like everyone you surveyed [other municipalities] makes more money than we do." Swartz agreed and said that median income for this area was not yet included.

When looking at the chart of more than 50 comparable municipalities Carlson said, "Why were our entities left off?" Swartz said Project 7 entities would be included in the final.

New Business:

2026 Budget, Rate Structure and Schedule (informational)

Resolution Setting 2026 Rates (potential action)

Turner presented his draft budget, which will be presented in final form at the October meeting.

The Meeting was Adjourned.

Project 7 Background:

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

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

The City of Montrose

The City of Delta

The Town of Olathe

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District

The Chipeta Water District

The Menoken Water District

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

Resiliency Program:

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

Project 7 Board meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, begin at 4:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are available on Zoom. Board packet materials, which are unavailable to the public, are circulated to board members prior to the meeting.

Project 7 Contact Information:

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

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

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

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

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

The Chipeta Water District Matt Miles

The Menoken Water District Randy Meaker 970-249-5118

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

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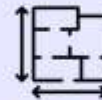
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- Darren Sofka

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- 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 4TH, 2025**

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE, ARE WE REALLY READY TO HAND THE COUNTY OVER TO THE LEFT?

Editor:

The ongoing recall effort against Commissioner Scott Mijares threatens to deliver control of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to the far-left. This uncomfortable and frankly angering situation stems directly from Mijares himself. Mijares had a clear path to avert this chaos. He could have stepped down voluntarily, enabling the vacancy committee to appoint a successor.

This move would have deflated the recall effort entirely. **No one claims Mijares is flawless by any stretch. Mijares is brash and condescending, and he would benefit from Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People".** He might also draw lessons from Ronald Reagan's graceful handling of opponents. Emulating Donald Trump's personality traits is hardly a model to aspire to in local governance. That said, these are personal shortcomings, not policy failures.

The Recall Committee's chosen replacement candidate, **Kirsten Copeland**, brings little to the table beyond two decades as a park ranger and a reputation as a **staunch environmentalist**. Her election, **which would be triggered automatically upon Mijares' being successfully recalled**, could however tip the scales, allowing the Gunnison Outdoor Resource Protection Act (GORP) to gain majority support on the BOCC, while a federal initiative, the passage of GORP would devastate the economic base of Montrose County. Other initiatives critical within the county may also suffer. **Recent actions by Commissioner Sue Hansen, including her alignments with figures like Bennett, Hick-enlooper, and Hurd, suggest she has moved away from her former conservative principles and fueled her shift to the ideological left.**

At its core, this recall distracts from what truly matters in elections: policy, not popularity. Voters choose representatives based on their platforms and visions for the community, not because of interpersonal friction or perceived meanness. **If personality alone justified recalls, Hansen herself would have faced ouster long ago for her own snarky interactions with col-**

leagues. Conservatives must scrutinize the recall's origins.

Before Mijares took office, several within the community vowed to target him for recall. Drawing in disgraced Republicans operating behind the scenes, such as the disgraced former Chair of the Montrose County Republican Party, Ray Langston; former State Senator Don Coram; and Commissioner Sue Hansen.

Coram, censured by the local GOP and at least eight counties for his leftist stances and endorsements of Democrats over staunch conservatives like Lauren Boebert, has been actively involved in the recall campaign, as evidenced by his name appearing in campaign documents and his vocal criticisms during public hearings on county issues like solar regulations. Hansen, despite her recent exit from the Republican Party, remains a key driver, leveraging her board position to oppose Mijares at every turn and aligning with the recall's broader push. These figures are the true architects of this intra-party sabotage, motivated by ideological differences and personal grudges rather than any substantive policy disputes.

The Recall Committee skillfully framed its petition's grievances as undeniable facts. In truth, these are hollow allegations that crumble under scrutiny. Let's examine each claim in turn and reveal the reality.

1. Former County Manager Frank Rodriguez submitted his resignation voluntarily, and the BOCC never formally accepted it under his contract terms. County Attorney Martha Whitmore tendered her resignation several times to Commissioners Mijares and Pond on her own initiative, without any pressure. Crucially, no decisions occurred outside of public meetings, ensuring full compliance with the law.

2. The severance payments to Rodriguez and Whitmore (\$177,395.00 combined) represented exactly six months of their respective salaries, as required by their employment contracts. The full BOCC approved these payouts, and no extra funds went toward backfilling positions or inflated legal costs.

3. Mijares wisely **proposed** a pause on the

North Campus Project to allow the incoming board to assess the project's massive budgetary implications. The board rejected this prudent motion, no contract breach resulted from it.

4. Under Colorado Revised Statute 25-1-508, the County Board of Health bears responsibility for selecting the director. The initial process had bypassed this requirement.

5. Finally, The "toxic work environment" that Leslie Quon referenced was not enough for her to tender her full resignation, (only from the interim County Manager position). This begs the question: If you remain in a position where you are still reporting to the same people, how toxic is it really?

The recall was NEVER about governance or accountability. It is a vendetta driven by bruised egos and ideological opposition from figures like Langston, Coram and Hansen, repackaged as righteous indignation. **This was a calculated and coordinated attempt to get all of us to take our eyes off of what is really important, preserving the family values that we all grew up with here in Montrose, values that are under attack.** Mijares may not win charm contests, but his platform aligns with conservative values that prioritize fiscal prudence, legal adherence, and community-focused decision-making. **Voting NO** on the recall means safeguarding our county from left-leaning influences and ensuring elections remain contests of ideas, not interpersonal drama. It's time to rally behind policy over pettiness and keep Montrose on a steady, conservative course.

Montrose, you need to ask yourself are you really ready to hand over the county that you love to the far left-wing activists over a personality conflict?

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL SERVICES OPENS RENDEZVOUS



Above, Doug Snyder, Vice President, Regional Real Estate Development – Volunteers of America National Services, and Tuesday Rundle, Associate Director, Western Slope – Volunteers of America Colorado. Volunteers of America Courtesy photo.



Rendezvous, a new 52-unit service-enriched affordable senior housing community in Montrose. Volunteers of America Courtesy photo.

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.

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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Montrose County

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Business Impacts

Economic impacts can include business disruption, staffing issues, lost revenue, inventory loss, increased operating costs and delayed operations.



[Business Survey Link](#)



Physical Damages

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Technical Assistance
cdps_dhsem_srtf@state.co.us



Montrose County

ENCUESTA DE IMPACTO EMPRESARIAL

Analizando el estrés económico que afecta a los negocios

¿Tu negocio se ha visto afectado por el South Rim Fire?

La información recopilada en este formulario de registro ayudará a las autoridades locales, tribales y estatales a comprender los impactos y las necesidades derivados del desastre.

No se garantiza la disponibilidad de asistencia por desastre. **Este formulario de registro no constituye una solicitud para programas de asistencia.**



Impactos al negocio

Los impactos económicos pueden incluir interrupción del negocio, problemas de personal, pérdida de ingresos, pérdida de inventario, aumento de costos operativos y operaciones retrasadas.



Enlace de la encuesta
empresarial



Daños físicos

Los daños físicos incluyen cualquier propiedad relacionada con el negocio que haya sido afectada por fuego, ceniza, humo, gases y/o inundación posterior al incendio.



Asistencia técnica
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DON'T CAMP IN THE LEFT LANE OF COLORADO HIGHWAYS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – It's a pet peeve for many drivers, but Colorado State Troopers want to explain why hanging out in the left lane is not just annoying to other drivers, but also potentially dangerous. Troopers also want to remind you that when you are traveling on multi-lane highways with a speed limit of 65 miles per hour or greater, it is also illegal.

"Many people who regularly drive in the left lane don't even realize they're breaking the law," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "More importantly, 'left lane campers' aren't aware of their impact on traffic flow and how it can trigger aggressive driving." In an effort to unclog the highways, Colorado law (Colorado Revised Statutes Title

42. Vehicles and Traffic § 42-4-1013(1) designates the farthest left lane if there are two or more adjacent lanes of traffic moving in the same direction on highways with a speed limit of 65 or more as the "passing lane." This means that any lane that is to the right of the passing lane moving in the same direction on one roadway is deemed a "non-passing lane."

With the left lane designated for overtaking and passing slower traffic, driving slower in this lane often creates one or two problematic scenarios. First, it can create a bottleneck, making the entire road system less efficient. When this occurs, the second scenario often arises, where drivers become frustrated and initiate aggressive behaviors, such as tailgating or unsafe passing.

When a driver in a designated passing lane is impeding traffic, other motorists may try to pass on the right, placing them in the left lane driver's blind spot. This increases the chance of a crash if the driver in the left lane attempts to merge right to exit or change lanes. "Two wrongs don't make a right when you encounter a driver who is refusing to move out of the passing lane," explained Col. Packard. "Pack a little patience and don't risk your life over this situation. Oddly enough, frustrated drivers frequently create a domino effect for congestion in the non-passing lanes when they make these unsafe lane changes." The right lanes also typically contain slower traffic, exit ramps and merging traffic, which all add to the risks of passing on that side.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

GOD BLESS CHARLIE KIRK AND GOD BLESS THE USA!

Editor:

The tragic September 10 assassination of Charlie Kirk in Utah was felt not only here in America but around the world. Candle-light vigil's and remembrances of him were exhibited all over the United States and in major cities worldwide. The memorial service of September 21 in Arizona was attended by well over 150,000 and the service itself was viewed by millions around the world who paid their respects to this fine young man taken from us way too early.

Investigations to date have shown that the perpetrator was radicalized by the

rhetoric spewed by the Democrat left and their lapdog media. On Friday, September 19 the US House of Representatives passed a resolution memorializing the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk and stated an abhorrence to violence in politics. Disgracefully 49% of Democrats in the US House of Representatives failed to support this Resolution and take a stand against political violence. Those Democrats represent millions of hate filled traitors that despise America. Next year's midterm elections should widely reject any Democrats who are seeking reelection and vote for true patriots that will support

our country and our constitution.

Pre-September 10, 3500 colleges and high schools in the US had Turning Point USA chapters. Since his assassination Turning Point USA has received over 120,000 applications for new chapters including one here in Montrose.

It is time for all American patriots to stand up and join Charlie's army of Turning Point USA to fight the evil fostered by a radicalized Democrat party determined to destroy this country and our constitution. God bless Charlie Kirk and God bless the USA!

Dee Laird, Montrose

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER RECALL CONCERNS

Editor:

I've spoken with many people who were approached by petition gatherers, and most of them admit they didn't really understand the reasons for this recall. By law, circulators are required to present the Statement of Grounds to every voter they approached for a signature.

The Statement of Grounds is the official document filed with the Secretary of State. It outlines the reasons for the recall, along with Commissioner Mijares's formal response. If you signed the petition, were you ever shown this statement? Were you instructed to read it before making such a serious decision? Many of the people I've spoken with did not see this document and were basically just asked to sign.

If this recall succeeds, Commissioner Mijares will be removed and then Kirstin Copeland, relative newcomer to Montrose politics, would assume a seat on the Board of County Commissioners with just one vote, compared to the 18,159 votes Commissioner Mijares earned to win his seat. To me, this seems hardly fair and is not how democracy is supposed to work.

Who is Kirstin Copeland? What is her political history? Is she knowledgeable of the critical issues facing Montrose County and where does she stand?

If Commissioner Mijares is recalled, we would be removing a commissioner who vigorously defends our constitutional rights, protects our access to open lands, and exposes waste and abuse in our county budget.

This is why I urge everyone: Vote NO on the recall. Keep Commissioner Mijares on the Board of County Commissioners so he may continue to represent us and do exactly what we elected him to do.

Jeff Cooper, Montrose

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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

MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS PRESENTS ‘ARTIST IMAGINATION’ - MCA ARTISTS COME UNDONE

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) is pleased to showcase talent at all levels, from beginners to internationally known artists, and everything in-between. For the Artist Imagination exhibition, the artists were given complete freedom to come undone, go crazy, and create art with deep meaning for them.
Artist Imagination is a juried and judged exhibition.

Gregory Packard, the owner of Cimarron Song, located at 901 E. Main Street in Montrose, will be judging the entries. He will award the first and second prizes of \$200 and \$100 respectively, at the reception that will take place on October 9 from 5 – 7 p.m. In addition, beginning October 7, when the exhibition officially opens, visitors can cast their vote for the People’s Choice Award. The votes will be tallied at the end of the exhibition and the winner notified and receive their ribbon and gift certificate to a local business.
Packard has been an artist his entire life, but the art bug really bit him at age 28 while he was working in the high-tech sector. As he was mulling over becoming a professional artist and juggling his career,

he happened to stop into a gallery where a professional artist was giving a class the next day and that changed everything. He and his wife, Carolyn, who is a terrific pottery artist, opened Cimarron Song Gallery in Montrose nine years ago.
“When we opened the gallery, it was sort of on a whim,” says Packard. “I’ve had paintings in galleries all over the country and have gotten a feel for the towns that host them. My wife and I felt that Montrose, with its access to so many amazing recreational opportunities and its cozy, small town feel, lent itself to a fine art gallery. I’m honored to judge the show for the Montrose Center for Arts and look forward to seeing what the artists’ imaginations come up with.”
All artwork for the exhibition will be for sale.
Animal Life Exhibit
Visitors will also want to explore the Cottonwood and Ponderosa galleries (the two side galleries), where the “Animal Life” artwork by MCA artists is being showcased.
Stay Tuned for Holiday Magic
The MCA has very special plans for the holidays this year. The “Give the Gift of

Fine Art: A Holiday Marketplace of Art” will offer a wide range of art — paintings, pottery, wood and metal art, jewelry, fabric art and more. The exhibition reception will kick off the holiday season at MCA on December 2, 5 – 7 p.m.
About Montrose Center for Arts
MCA is a non-profit organization totally served by volunteers and is always looking for volunteers to help with a wide variety of activities, from manning the reception desk, to helping with events and planning and developing the future of the organization. If you are interested in helping bring art to the Western Slope, you can call or email MCA to volunteer.
The MCA depends upon support from membership, contributions, sponsorships, grant funding and the local community. To support the MCA and local artists on the Western Slope, become an MCA member by stopping by the gallery or visiting our website.
(970) 787-9428
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT US50 CULVERT REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Traffic shifts will begin Monday, September 29, on the US Highway 50 Culvert Replacement project and continue through early 2026. Northbound and southbound US 50 traffic between Mile Points 89.7 to 90 will be reduced to single lanes in

each direction and shifted from N Townsend Avenue onto the US 50 Frontage Road.

The traffic shift will be in place 24/7, and access to the Frontage Road will not be available between Aerotech Place and 6300 Road. The traffic shift is necessary to maintain flowing traffic in both directions while also allowing crews to install support for the water line, aid in the removal of the existing culvert, and installation of the new box culvert.

These culvert replacements will accommodate higher accumulations of rainfall, lower the risks associated with flooding, help maintain the integrity of the roadway, and help maintain safe driving conditions.

The project is expected to complete in June 2026.

Traffic Impacts: Motorists and area residents can expect the following impacts during construction:

- Traffic shift from N Townsend Avenue onto US 50 Frontage Road from MP 89.7 to MP 90
- Traffic shift will be in place 24/7 through early 2026
- Work will occur during daytime hours, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

-Traffic shifts, single lane closures, double lane closures and shoulder closures will take place within the work zone

-Reduced speeds in the work zone

-Plan ahead and expect short delays

- Construction schedules are weather dependent

-The project is scheduled for completion in June 2026

Project Contact Information:

For additional information about this project, contact the project team.

-Project hotline: 970-512-9239

-Project email: us50culvertreplacementproject@gmail.com


- Project webpage: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/us50culvertreplaceinmontrose>

-For real-time travel conditions and travel impacts, visit [COTrip.org](https://www.codot.gov/travel)

(Please note this is a CDOT project. This is not a Montrose County project.)


[View it on website](#)

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

BUILDING PERMIT ISSUED TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR SEASONS HOTEL IN MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

Special to the Mirror

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE—Following the successful closing on the land acquisition and construction loan, the Town of Mountain Village has officially issued a building permit for the highly anticipated Four Seasons Private Residences and Hotel. This milestone clears the way for excavation and shoring to begin.

The landmark project will be led by Weitz Construction on behalf of developers Fort Partners and Merrimac Ventures LLC. Plans call for 28 private residences, 41 hotel residences, and 52 hotel rooms, complemented by two signature restaurants, upscale retail space and a world-class spa.

"This fall marks the culmination of 30 years of vision and dedication to reach this moment," said Mountain Village Town Manager Paul Wisor. "This site has always been envisioned as the cornerstone of our community, and it has been remarkable to watch Town staff work with such dedication to make that vision become reality."

Construction Timeline and Community Impact

Excavation activity will result in increased traffic in and out of the project site over the next 18 months. Overall construction is expected to take three to four years, with the Town of Mountain Village providing updates at key milestones.

"We recognize that all development projects, whether a large hotel or a single-family home, bring some level of impact to the community," said Dev Motwani, Managing Partner of Merrimac Ventures. "Our commitment is to minimize those impacts where possible and to maintain open communication with our neighbors. We want residents to be informed and to share feedback so we can continue to improve."

The development team will share weekly construction updates via a dedicated website: bit.ly/4SeasonsConstruction. The site also includes contact information for residents and stakeholders with questions or concerns.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: NO MORE PROPAGANDA DISGUISED AS EDUCATION

Editor:

The most stunning development since the assassination of Charlie Kirk has been the number of leftist crazies crawling out of the woodwork to publicly celebrate his murder. As I mentioned last week, most concerning is the fact that a disproportionate share of the people cheering the murder are teachers. The outpouring of support for the act of extremism came from all levels of our education system, not just the universities. Nor did it come from one particular state, school district, or subject matter. During the shut-down of our schools during COVID, parents and taxpayers were shocked to learn the absolute nonsense their kids were being taught. Seeing teachers' reactions to Kirk's murder has further revealed to parents some of the types of people who are "educating" their students. Anyone celebrating his murder is quite clearly deranged and doesn't belong among children or young adults.

If you are a parent with kids in school, you should talk to them about what they are experiencing in their classrooms. This is a letter I received from my youngest daughter this week: "Hi dad – in case you don't have anything to write about this week ha ha. See below the absolute filth my kids are constantly subjected to. (My son) sent this picture of an assignment from his economics class – he is supposed to respond to the prompt. These kids are constantly being fed the "victim mentality" and my straight white boys are made to feel like they need to apologize for who they are. 'Share your thoughts and ideas' ya right more like regurgitate the BS we are feeding you – or else. So insulting."

The assignment: "Do women face challenges in the market place that men typically do not? How about individuals who are non-binary and don't identify strictly as male or female? What are some of the challenges, and how can we create a more equitable path to success for everyone? As you prepare to graduate from college and enter the workforce, what actions do you want the government, policymakers, and companies to take to ensure equal opportunities for success in the market place? Share your thought and ideas."

It is no secret that for a number of years, university humanities departments have become centers for ideological lunacy. It is revealing that the above assignment is from

a university economics class, not a women's studies or philosophy class. Charlie Kirk, who never graduated from college, routinely moved from college town to college town gently challenging the ostensibly educated clientele of higher education with a key message: college is a scam. College doesn't prepare students to enter the workforce, does little to secure income, and is devastating to many students duped into thinking they have to mortgage their future for careers that often don't require degrees. Worse yet, colleges feed them with political propaganda in place of truth and knowledge. The education system gorges itself on trillions in federally-backed loans, just to crank out people with no professional skills who are so propagandized they think they have to use terms like "birthing person." Meanwhile, the still-uneducated graduates are burdened with student loan debts they will carry to Social Security age. Charles "Beef" Kirk wasn't with young people, but the adults behind the students, whom he called "the powers that run colleges" -- the ones selling propaganda disguised as academics. Lenin is quoted as saying, "Give us the child for eight years, and we will have a Bolshevik forever."

Our education system is a prime target for those who want to destroy our republic and way of life because the fastest way to destroy a country is through the children. The goal is to prevent them from learning how to think, because they can then be controlled by the state. Our "educators" tell our students that there is no such thing as reality. Students are taught to disregard facts and, even worse, that facts don't exist. If there is no such thing as reality, anyone's views are just as valid as anyone else's. Anything goes. A man can change into a woman. It's OK for Democrat Jasmine Crockett to once more refer to Trump as a "wannabe Hitler," or to allege that, "Just because someone has committed a crime, it doesn't mean he is a criminal." And, worst of all, if I disagree with what you say, I am justified in killing you. The left urges "punch a Nazi." And of course they get to designate who a Nazi is. When people abandon reason, physical force becomes an acceptable means of dealing with each other and settling disagreements – and our republic collapses in chaos.

The radicalism and hatred for this country that has permeated our public schools and

universities started long before Charlie Kirk appeared on the scene. On every metric, our kids lag behind the rest of the world. Today, 40% of public-school students failed to meet basic standards in math and reading. 28% of Americans are functionally illiterate. With grade inflation and "equity grading," graduation rates are rising, while actual mastery plummets – 45% of high school students can't do basic math. There is widespread ignorance of U.S. history and civics among high school students. Chronic absenteeism is the highest in the developed world.

Some states and school districts think it is OK to withhold information from parents concerning sensitive issues, like "transitioning" their minor children. Worse yet, our university graduates leave school not only still uneducated, but totally indoctrinated with leftist "values." Our society has tolerated the excuses for far too long – always finding excuses for why Johnny can't read, or why Sammy thinks he is either a victim or an oppressor depending on his color. It is past time to reintroduce accountability within academia for its incessant destructive indoctrination.

America needs a turning point where it no longer tolerates a multi-trillion-dollar education industry, bankrolled by the taxpayer, which has dramatically failed its student customer base. Firing a few deranged teachers dumb enough to celebrate the murder of a decent human being is not enough. America spends more per student than anyone else in the world.

That taxpayer spigot needs to be cut off for any school or university unwilling to make the drastic changes in their staffing and curriculum needed to actually provide an education founded on the truth.

A logical first step for the university is to end hiring practices that prohibit the hiring of anyone other than radical leftists. Any K-12 level public schools unable to make the transition should have their funds redirected to the parents who can then educate their kids as they see fit. It is insane for parents to continue funding radical professors (who often are slightly less intelligent than most of their students) so that those same professors can stab them in the back. Enough is enough. It's time to take control of our education system away from the teachers' unions and allow the millions of dedicated teachers, who want to teach, to teach.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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MIRROR IMAGES: ON THE STREET



Traveling protesters from the group "Bloodstained Men" were in Montrose last week to bring awareness to the potential dangers of male circumcision. Photos by Harry Switzer.



MHS HOMECOMING PARADE 2025



Photos from the Montrose High School Homecoming Parade on Friday, Sept. 26 are by B. Switzer.



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MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT

COLORADO RODEO ASSOCIATION FINALS



This weekend the Colorado Rodeo Association Finals 2025 were held at the Montrose County Event Center. Photos courtesy of Leslie Jones.



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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

EXTREMISM IN POLITICS IS A RECIPE FOR BAD GOVERNANCE!

Editor:

Colorado used to be a very conservative state, a very red state. So, what happened? The Rocky Mountain heist was four wealthy individuals who teamed up to flip Colorado from red to blue. And a Republican Party that moved to the extreme right in a misguided attempt to counter the extreme left. Extremism in politics is always a losing proposition. Most citizens prefer something in the middle. Most people with common sense agree that open borders are a bad idea. So why does the left insist on open borders?

Because having noncitizens being counted in the census even though they cannot vote allows blue states to get more representation in congress. The left does not care if they harm the country so long as they stay in power. The left loves poor people to the point that they try to create more of them. The ultra rich on the left love poor people because they are easy to manipulate and they provide a low-cost workforce.

When Republicans moved to the extreme right, they alienated the moderates and now we have a deep blue state that is in search of a solution. But the extremists in the party refused to admit their error so they doubled down on a losing strategy. The extremist has failed to recognize the change in voter demographics. The largest voting bloc in Colorado is the unaffiliated voters. The second largest voting block is the democrats. Republicans are now third and trying to figure out how be relevant again. Colorado is still physically conservative if you look at the votes against raising taxes. So, there is an opportunity to move this state back from the precipice of becoming little California. But it will take electing representatives that are willing to set down and have a serious conversation

with the other side and find some solutions that we all can live with. And that can be done without sacrificing our constitutionally protected individual rights.

This extremism is also affecting our county the voting demographics of Montrose County is like that of the state. Except the republicans are the number two voting bloc in Montrose County. The total registered voters in Montrose County are 34,857 but 3,174 is inactive so that leaves 31,683 active voters in Montrose County. Of those active voters only 25,995 voted in the 2024 elections, that's 74.78 percent and that is sad for a presidential election. So why did one fourth of the Montrose County voters not vote? Maybe they felt disenfranchised, or they just were not excited about voting. The election this year will have a much lower turnout because it is not a presidential election and its not a midterm either. And that means this recall election will draw out the voters that are excited to see Mijares get his just rewards. Eight months of his and Ponds incompetence has shown the voters of Montrose County that this cannot continue.

There is an advantage to having an unaffiliated candidate running for office. With party affiliated candidates you assume they vote with their party. But you never know for sure. But when unaffiliated candidates vote in a primary anyone can do a CORA request and see which ballot they returned. When Colorado decided to let unaffiliated voters participate in the primary elections, they installed some safeguards to ensure election integrity. Unaffiliated voters get both a democrat ballot and a republican ballot for the primary election. But both ballots have tracking numbers to ensure that only one is returned. This makes them public information. Any citizen can submit a CORA

request to find out which ballot an unaffiliated voter returned. Kirsten has deep ties to the west slope of Colorado and its rural values. Mijares has only been a resident of Colorado for a short time. And he has lied repeatedly to the citizens of this county. He has shown no respect for the citizens of this county.

He has labeled citizens of this county as socialist he has nothing but contempt for anyone who would question his actions. In his rant at the BOCC meeting on July 16th he lied repeatedly about the information on the petition to recall him. He said the 500,000 dollars that the recall committee claimed he had cost the county was a lie. And that is a lie on his part because we got that figure from the county finance department. He said the forced resignation of Frank Rodriguez and Marty Whitmore was voluntary and that was a lie because he admitted that they were being paid severance. If they voluntarily resign, they do not get severance. There is a reason I call him a pathological liar. If you listen closely to him, he will contradict himself, it is easy to see he is lying. Because he has proven that he cannot be trusted on anything he says. I encourage all Montrose County residents to vote yes to recall Mijares his incompetence and disdain for the citizens of our county cannot be tolerated. And FYI the Montrose County Republican central committee wanted him to resign so they could keep this commissioner seat in republican hands. Even as incompetent as the central committee is, they could see the writing on the wall.

Ray Langston

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DO NOT BE FOOLED! VOTE NO ON PROPOSITIONS LL & MM!

Editor:

These ballot measures are another attempt at taking away our lawful TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) money from Coloradans by our Governor and Legislature (and they have been trying to for years!). The measure is made to sound harmless by stating that it will not raise our taxes, or affect those who make under \$300,000, and the fact that TABOR is not mentioned in the Propositions' language.

Do not let the wording fool you! The monies collected above the \$100,727,820 annual estimate would normally be returned to us, the taxpayers. In light of the ever-increasing cost of living in Colorado, these monies (\$12,400,000) need to be returned to Coloradans. Please vote NO.

Leah Vandersluis

Montrose

COMMISSIONER'S WORDS DIVISIVE, INFLAMMATORY

Commissioner Pond,

Your words and conduct regarding the recent hit and run were inflammatory and beyond despicable. You should never have spoken without knowing the actual facts. The divisiveness was crude, unfounded, and uncalled for. Your job is to represent all of us, not to divide us. You are a disgrace to the office you hold. You owe the community an apology, and if you have any sense of decency, you should resign immediately. Using your own words, YOU ARE THE DIVISIVE ONE WHO DESERVES CONSEQUENCES.

Ron Sobieck, Montrose

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY, KEEP IT STRONG

Dear Editor,

Love Your Library, Keep it Strong

The Montrose Regional Library District Board of Trustees and the Library Yes Election Committee are asking voters to approve two ballot measures this fall.

6A makes permanent a .85 mill levy initially approved by voters in 2017 for a period of 10 years. In 2026, this will amount to less than \$27 per year for a home valued at \$500,000.

The MRLD made and kept 5 promises:

1. Open 7 Days per Week
2. Bigger Collection Than Ever (now over 6 million books, movies, and courses plus a new Library of Things)
3. Bring the Library to You (home deliveries, expanded community outreach, and local internet hotspots)
4. Innovative Programs for All (hundreds of programs that inspire, educate and entertain)

5. Build our Facilities for Today and Tomorrow (acquired an annex building for storage and built a telehealth room in Naturita). Learn more at LoveYourLibraryMontrose.com.

6B responds to a 2024 state law that caps library district property tax revenue growth at 5.25% per year. This limit applies not only to rising property values but also to new properties added in the district. In 1999, voters approved lifting a similar TABOR cap, which has since allowed library revenue to grow alongside the community.

If 6B fails the library would lose an estimated \$400,000 in 2026 putting at risk the very programs, hours and opportunities our community has come to rely on. As in 1999, voters should decide how much the library is worth to them and not allow politicians in Denver to place arbitrary limits on the growth of our budget. Voters

in 2017 decided the library was worth an extra .85 mill levy. Let's not dilute the power of that mill levy with unnecessary limits. MRLD is a trusted, independent resource that adapts quickly to the needs of its patrons. We supported kids, families and seniors in new ways during Covid. We partner with educators and families to expand learning opportunities for kids. We help deliver senior meals in the West End. We will continue to leverage your investment and partner with local entities to address unique needs across the district.

And all library services are free to use. Please VOTE YES on 6A and 6B to continue the existing level of funding for our beloved library district.

Thank you,

Emily Schneider, Co-Chair

Rachel Zatterstrom,

MRLD Trustee and Co-Chair

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE NO ON MIJARES RECALL

Editor,

What's really behind the recall of Commissioner Mijares?

I hear people say, "he's a bully or he's mean or he called my friend a name (usually RINO)". If that was a reason to remove an elected official from office, then former Commissioner Roger Rash should have been recalled for all the times he was rude to constituents. There is also the issue that he fired the county manager and the assistant county manager and the county attorney and the county health director and that cost the county thousands of dollars. True that severance packages were paid, but savings in other areas made up for those costs. The reality is that Commissioner Mijares (and Commissioner Pond) have not done anything prior commissioners have not done and certainly have not done anything that violates the law. In fact, the "firing" and rehiring of the county health director actually made the hiring comply with state statutes that require the health director be hired by the County Board of Health. There are certainly no reasons here to remove an elected official who received over 18,000 votes in an election less than a year ago.

So, what are the real issues in this move to recall Mijares?

When commissioners Mijares and Pond became the majority on the Board of Commissioners they voted to remove Sue Hansen as the chairman of the board. This move angered Sue's supporters (mostly Democrats) and Sue, in an act of defiance, decided to change her registration from Republican (which got her appointed to the board of commissioners in

the first place) to Independent. The new majority then proceeded to propose and pass a resolution to state that Montrose County would not participate in discussions with the federal government to classify the Dolores in the West End of Montrose County a National Conservation Area. A position of great importance and supported by the residents of the West End. Sue Hansen voted against this resolution and her Democrat supporters were outraged that such a resolution was passed. A second, and possibly the most important issue addressed by commissioners Mijares and Pond was the control of the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) funds that are intended to supplement the Sheriff's operational budget.

A short explanation for those not familiar with the origin and necessity of the PSST. In 2007 a group of citizens worked with the sheriff's department to ensure the department was adequately funded.

The proposed solution was an additional sales tax dedicated to funding public safety entities in the county.

The PSST was put on the ballot and passed by the electorate to be implemented beginning in 2008. 70% of the total PSST revenue collected was to be dedicated to the sheriff's department and that amount was to be a supplement to the historic operational general fund budget for the department. Over the years boards of commissioners have spent a portion of the PSST funds on non-operational expenses such as the sheriff's office building maintenance. When a generator needed to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$60,000, the previous board of commissioners paid the cost

from the sheriff's PSST funds. A repair/correction to an intersection outside of the sheriff's office cost approximately \$40,000 – again from the sheriff's PSST funds. Finally, an expansion of the county jail in the amount of \$5,000,000 was charged to the sheriff. The sheriff's office and the county jail are county buildings and maintenance/additions should be paid by the county, not the sheriff's operating funds. **A resolution passed by commissioners Mijares and Pond returns control of the PSST funds to the sheriff as was intended by the original PSST ballot issue. This fix takes effect in January of 2026 to allow county officials time to adjust their systems. Sue Hansen voted against this fix for the sheriff.**

So why oppose this recall of Commissioner Mijares?

The issues mentioned above are of vital importance to Montrose County. The resolutions passed by commissioners Mijares and Pond are just resolutions and can be withdrawn if there is a new majority on the board. Sue Hansen voted against both of the resolutions and if the recall is successful, she will most likely have a liberal ally to cancel these resolutions as well as other positive measures passed by Mijares and Pond. Montrose has long been considered one of the few conservative counties in Colorado and we finally have a conservative majority on our Board of Commissioners.

Don't let 3,900 Democrats and a few misguided Republicans disenfranchise the 18,000 voters that elected Commissioner Mijares last November. Vote NO on the recall.

Ben Alexander, Montrose





HOSTED BY:
DOUG SPEEDIE, MD



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LOCATED IN CLASSROOM B (1ST FLOOR OF THE MAIN HOSPITAL)
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The poster features a festive design with a gold background and white snowflakes. At the top right, there is a decorative branch with pine needles, red berries, and a red ornament. In the center, a large pile of colorful wrapped gifts in various colors (red, blue, green, orange, purple) is shown. At the bottom left, a dark blue vintage car is decorated with a large green bow on its roof and a string of colorful Christmas lights. A Santa Claus figure is visible in the driver's seat. The text is arranged in a clear, festive layout, with the event title in large, stylized letters and the schedule and location in bold, block letters. The bottom right section of the poster is a green banner with white and red text.

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**

FREE ENTRY

**HOURLY
DOOR PRIZES**

For Vendor Information call **Debbie 970.531.2438** or email **montrosefootwear@aol.com**

Kate's Creative Classes

Artist Armchair Traveler Passport

Complete any four classes at any Montrose Venue August through December 15, 2025. (see Calendar for class list), fill in the required information, get Passport stamped at end of each class. Turn your Passport in to me after 4th class and receive your \$40 Gift Card redeemable at at Endless Pastabilities for a True Taste of Italy (through Dec. 15, 2025). Instructions, <https://kathrynrburke.com/armchair-traveler-passport>

Class 1: _____ STAMP _____ Date Paid: ____/____/____ Completed: ____/____/____	Class 2: _____ STAMP _____ Date Paid: ____/____/____ Completed: ____/____/____
Class 3: _____ STAMP _____ Date Paid: ____/____/____ Completed: ____/____/____	Class 4: _____ STAMP _____ Date Paid: ____/____/____ Completed: ____/____/____
Your Name (print): _____ Email (print): _____ Mobile phone: _____ Your home zip code: _____	

Conditions. Offer redeemable any time on or before December 15, 2025. Classes must have been completed at any of my Montrose Venues on or before 12/15/25. Class stamp Void if paid class is refunded. Gift Certificate issued by Kate's Creative Classes and can only be redeemed at Endless Pastabilities. Recipient can earn multiple gift cards, one for each four classes completed. Give as a gift or use yourself.

Class List. <https://kathrynrburke.com/calendar>

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY YOU SHOULD RE-ELECT NEISHA BALLECK FOR SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR

Editor:

Neisha Balleck has done an excellent job as a Montrose County School Board Director for the past 21 months. She has sacrificed time with her family to serve on the Board, not to mention her roles as a mother, nurse and Deputy Coroner for the County. Currently, she has a son who recently graduated from Montrose High School, a daughter at Montrose High School and a son in private school.

She believes :

1. Our county needs a variety of people to serve as Board Directors. Currently, three out of seven have been Public School teachers. She brings a unique perspective to the Board as a parent of children in the district, a nurse, and a professional. She looks outside the box for answers to the district's challenges and asks those on the ground, i.e. the teachers, a lot of questions to understand the intricacies of education.
2. We need critical thinkers who will not rubber-stamp the Superintendent's agenda, and who will serve knowing that the Superintendent serves the Board and not the other way around.
3. The Board needs to be leaders that treat all people with dignity and respect.
4. The Master Contract protects teachers. Without the contract, the District would be able to fire anyone they wish regardless of his/her performance.

Mrs. Balleck says that the current Board diminishes and squelches ideas. For example on the first day she took her seat on the Board, her rights were not upheld when she attempted to nominate Mr. Valerio as Board President.

As a mother and a nurse, who is better to advocate for the people? When she advocated for the students being ticketed for self-defense and forced to go to adult court, she experienced resistance from most of the Board and the Superintendent. She was told they were isolated incidents, but they weren't. She advocated for a vital Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the School Resource Officers, and to bring back teen court. These are best practices and uphold restorative practices which benefit students and affect their academic futures.

She has represented Olathe well. Many concerns from teachers and parents, who have reached out to her, reveal how issues have been handled in the past. She has advocated for these concerns to the Board and Superintendent.

She has visited the Olathe schools and participated in Rock the Walk. She supported the Teaching Learning Academy (TLA) experiment for one grade level in each of our elementary schools, but did not support TLA for the entire Johnson Elementary School. Since implementing TLA, there has been a significant decline in enrollment and lower CMAS scores.

From the beginning, Mrs. Balleck has supported Montrose Classical Academy Charter School (MCA) because she supports high quality schools. She believes if MCA can help students succeed where they have struggled in other schools, it should be available.

Mrs. Balleck attended the Colorado Department of Education Board hearing for MCA in person and the Board voted 8-1 in

favor of approving MCA, and did not agree with MCSD's denial of MCA's application (twice).

She has upheld parental and students' rights and opposed the Title IX changes by the previous administration that would have made schools unsafe for young women.

She pushed against upholding the State policy (ACA) on name changes for gender-confused people. Her stance is that we are here to educate, not focus on issues which should be dealt with by the family. Mrs. Balleck is neither controlled nor manipulated by anyone on the Board unlike other Board members.

Her attendance over the past 21 months has been stellar. She only missed three meetings, but she either ZOOMed in or listened to them.

Regarding the new high school bond, Mrs. Balleck voted for the bond to be on the ballot, because she wanted Montrose citizens to evaluate it for themselves. They overwhelmingly did!

She has questioned how much the District pays for one speech therapist (\$150,000 for the school year) who ZOOMs in with the students.

Mrs. Balleck supported IT safety and has supported decreasing the use of iPads in the elementary schools.

In general, she asks a lot of questions and wants to do what is best for students by supporting teachers and parents. Neisha Balleck cares about kids! She said, "What happens to these kids, happens to all of us."

Vote for Neisha on November 4!

Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WEST SLOPE WATER SUMMIT AND WESTERN COLORADO FARM AND RANCH INNOVATION EXPO TO RUN BACK-TO-BACK, NOV. 13–15, 2025

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Two major Western Slope events—the long-standing **West Slope Water Summit** and the second annual **Western Colorado Farm and Ranch Innovation Expo**—will be held **back-to-back, November 13–15, 2025**, at the **Montrose County Event Center**. Designed to maximize convenience and bring together people who are driving innovation in agriculture and water throughout the region. Both events are **free to attend**, with **registration required for the Water Summit**.

November 13, 2025 – West Slope Water Summit

Now in its 7th year, the West Slope Water Summit, presented by Montrose County, brings together water professionals, landowners, policymakers, and researchers to address Western Colorado's most pressing water issues. Organized in partnership with Uncompahgre Water Users Association and the Colorado River District, this year's program will feature sessions on drought planning, water policy updates, infrastructure, and the importance of regional and West Slope collaboration. **Registration is required** and includes lunch.

November 13, 14, 15, 2025 – Western Colorado Farm and Ranch Innovation Expo

Following its successful launch in 2024, the Innovation Expo returns for its second year with a strong focus on practical solutions, ag technology, water saving tools, increasing water carrying capacity in the soil, livestock and forage management, and regenerative agriculture. This year's event expands its offerings with more hands-on demonstrations, interactive workshops, and regional exhibitors. Whether you're a rancher, an irrigator, or just curious about what's happening in Western ag, the Expo has something for you. The Innovation Expo is supported by the Western Colorado Soil Health Committee, Shavano Conservation District, and CSU Extension, among others. **No registration is required**—walk-ins are welcome.

"We've made it easy for folks to take part in both events," said **Sue Hansen**, Founder and Coordinator of the West Slope Water Summit, "The events are free, open to everyone, and designed to engage conference attendees, who are the ones shaping the future of water and agriculture in our region. This new format, which holds the West Slope Water Summit and the Western Colorado Farm and Ranch Innovation Expo on the same day at the same venue, really encourages shared solutions and stronger collaboration."

Steve Woodis, member of Western Colorado Soil Health Committee, added, "As the Innovation Expo enters its second year, we're excited to build momentum and reach more producers. Running back-to-back with the Water Summit just makes sense—it reflects how intertwined water, soil, range, forestlands, and agriculture really are in Western Colorado."

Shared Features Include:

- Free admission to both events
- Shared exhibitor hall open all three days
- Crossover sessions linking ag and water innovation
- Opportunities for students and young producers to engage

Organizers emphasize that this is more than a conference—it's a collaborative space to tackle Western Colorado's toughest challenges and to celebrate its leadership in sustainable land and water stewardship.

Event Location:

Montrose County Event Center

1036 N. 7th Street, Montrose, CO

No registration is needed for the **Western Colorado Farm and Ranch Innovation Expo**—just show up and learn.



For Dads Who Take Their Showers Neat.

We carry the full line of
Duke Cannon Products.

Colorado-ology
328 East Main Street
970-249-8323

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

DUKE CANNON



Colorado-ology

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MAKING SENSE OF THE RECALL: FACTS BEHIND THE CLAIMS

By Sean M. Pond,

Montrose County Commissioner, District 3

A recall election has been scheduled for November 4, 2025 concerning Commissioner Scott Mijares.

Many residents have asked why the recall was filed and whether the events of this year were unusual.

Because so much rumor and speculation have circulated, including some aimed at me, I want to explain, in straightforward terms, what the petition says and what is documented in the public record.

My Involvement

Some of the allegations mention “secret meetings” or suggest that I, as a commissioner, took part in hidden decisions to force out staff.

I want to state clearly: those claims are not true.

There were no secret meetings to plan terminations.

The county manager and county attorney sent their own resignation emails directly to department heads and to the press before the Board of County Commissioners could even meet.

Because those resignations were public and voluntary, there was no need for a private vote or special meeting to fire anyone.

I was not part of any unlawful or undisclosed action.

What a Recall Is

Under Colorado law, voters can petition to hold a special election before an official’s term ends. A recall petition does not mean wrongdoing was proven; it only means enough signatures were gathered to place the question on the ballot.

The Petition’s Main Claims, and What the Records Show

Secret meetings to force out leadership

The petition says two commissioners held

hidden meetings to push out the county manager and the county attorney.

In fact, both officials resigned publicly on their own, before any board vote could take place.

No termination vote occurred.

Public comment was silenced.

The petition says citizens were shut out after the resignations.

The April 15, 2025 special meeting was posted for personnel items only.

Colorado law does not require public comment at a special meeting.

The chair stated at the start that comment would not be taken because it was not on the agenda. Again, just opinion and not factual.

Half a million dollars wasted.

The petition claims more than \$500,000 of taxpayer money has been wasted on turnover and legal fees. That number comes from the petition itself; no audited report confirms it.

County budget records show that about \$170,000 in salaries has been saved so far by leaving the assistant county manager position vacant and delaying other hires while the board reviews the structure.

\$3 million penalty risk on the North Campus project.

The petition warns that halting a North Campus building could have cost \$3 million.

That figure came up during discussion but there is no record of any \$3 million payment or penalty in county budgets or meeting minutes.

Public Health Director demotion and reversal.

The petition says the Public Health Director was wrongly demoted and reinstated. On April 2, 2025, the Board changed the director’s title to “interim” after legal advice that under Colorado Revised Statutes

§25-1-508 the Board of Health, not the BOCC, must make the appointment.

It was a process correction, not a withdrawal of services.

Pattern of chaos and no voice for citizens.

The petition says meetings have been chaotic and citizens have no voice.

Meetings have been heated and widely reported, but the board has continued to post agendas, meet in public, and follow Colorado’s Sunshine Law.

“Chaos” is an opinion, not a legal finding.

Leadership Turnover in Context

County managers and county attorneys serve at the pleasure of their boards.

When new boards are seated, leadership changes are common across Colorado.

In just 2024 and 2025, at least nine counties, Montrose, Ouray, Lake, La Plata, Mesa, Archuleta, Clear Creek, Chaffee, and Routt, changed their county manager or county attorney. Such transitions are routine and have not resulted in legal findings of misconduct.

Why Facts Matter

A recall is a serious decision.

Voters should understand what has actually happened inside their local government, what is routine, what is required by law, and what is opinion.

I am addressing these points because some rumors have directly named or implied me in actions that did not occur.

Anyone can verify the record:

Montrose County Board of County Commissioners Agendas and Minutes: montrosecounty.net/AgendaCenter

Colorado Sunshine Law: C.R.S. §24-6-402
Public Health Director statute: C.R.S. §25-1-508

Understanding these facts is important for making an informed decision about the recall and about how county government actually works.



The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

PHILIP G. BLACKFORD SR.

April 22, 1949 — September 17, 2025



On September 17, 2025, Philip G. Blackford Sr. returned home to the Kingdom of God. He passed early that morning after courageously battling leukemia for more than eight months.

Phil was born on April 22, 1949, to Chet and Rita Blackford. He was the eighth of

twelve siblings raised in Denver, Colorado. Soon after high school, he met and married Tresea L. Barnes, and together they began a family.

After having three boys, Phil purchased an empty lot near Ouray, Colorado, where he, his father, and his brother Rick built the home in which he and Teri would raise their children.

While working out of town to support his family, Phil built wood-burning stoves and car trailers, which he sold to members of the community. From those humble beginnings, he launched a fabrication shop in his garage that grew into a successful welding and excavation business. His legacy is etched into the landscape of Ouray and surrounding counties: a stretch of road on Engineer Pass cribbed by Phil, bridges placed by his hand, and ironwork at Box Canyon Falls and the adjacent Ice Park that stands as a monument to his labor. He plowed and maintained roads for mines and housing estates, dug countless foundations, and approached every

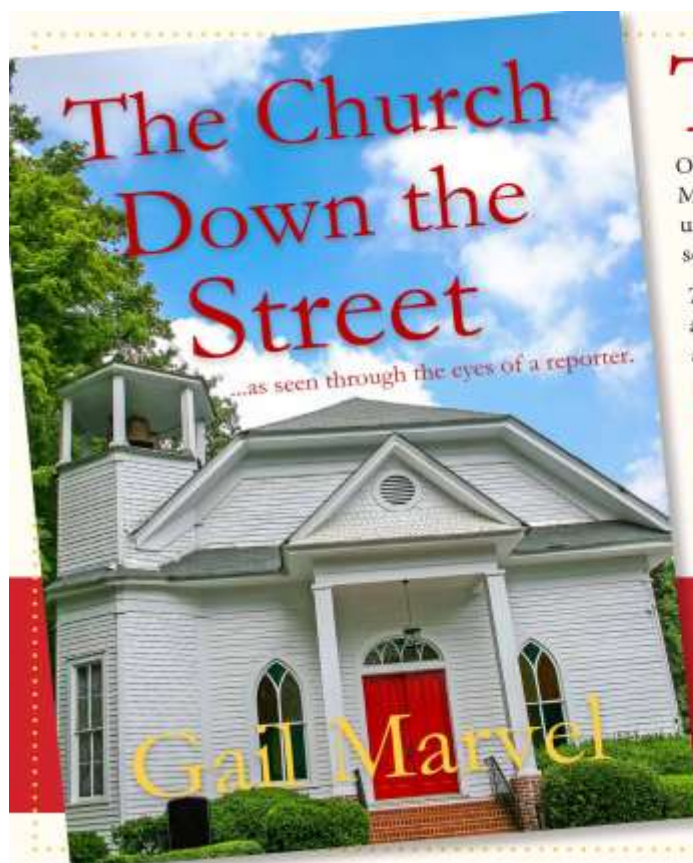
project with efficiency, precision, and pride. Above all, he worked to care for his three children, seven grandchildren, and the love of his life.

Outside of family and work, Phil's passion was collecting classic automobiles. He loved taking them on day trips throughout the state.

Phil made an incredible impact on the lives of his family, friends, and community. He embodied generosity and selflessness and inspired many with his unwavering kindness.

Though his absence will be deeply felt, his legacy will live on.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Teri; his sisters, Frances Day-Colbert, Linda Breffle, Roberta Chase, Angela Pierce, Maureen Blackford, and Carol Black; his brothers, Jim and Rick; his three sons, Phil Jr. (Carrie), Tony (Gretchen), and Scott (Token); his grandchildren, Kevin (Ivette), Alex, Jeremy, Anna (Levi), Brooks, Parker, and Bailey; his great-granddaughter, Iliana; and many nieces and nephews.



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ORLANDO LAWRENCE BERCILLIO *November 26, 1988 — September 15, 2025*

ORLANDO LAWRENCE BERCILLIO passed away September 15, 2025, at Montrose Memorial Hospital. He was born November 26, 1988, where his mother Charlene Bercillio started her devoted journey of being his "mama bear" as he chose that name for her early on in his life. He graduated from Montrose HS in 2007. He then moved to Denver, Co where he lived the next 10 years pursuing a degree in criminal justice. He attended ITT Tech and University of Denver. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and an associate's degree in science. His mom made countless trips to visit him, and his Tia Nicole spent time on the phone with him as he was adjusting to moving away from his home. He attended church in Aurora Co. at New Testament Christian Church under the direction of Pastor Perez. He enjoyed many different things such as playing guitar, books, computers, art, and fishing. One of his treasured memories was his trip traveling to Hollywood.

He leaves behind his mother Charlene Bercillio, his son Thomas, his brother Donovan Nixon (Tasha) Adrian, Levi, Uncle Steve (Tia Nicole) Dawson, Cousin Bobby, Bailey, Kaiden Dawson, and his Grandma Charlotte Aragon. There are many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends that will honor his legacy for years to come. He was preceded in death by his Grandpa Fermin Bercillio and his Uncle Benny Bercillio.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies: and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."



CARL LEE MCCLUNG *January 31, 1939 — September 15, 2025*



CARL LEE MCCLUNG, age 86, of Ridgway, Colorado, passed away peacefully on September 15, 2025, in Montrose.

Carl was born on January 31, 1939, in Lawrence, Kansas to Wilma (Harrison) and Carl C. McClung. He graduated from Lawrence High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Kansas. He later achieved his Master's in Mechanical Engineering from Bradley University, paving the way for a successful career spanning 35 years at Caterpillar Tractor Co.

Carl shared 66 years of love and partnership with his wife, Beverly (Ellenbarger) McClung. Together, they retired in their dream home in Colorado and enjoyed the beauty of the outdoors—a passion that Carl carried throughout his life.

Carl is survived by his beloved wife, Beverly, and their children: Brian C. McClung (LeeAnn) of Las Vegas, NV; Quentin D. McClung (Shelly) of St. Louis, MO; and Tracy A. McClung of Longmont, CO. He was a proud grandfather to Trevor McClung of Dallas, TX; Heath McClung (Ali) of St. Louis, MO; Matthew McClung (Elena) of Austin, TX; and Tyler McClung (Lauren) of Olathe, KS. His joy only grew

with his great-grandchildren: Wyatt and Shea McClung of St. Louis; Malachi, Sophia, and Rick of Austin, TX and Millie Ann McClung of Olathe, KS; and Carl is also survived by his sister, Peggy A. McClung.

Known affectionately as "Carl", "Dad", "Grandpa Carl", "Great Grandpa Carl", and "Bud" he will be remembered as a kind, strong soul who always gave selflessly of his time and talents. Family came first for Carl, yet he always found time to volunteer and help others. Despite his giving heart, Carl often downplayed his generosity by signing cards as "The Grump" and jokingly responding "mean as ever" when asked how he was doing.

Carl's legacy is one of love, humility, and quiet strength. Though gone from sight, he will never be gone from our hearts. His family finds comfort in the promise of reunion someday.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Cancer Society.

ISSUE 541 Sept. 29, 2025

ART & SOL

THE FUN OF FALL IS OUTDOORS

By Kirstin Copeland,
Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-Growing up in a rural community in Colorado, I learned to recognize the signs of Fall approaching by the changing temperatures, changes in daylight, and changes in activities. An obvious change in activity is going back to school. Each of us has our own traditions in our communities and families with the changing seasons and it recently dawned on me that in my community, we had some special activities that I will call the 3 H's.

H #1 is Harvesting. The late harvest of corn, alfalfa, and other crops have narrow windows from the field to market to stay viable. In my school, many older kids in farming families would be pulled out of school to help with the harvest. And, many of those farmers and families would be out until the middle of the night, on harvesting equipment, to maximize crop potentials. I remember going inside near bedtime and seeing the lights out in the fields when I was going to sleep.

H #2 is Hunting. Soon after harvest season, came hunting season. Many of the families in our area participated in one or more of the big game seasons. Elk, deer, moose, pronghorn, and other big game species provided a freezer of food and memorable outdoor experiences with families and friends. Like harvest season, many kids would be out of school for one of the big game seasons. They would come back to school and share their experiences like we all do when we go outdoors with our families and mentors.

What I realize now is that those experiences were also when we learned many of the things we still use today; how to plan and set up a camp, how to be prepared in the outdoors, and what is in an ecosystem that helps the wildlife thrive. Finally, their excitement about their experiences seemed to really inspire them to love the outdoors, and to protect the environment that they had those experiences in.

H #3 is Halloween. Growing up on farms where trick or treating was not as easy, we found a way to go with our friends. Often our parents would drive us to the 'big' town nearby and depending on our age, either walk with us or drop us off on one side of a neighborhood and pick us up on the other side. In elementary and sometimes in secondary schools we would get to wear our costumes to immerse in the fun of the season.

The Fall memories and lessons that I took away from my youth are probably why Fall is my favorite season. There are other signs of Fall that I love, that might be more universal. Of course, the leaf changes, football season starting, and, of course, Pumpkin Spiced Latte's are some I have added to my favorites list. And we are fortunate in Western Colorado to have nearby corn mazes and pumpkin patches to visit.

Fall is a perfect time to start some new family traditions that your kids will remember. Visit an orchard to pick apples, bake some pies or find a press to make apple juice! If your family isn't a hunting family, you can still grab binoculars or a

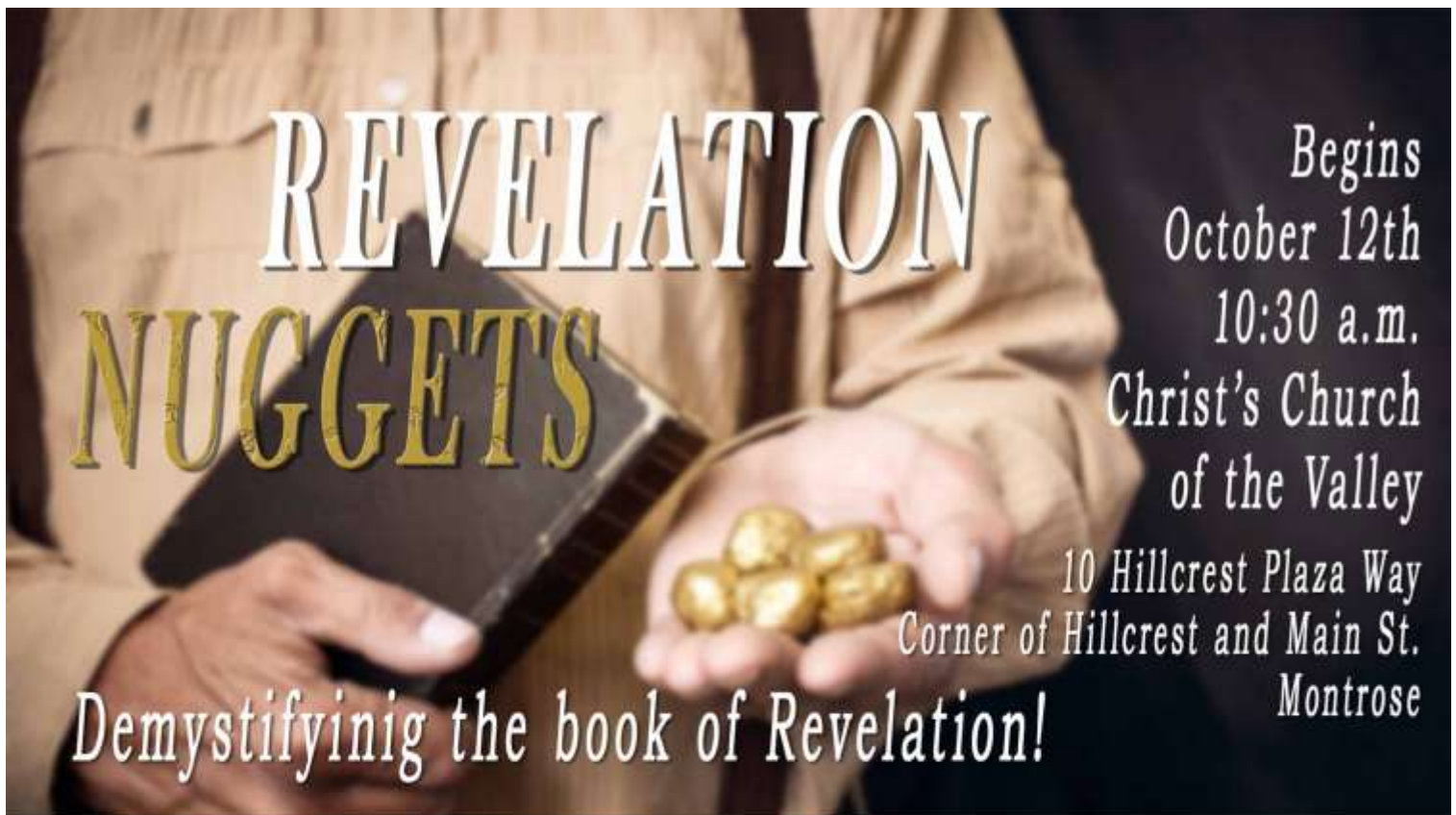


A young girl hunts upland game birds in Western Colorado. Courtesy photo.

scope to spot some wildlife; or, quietly listen for elk bugling or the calls of geese overhead heading south.

As a member of Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN), it is our goal and passion to get kids and families outdoors. What I realize now is that virtually all of what I love about Fall happens outside. Harvesting, hunting, Halloween, football, leaf peeping, corn mazes and pumpkin patches all happen outside. Many of these experiences share some of the best of life; being with friends and family and being outdoors.

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

A person wearing a tan jacket is shown from the chest down. They are holding a black book in their left hand and several gold nuggets in their right hand. The background is dark.

REVELATION NUGGETS

Begins
October 12th
10:30 a.m.
Christ's Church
of the Valley
10 Hillcrest Plaza Way
Corner of Hillcrest and Main St.
Montrose

Demystifyinig the book of Revelation!

“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.”—Rev. 1:3

*The book of Revelation is probably the most **mysterious** and **misunderstood** book of the bible. It is often neglected by Christians because they feel that Revelation is just too difficult to read and understand.*

Beginning October 12th, Christ's Church of the Valley in Montrose will kick off a study of the book of Revelation, to unearth the many nuggets of wisdom contained in it and to gain an overview of what the book of Revelation is all about, in a clear, easy to understand way.

We want to demystify Revelation and show people they can read it and understand it.

***You are invited to join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
Christ's Church of the Valley - 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way
Corner of Hillcrest and Main St. in Montrose.***

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

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

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

montroseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
Worship service times:
 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM: Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.
 10:30 AM: Sanctuary & Virtual Worship
 Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

inclusive, loving, and just servants of Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information:
 Phone: 970.249.4887
 website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
 email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

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

matter what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be 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.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

rose; Everyone is welcome. The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects. People of all ages are welcome.
 There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

Continued next pg

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868

Contact: [ststephensmont-](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.com)

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

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

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost.

Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Save a tree –
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**525 ELIZABETH STREET,
DELTA, CO 81416
MLS # 820393**

This beautifully updated 3-bed, 1.5-bath home in Garnet Mesa is a must-see! Nearly everything is new, including the kitchen (cabinets & appliances), bathrooms, doors, floors, blinds, and fresh paint inside and out.

The smart layout features upstairs laundry, and an enclosed front porch ideal as a mudroom or summer sleeping area.

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



\$339,900.00

3 BR

1.5 bathrooms

CONTACT: LESLIE GORE

📞 19702753195

✉️ lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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feeling sick and
tired? The
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Renaturing



Contact Author and Speaker:

🌐 laurenhallruddell.com

✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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

LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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\$348,500

2 BR

1 bathrooms

CONTACT: LESLIE GORE

📞 19702753195

✉️ lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com

🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>





Altrusa is a Social Service Organization that donates funds to local non-profits

TRIVIA NIGHT

Please join us for our fourth annual Trivia Night at the Elks Club. It will be held Saturday, September 21 at 5:30pm. It is only \$25 per person to register and registration includes the snack/dessert bar and drinks. The Elks cash bar will also be available.

- ✓ Prizes!!
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ Fun will be had by all!



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 21



☎ 970-275-0751 for more info.

🌐 www.reallygreatsite.com



5th Annual Trivia Night

Gather your dream team (up to 8 players) and get ready for a lively night of trivia, laughs, and a little friendly competition! Tables are limited, so snag your spot soon. Prizes are up for grabs—and best of all, every question answered helps support the incredible community projects of Altrusa International of Montrose.

DATE: Saturday, November 1, 2025

TIME: 5:00 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Montrose Elks Lodge - 801 S Hillcrest Dr, Montrose, CO 81401

COST: \$30 per person, due at registration. This includes unlimited access to appetizer and dessert bars, and non-alcoholic beverages! (*Elks Cash Bar will also be open)

TEAM NAME: _____

Main Team Contact Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Players Names:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Please Complete one form per team.

We kindly ask that you are seated before our start time of 5:00 pm!

No outside Food or Drink will be allowed.

Questions? Please contact Gail at 970-275-0751 or Ginny at 970-964-4379

Please make checks out to Altrusa International of Montrose and mail along with the completed application to:

Altrusa of Montrose

PO Box 932

Montrose, CO 81402

Or call one of the contacts above and we can meet to obtain registration form and check.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JUAN PUBLISHING GROUP INC. (SJPG) WINS 6TH CIPA EVVY AWARD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- San Juan Publishing Group inc. (SJPG) just won its 6th CIPA EVVY award. Previous awards went to two books about World War II, two on Caregiving, and one on Photography. Since its inception in 1993, SJPG has published numerous magazines, newspapers, and tourist guides in the Four Corners area, focusing on local and western history. Past Publications included those for the Durango Silverton Railroad, Royal Gorge Railroad, Verde Valley Railroad, Ouray County, and Silverton (San Juan County), and SJPG's flagship publication, the *San Juan Silver Stage* reporting on area arts and events, entertainment and activities (and still produced in an online newsletter form). SJPG has also produced various topic-specific guides and publications. SJPG publishes websites, partnering with Rest Easy Hosting in Hawaii. Key projects include books, DVD production, and design and content management of tour websites for Little Bighorn Battlefield Park's interpretive rangers. Learn more about SJPG here, <https://sanjuanpublishing.com>. Founder, Kathryn (Kate) Burke, now semi-

retired, also speaks regionally on history topics and teaches art classes and craft workshops in Montrose, Ouray, and Delta counties. Learn more about Kate Burke at <https://kathrynrburke.com/>

Photo: Kathryn Burke, Sept. 18, 2025 at the EVVY awards. Courtesy photo.



COLUMBINE QUILTERS WILL MEET AT WELCOME HOME ALLIANCE OCT. 4

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Oct. 4, 9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. Social time at 9, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell, Refreshments and Program. Paula Milsap with share on how to make a "Quilted Post card". Columbine Quilters will be celebrated 32 years as a quilt guild. Visitors are always welcome. For more information: Paula millsappscoui@gmail.com or Cheryl 970-462-3849



Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227



READ ALL ABOUT IT
IN THE
MONTROSE MIRROR

Beer Barn II
970-249-5550





Montrose Woman's Club Annual Fall/Holiday Bazaar Friendship Hall, Fairgrounds October 17 & 18, 2025 9 am - 4 pm both days



Packed with something for the whole family
—moms, dads, kids, pets, grandparents—
plus holiday gifts for everyone on your list.



Longest-running Arts & Crafts show in Montrose.

Fundraiser. Run by volunteers.

ALL table rental proceeds go to local charities.



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Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Britany Butler.....970-209-4388
Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

COLUMBINE QUILTERS meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. 1st Saturday except for July at 9 am.

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO-Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm the Healing Collective of Western Colorado meets at 220 N Stough Ave. It is open to all wellness providers in the area who would like to collaborate with and learn from other local practitioners.

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

FREE THINKERS meet 1st Sunday of the month for information call 970 417-4183

BOSOM BUDDIES BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Montrose Events Center, 1036 No 7th Street 7 pm (970) 249-2085 www.montrosehistory.org

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: Al Head 970-209-0981 or aheadaviation@outlook.com

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

MONTHLY

Oct. 1-On Wednesday, Oct. 1, Montrose County Historical Society presents Sally Johnson sharing "Through the Lenz," a review of the photographs of Thomas McKee, the renowned western slope photographer. The public is welcome to attend this free program at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Room 102 and 104 Light refreshments are provided.

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. 4-CARS AND TRAINS SHOW 10 am – 2 pm: Ridgway Railroad Museum. Car show, free train rides, live rock and blues music, Matchbox car races, all free!

Oct. 4-9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource **4 Hillcrest Plaza Way** Montrose. Social time at 9:00, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell, Refreshments and Program. Paula Milsap will share on how to make a "Quilted Post card". Columbine Quilters will be celebrated 32 years as a quilt guild. Visitors are always welcome. For more information: Paula millsappscoui@gmail.com or Cheryl 970-462-3849

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

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

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

IT'S CORN HARVESTING TIME!



And now it's corn harvesting time! A big John Deere tractor was seen Friday off Maple Grove and 6000 Road chopping/shredding corn into silage. Silage is reportedly an efficient and nutritious way to feed animals, in this case cattle, through the winter and spring. Photo by CB Williams.

Click on this ad to
Download your **FREE** copy
of **Beyond Rock** today!

This Xeriscape Guide is made
just for Montrose, put together
by Ginny Price, Retired
Colorado Master Gardener/
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