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COUNCIL PROCLAIMS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Montrose City Council issued a proclamation in support of Hispanic Heritage Month. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Tuesday, Oct. 7, the Montrose City Council convened for a regular meeting. All councilors were present; there were no changes to the meeting agenda.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Council issued a proclamation in support of Hispanic Heritage Month. Mayor Dave Frank read the proclamation into the record.

Montrose resident Chris Trujillo was present to accept the proclamation. Trujillo thanked Council for all of their help and support.

Trujillo said he has been studying Indian slavery. "That's where a lot of our people came from," he said, "We were freed Native Americans, and we established a lot of settlements but we lost our cultural connections."

Continued pg 42

HARTMAN BROTHERS WELDING SUPPLY FINDS PERMANENT LOCATION AT 123 WATER AVE

Story and photos by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Since 1904, Hartman Brothers has been a family owned and operated business in downtown Montrose. Businesses under the Hartman Brothers name include Oxygen and Medical Equipment, Specialty Pharmacy, and Welding Supply.

In April 2022 an explosion at the downtown location destroyed the Welding Supply business, which then relocated to 312 North 1st Street (formally Chuck's Glass) where it remained for three years.

On July 19, 2025, Hartman Brothers Welding Supply moved to their new permanent location at 123 Water Avenue. Clerk Dezi Early said, "This is a much better location. There is more parking and less traffic. Our store front is smaller, but the overall space is about the same."

Explaining the services offered by the Welding Supply, Early said, "We don't do



Hartman Brothers Welding Supply has moved to 123 Water Ave. Hours M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Phone number 970-240-8535.

Continued pg 4

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the Montrose Mirror



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Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the *Montrose Mirror* reaches a readership of more than 30,000 across the region and around the world
Editor: Caitlin Switzer
Publisher: Harry Switzer
Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

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

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Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Library (FOL) Fall Book Sale is coming this week!



• **Members Only Sale:**
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Thursday, October 16, 4 - 7 PM.

• **Public Sale:**

Friday, October 17, 10 AM - 6 PM

Saturday, October 18, 10 AM - 5 PM.

• **\$5 Bag Sale:**

**Sunday, October 19,
from 1 - 3 PM.**



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FUNDRAISER FOR THE FAMILY OF JOSHUA BAIER TO BE HELD OCT. 18

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Joshua Baier was a lifelong resident of the Montrose-Delta area, and a young business owner and active member of the Montrose community. He passed away from a sudden medical event/ illness in early August at the age of 31.

Josh ran Dancing Sasquatch Tech., a sewing and design business in Montrose. As a business owner, he was very involved in many areas of community life in Montrose and Delta. We had just welcomed our third son three weeks before his passing.

Storm King Distilling Co has generously put together a fundraiser for his family. It will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 from 5-10 pm at the old tasting room and is open to the public.



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HARTMAN BROTHERS WELDING SUPPLY FINDS PERMANENT LOCATION

From pg 1

welding, but we can provide references if someone needs a welder. We're not just industrial gases, but we have gases like CO2 that are used for beer kegs and soda. We do hydro testing on bottles. If it's a dead cylinder that can't be certified, it can still be used by people when they do things like art projects."

Hartman Brothers Welding Supply, which has seven full-time employees, also has a branch in Grand Junction.



Clerk Dezi Early, a three-year employee of Hartman Brothers Welding Supply, assists customers in the front of the store as well as manhandling empty bottles returned by customers. Photo by Gail Marvel.



MONTROSE COUNTY

Presentation of the Proposed 2026 Budget



OCTOBER 13 | 1:00PM
63160 LASALLE MONTROSE, CO
WATCH ONLINE:
WWW.MONTROSECOUNTY.NET

2nd ANNUAL UNCOMPAHGRE POW WOW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER
1036 N 7TH ST, MONTROSE, CO 81401



Hosted by the Western Slope Native American Resource Center and the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose, Colorado.



DANCE CONTEST

CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

POW-WOW: 11 A.M. TO DUSK

Dance Registration 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Gourd Dancing until 1 p.m. Grand Entry 1 p.m.
Winners will be announced after the last dance.

VENDORS: 10x10 vendor spaces are available for \$200 each. Food vendor spaces are \$300 each.
There will be limited space for food vendors, so please sign up early!

DANCE CATEGORIES / PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

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- JR. GIRLS: 7-12 yrs / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional
- JR. BOYS: 7-12 yrs / Fancy, Grass, Traditional
- TEEN GIRLS: 13-17 yrs / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional
- TEEN BOYS: 13-17 yrs / Fancy, Grass, Traditional
- ADULT WOMEN'S: 18-49 yrs / Fancy, Jingle, Traditional
- ADULT MEN'S: 18-49 yrs / Fancy, Grass, Traditional
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— In observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day, City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Visitor Center, Public Works, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department offices will be closed on Monday, Oct. 13.

Police officers will be on duty and responding to calls, however Police Department offices will be closed.

The Black Canyon Golf Course and The Rusty Putter restaurant will be open. The snack bar will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Trash collection services that would normally occur on Monday, Oct. 13, will be adjusted to occur on Tuesday, Oct. 14, and Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Residences located south of San Juan Avenue and Highway 50 that are normally on Monday's trash collection route will be served on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Residences located north of San Juan Avenue and Highway 50 that are normally on Monday's route will be served on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Recycling routes will also be adjusted by shifting collection services normally scheduled for Monday, Oct. 13, to Friday, Oct. 17.

For more information, contact City Hall at 970.240.1400, or visit

www.CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday

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



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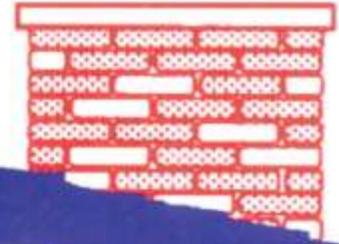
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MONTROSE REGION ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE 2026

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Nathan Perry, PhD

CMU Associate Professor of Economics
2026 Economic Outlook



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AM PM



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“THERE’S GOOD ENERGY HERE” *SheShe Boutique in Montrose*



SheShe Boutique owner Kimberly McGehee (at left) said that she appreciates being Downtown. “There’s good energy here,” she said. “And if our money stays here locally, it keeps the wheels turning.”

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With Thanksgiving just around the corner, Downtown Montrose is a cornucopia of enticing places to shop, eat, and catch up with friends. You can always find something new on Main—for example, the soon to be brick-and-mortar location of MsSo Asian Noodles, at 344 and 346 E. Main St.

Main Street also has its anchor locations, shops that have stood the test of time. Last week, the *Mirror* stopped by SheShe Boutique, at 340 East Main Street. SheShe has been a Downtown mainstay since opening in 2005; present owner Kimberly McGehee purchased the business 14 years ago. “It’s amazing that it’s been here so long,” McGehee said, “I still love it.” SheShe merchandise is beautifully ar-

rayed and carefully chosen. While the boutique sells clothes, it’s really about the people who come through the doors. “I love connecting with people,” McGehee said. “You come to a store to get help, and we can help you.”

McGehee also appreciates being Downtown. “There’s good energy here,” she said. “And if our money stays here locally, it keeps the wheels turning.”

Main Street shoppers are drawn to the chic window displays and quality merchandise. To reach potential new buyers online, McGehee has curated a growing social media presence. SheShe has a [web site](#), as well as active [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

McGehee said that her online marketing efforts began to grow in earnest during the pandemic shutdown. Shoppers could browse online; “I would put together outfits and drop them off on your doorstep,” she said.

Today, SheShe continues to showcase the

latest collection and outfit ideas on social media. Regular videos include “Walkabout Wednesday,” in which McGehee reveals the latest merchandise, encourages online feedback, and awards in-store credits.

What does the future hold for this Montrose destination?

Selling more clothes, thanks to McGehee and her dedicated team. “I have always had a great staff, and I have had a full-time staff for the last five years,” she said. Also, more fun videos on Facebook and Instagram. “Consistency is important,” McGehee said. “We’re starting to really see traction.”

And for the Downtown crowd, SheShe will add one more convenience. “I plan to put QR codes in our windows,” McGehee said.

SheShe Boutique is located at 340 East Main Street in Montrose. The phone number is 970-249-4944. When you’re online, find them on your favorite platforms as well.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC INVITED TO PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Montrose County staff will present the proposed 2025 budget during a special Board of County Commissioners meeting on October 13 at 1:00 p.m. The presentation follows months of detailed work analyzing fund models, capital plans, and requests for new or expanded programs.

“This budget reflects our commitment to responsible stewardship and prioritizing the needs of our community,” said Board Chair Scott Mijares. “We encourage the public to attend, ask questions, and be part of the process as we work toward adopting a balanced budget.”

Next steps in the annual budget process include further review by the Board of County Commissioners, the county manager, and finance staff. Additional meetings with department heads and elected officials will help refine the proposal. Any updates will be incorporated into the final budget, which will be presented for adoption in December during a public hearing. At that time, the Board will also certify mill levies as required by state law.

The public is invited to attend the October 13 meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room at 63160 LaSalle Road. The meeting will also be streamed live and made available for later viewing at montrosecounty.net.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT ELECTION/CAMPAIGN SIGNS IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Election/Campaign signs are not allowed on public property, including road rights-of-way. Any signs placed on public property will be removed by County staff and retained at Public Works. They may be retrieved at any time by the appropriate candidate during normal business hours.

Election/Campaign signs are allowed on private property with the property owner’s permission, on a temporary basis. However, signs that create unsafe visual distractions or obstruct the view of motorists are prohibited. All signs should be collected after the election.

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U.S. POSTAL SERVICE TO OBSERVE COLUMBUS DAY, OCT. 13

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO — The U.S. Postal Service will observe Columbus Day on Monday, Oct. 13. Post Office locations will be closed in recognition of the federal holiday. Only Priority Mail Express items will be delivered on the holiday, and regular mail delivery and retail services will resume on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

While Post Offices will be closed, customers can access many postal products and services through the Postal Service’s network of more than 2,600 self-service kiosks, available in select Post Office lobbies nationwide. These kiosks feature:

- Postage printing for Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express and international shipping;
- Stamps for purchase;
- Ability to weigh and mail packages; and
- Package tracking information.

And as USPS modernizes its retail locations, more self-service options are becoming available at more locations and include:

- Rapid Dropoff Stations for customers who have already created and printed labels online;
- An option for customers to print shipping labels from a merchant-provided QR code; and
- Smart lockers for both drop off and pick up of packages, often with access available 24/7. Many self-service kiosks are available 24/7, offering customers flexibility and convenience even when Post Offices are closed for the holiday. Check the [Postal Locator](#) online for updated holiday hours by location.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MRH CELEBRATES LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AT 54TH ANNUAL MONTROSE FALL CLINICS



Sherry Meaker, RN, BSN, receives the Nurse of the Year Award from Chief Nursing Officer CoralAnn Hackett. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health and the local medical community recently participated in the 54th annual Montrose Fall Clinics, where awards were presented to four outstanding individuals for their contributions to local healthcare: the Physician of the Year Award, the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) of the Year Award, the Nurse of the Year Award, and the Community Member of the Year Award. The Montrose Fall Clinics is the longest running medical education conference in the state of Colorado, providing learning, networking, and collaborative opportunities to providers across the West Slope.

The Physician of the Year Award was presented to David Lee, M.D., a long-time and respected cardiologist in the Montrose region. The award was presented by Michael Brezinsky, M.D., director of continuing medical education at Montrose Regional Health. “Beyond his impressive credentials, it is [Dr. Lee’s] humility, kindness and unwavering dedication to patients and colleagues that truly set him apart,” Brezinsky said. “In his 11 years of service, he has transformed the quality of cardiology care at Montrose Regional Health and worked to expand our outreach to neighboring communities.”

The Advanced Practice Provider of the Year Award went to Che Pimentel, a certified nurse practitioner at the MRH Cardiology Clinic. Dr. Brezinsky, who also presented this award, said: “She is kind and compassionate and is also a tremendous provider. She is loved by patients, practices state-of-the-art medicine, and is a tre-

mendous team player. There is nobody more deserving of this recognition than Che Pimentel.”

The Nurse of the Year Award, which is new to the Montrose Fall Clinics, was presented to Sherry Meaker, ICU nurse, ICU nurse manager and, most recently, staff educator. Meaker has served at Montrose Regional Health for more than 17 years. CoralAnn Hackett, chief nursing officer at Montrose Regional Health, presented the award. “Sherry is an intelligent and driven individual whose sole purpose has been the comfort and success of those around her,” Hackett said. “[She] is intuitive, kind, calming and relevant to whatever the situation demands.”

Finally, the Community Member of the Year Award went to Phoebe Benziger. Mindy Miller, M.D., a family physician in the Montrose region, presented the award. “This remarkable individual has shown a tireless, decades-long commitment to serving Montrose and has made a truly lasting impact,” Miller said. “Those of us fortunate enough to know [her] have been blessed by her presence.” The Fall Clinics event is held each September at the Montrose Pavilion. For more information, contact DeVerna Rogers at drogers@montrosehealth.com or visit the Fall Clinics website at <https://montrosehealth.com/for-providers/fall-clinics/>.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

FATAL CRASH ON I-70 RESULTED IN ROAD CLOSURE

Special to the Mirror

(Summit County, COLO) – On Oct. 12, 2025, at approximately 5:42 a.m., the Colorado State Patrol responded to a fatal crash in Summit County involving a single vehicle, a semi on Interstate 70 milepost 208 westbound.

Initial reports indicate that the semi with a trailer, went off the right side of the road, crashed and caught on fire. All occupants of the semi were pronounced dead on the scene. Due to the extensive damage and fire to this vehicle, first responders are unable to confirm the number of occupants at this time. The Colorado State Patrol is the lead investigating agency for this crash. If you witnessed this crash and have not spoken to investigators, please contact Colorado State Patrol Dispatch at (970) 249-4392, and reference VC250372. Be prepared to provide your name and contact information so that investigators can reach you.



Colorado State Patrol responded to a fatal crash in Summit County involving a single vehicle, a semi on Interstate 70 milepost 208 westbound. CBI photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCHOOL BOARD SHOULD REPRESENT OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY

Dear Editor,

I attended the School Board candidates' presentations today at the Montrose Forum, and was struck by what I did not hear from any of the candidates.

The principal responsibilities of the School Board are to hire the Superintendent, and to approve the budget.

None of the candidates discussed the budget.

None of them discussed funding issues, sources and uses of District monies, or even evidenced any curiosity about how the money is being allocated.

None of the candidates said anything about the Superintendent. None of them discussed the school bond proposal to replace the High School that failed last year, nor the likelihood that that issue will resurface again.

There were some weak laments about poor scores on standardized tests, but no one advocated for any serious measures to reverse that situation. There was lots of happy talk about how great all the teachers are, and how hard they work, but if that were universally true then standardized test scores would be improving,

not dribbling along in mediocrity.

In any organization, in order to improve results, changes have to be made, and that will have to start from the top. To improve academic results, the Board would need to set improvement goals for the Superintendent, with appropriate rewards for delivering improved results, and with the implicit understanding that if better results are not forthcoming, then someone else will be doing that job.

The Superintendent then needs to have a free hand to establish similar contracts with the Principals: rewards for improved performance based upon defined metrics, or a return to teaching duties if the goals aren't met. Principals make or break the performance of any school: their performance is critical to the results achieved in each school.

Principals are like the Captain of a ship: Onboard ship, the morale, motivation, and proficiency of the crew is directly proportional to the Captain's leadership skills. School Principals fill a similar role, and need leadership skills to obtain the best results with their crew.

And Principals need to have a free hand

to recommend rewards for superior teacher performance, and to weed out personnel who aren't up to the task. A pool of bonus money should be set aside to reward superior teacher performance, and a mechanism should be implemented to ensure that it is awarded fairly.

Every time we get a new school Superintendent, we seem to get another proposal to borrow a bunch of money, tear down a building, and build a new one.

We need a School Board that stands up for the idea that the work that goes on within those buildings is what matters, not how new and shiny the building may be.

We need a Board that focuses more on operations, and less on appearances.

But beyond that, the real hazard for this election is the potential for the School Board to be captured by the teachers' union, if we elect School District employees or retirees to the School Board.

Board members should broadly represent our whole community. To that end, please consider voting for Balleck, Scarborough, Vincent, & Daly.

Respectfully,

Jay Thoe, Montrose

THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT

Editor:

Let Me Get This Straight

The Montrose County Republican Central Committee, by a contentious committee vote, sent us commissioner Scott Mijares, who is set for a recall vote for November 7th. Then after the sudden death of duly elected commissioner and former sheriff Gene Lillard they appointed a wing nut from the West End, Shawn Pond, whose claim to fame was "I won't talk to the other side." Shawn has been a total disaster as an appointed county commissioner by the same above central committee.

Now the coup de grâce: they want us to elect four lock-step members to the Montrose County School District Board only because of their party affiliation. Give me a break! You've failed the county twice.

To all school board candidates: what are your reasons for running? Experience? Qualifications, views, allegiances, alliances? The list goes on.

Montrose County voters: BE INFORMED.

This is supposed to be a non-partisan board not a politically affiliated one. Ask questions, attend meetings. What does the Montrose Republican Central Committee want? In baseball it's three strikes and you're out. You already have two. It's our children's education we're voting for.

John Harold, Olathe

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON SOLAR REGULATIONS IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-There are three meetings coming up in Montrose County where you can provide public comment:

Oct. 29, 2025 at the Nucla Community Center, 1045 Main Street, Nucla, CO at 6pm

Oct. 30, 2025 at the Olathe American Legion, 315 5th Street, Olathe, CO at 6pm

Nov. 3, 2025 at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N. 7th Street, Montrose, CO at 6pm

Additionally, you can provide public comment by emailing Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond at trichmond@montrosecounty.net.

Both draft versions of the regulations can be read here:

[Alternative 1](#)

[Alternative 2](#)

[View it on website](#)

**SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT
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email Planning & Development Director
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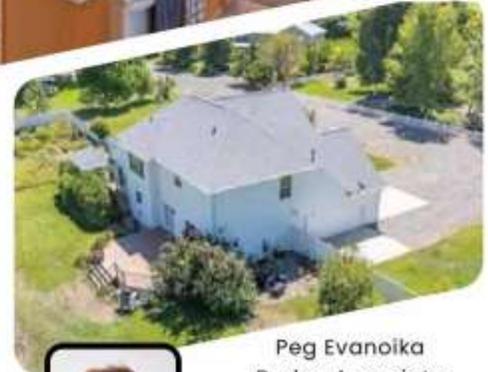
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- Covered Porch
- 3 Baths
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- Spacious Deck
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MORNING FATAL CRASH RESULTS: INTERSTATE 70 HAS BEEN REOPENED

Colorado State Patrol

SUMMIT COUNTY - The initial investigation of the fatal crash on Interstate 70 shows a Freightliner Cascadia semi, with a trailer, was traveling westbound on a downhill straightway on Interstate 70. The Freightliner traveled off the right side of the road, when approaching a curve to the right. The semi came back onto the road and struck the center concrete barrier, rolling across the road, blocking the lanes of travel. The Freightliner became fully engulfed while rolling.

The driver of the Freightliner was determined to be a 37-year-old female from Deming, NM, and was pronounced dead at the scene. The passengers were later found to be a 39-year-old male from Deming, NM, and a 9-year-old female from Jacksonville, FL. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

This investigation is ongoing at this time. The Summit County Coroner's Office will identify the deceased once proper next of kin notifications have been made. The highway was reopened today around 6 p.m..

The Colorado State Patrol is the lead investigating agency for this crash. If you witnessed this crash and have not spoken to investigators, please contact Colorado State Patrol Dispatch at (970) 249-4392, and reference VC250372. Be prepared to provide your name and contact information so that investigators can reach you.

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Montrose County

BUSINESS IMPACT SURVEY

Understanding Economic Stress to Business



Has your 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.**



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

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



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
cdps_dhsem_srtf@state.co.us

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

I SUPPORT COMMISSIONER MIJARES

Dear Editor,

I am a member of the Montrose County Planning Commission, and have been for about 3 years. During this time, I have had the pleasure and responsibility to participate in the updates of Zoning and Subdivision regulations, as well as the Montrose County Master Plan. One overlaying premise in the Master Plan is to protect and preserve our valuable prime agricultural land and heritage. I believe the Planning Commission does this very well.

A few weeks ago, I participated in a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners to talk about the challenges of growth facing Montrose County. The Planning Commission members noted major concerns related to the need for a long overdue bypass around the city of Montrose and the conflict with the preservation of valuable agricultural lands. The commission noted a concern about funding shortfalls as the county tries to implement elements of the master plan. At this point Commissioner

Hansen floated an idea; a new agricultural tax. She wondered if the public would go for it? That suggestion didn't garner much support from the planning commission members, including myself.

Commissioner Mijares didn't hesitate. He pushed back hard against any new tax imposed on the dedicated farmers in Montrose County. Instead, he suggested something different; developing commercial and retail along the southern corridor of Highway 550 and strongly supporting industrial and manufacturing in those areas already zoned for that purpose. The idea is simple, capture revenue from the steady stream of visitors heading to Ouray and San Miguel counties, and improve the county tax base through development and new jobs, without reaching deeper into Montrose County taxpayers' pockets.

The contrast couldn't be starker. One commissioner sees growth through commerce, Scott Mijares. The other sees it through higher taxes, Sue Hansen.

Montrose doesn't need another tax! What it needs is vision, and leaders who understand that prosperity comes from opportunity, not from piling more burdens on working families. Commissioner Mijares has that vision. I support Commissioner Mijares!

Charles Andrews, Montrose



**Congratulates
Leann Tobin**

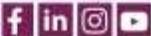


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TROUBLED WATER2: REGISTRATION OPENS FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL WEST SLOPE WATER SUMMIT SET FOR NOV. 13

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Registration for Western Colorado’s premier water-focused event is now open! Join Montrose County, the Colorado River District, and the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association for the 7th Annual West Slope Water Summit: Troubled Water on Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street).

This half-day water summit brings together some of the region’s most respected voices on water to explore pressing issues facing the Western Slope, including water scarcity, infrastructure, conservation, and future planning.

“This year’s theme, Troubled Water2, reflects the growing urgency to address the complex challenges impacting our water supply,” said Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen. “Whether you’ve lived in the valley for generations or just moved here, we all have a role in understanding and protecting our most critical resource.”

Featured Speakers:

-Andy Mueller, Colorado River District - Regional water outlook and policy insights
-Steve Pope, Water Management Expert - Infrastructure and innovation in water systems

-Nick Emmendorfer, PE & Luke Gingerich, PE, Civil Engineers - Engineering solutions for agricultural and municipal water use
-Steve Hale, Water Policy Analyst - Navigating regulatory challenges and opportunities

-Montrose FFA Student Presentations
Doors open at 7:30 a.m., with presentations beginning promptly at 8:00 a.m. Admission to the West Slope Water Summit is free, however advanced registration is required. To register, please visit www.westslopedwatersummit.com. A livestream will also be available for remote attendees.

Immediately following the West Slope Water Summit, the public is welcome to attend the Western Colorado Farm & Ranch Innovation Expo which begins Thursday November 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the

Montrose County Event Center. The Expo is a showcase of the latest technologies, tools, and equipment designed to support Western Colorado’s agricultural producers.

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect directly with vendors and innovators who are reshaping the future of water use in farming and ranching and admission is free.

Steve Hale, Shavano Conservation District Board President, explains the Western Colorado Farm and Ranch Innovation Expo, "is all about bringing practical, forward-thinking solutions directly to the people who grow our food and steward our land.

From water conservation strategies to the latest in livestock management tools and ag-tech, this event is a hands-on opportunity for producers to see what’s working - and what’s next.”

For event information and questions about the Water Summit, please visit westslopedwatersummit.com or call (970) 252-4508.

5 Things to know about me.

I'm Kirstin Copeland and I am running as the replacement candidate for Montrose County Commissioner, District 1.

- 1** I have been registered as an unaffiliated voter for over 20 years.
- 2** I was a state certified law enforcement officer and EMT for over 20 years.
- 3** I've lived in Montrose for almost 30 years.
- 4** I'm a proud mom to four adults, the youngest of whom serves in the US Marine Corps.
- 5** I grew up on a rural farm on Colorado's eastern plain.



Kirstin
copeland
FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
electkcopeland.com

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NOVEMBER 8, 2025

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL, CITY MANAGER AND MONTROSE GOV OFFICIALS (REVISITED)

Editor:

The TOWN of Montrose is morphing into a MAJOR concern. The populace (now) is coming from far and wide; MONTROSE has been discovered. The populace that is streaming into this area are well informed, articulate, AND have money. THEY are accustomed to access to information, when requested, they are expectant of intelligent, thoughtful responses and a TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION AVENUE.

The method of operation of Montrose’s city government is NOW front and center (in the past it was a few citizens who voiced their point of view and attempted to establish a two-way conversation, to no avail. THAT has and will continue to change.... the first zoom meeting on the Cobble Creek hub was YOUR FIRST WARNING. The capacity was inadequate and was a failure. The MASSIVE AMOUNT OF FEEDBACK YOU RECIEIVED, both by email and zoom attendance should forewarn you that it CAN NOT BE BUSINESS AS USUAL...brushing off concerns and NOT listening/acting on concerns brought forward.

The routine dismissal and disregard WILL only infuriate the new comers and WILL result in more of the populace entertaining the idea of recall...I am a 3rd generation Coloradan and as such, I see the handwriting on the wall. THIS little town, is NO LONGER little...the mindset of “we” are the deciders worked in the past. THAT stance will be challenged. As ALICE WALKER famously quoted THE WAY PEOPLE GIVE AWAY THEIR POWER IS BY THINKING THEY HAVE NONE.

There are MORE individuals who are aware of their POWER and will NOT settle for business as usual.

RESIDENT OF MONTROSE FOR 10 YEARS

LYNN STOCKTON

SCOTT MIJARES IS FIGHTING FOR OUR CONSERVATIVE VALUES, RURAL WAY OF LIFE

Dear Constituents,

I’m Larry Don Suckla, your State Representative for House District 58 and a former two-term Montezuma County Commissioner. I’ve spent years serving our Western Colorado communities, and I know what kind of leadership keeps us strong. That’s why I’m standing firmly behind Commissioner Scott Mijares.

Scott’s not some career politician. He’s a true advocate for our conservative values and rural way of life. He asks the tough questions, challenges old ways of doing things, and focuses on real solutions. That kind of drive, saying, “We can do better” is rare, and Montrose County needs it now more than ever.

Having been a commissioner myself, I can tell you public service takes grit, honesty, and a deep respect for our Western Colorado roots, our ranches, open lands, and the life we hold dear. He’s out there defending taxpayers, supporting our families, and protecting the freedoms and traditions that make our region special.

As I keep working for you in the State House, I’m proud to stand with leaders like Scott, who put principles first and fight for our ranchers, farmers, and heritage. This recall effort against him isn’t just about one man, it’s an attack on the kind of leadership that puts you first.

Let’s keep Scott Mijares fighting for us.

Sincerely,

Larry Don Suckla

State Representative, House District 58

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE RECALL QUESTION IS A TRAVESTY

Editor:

With all of the noise around the Recall Mijares issue, most voters are totally unaware of the fact that after Mijares handily defeated Sue Hansen’s hand-picked candidate last November, and two months previous to him officially taking office and being seated as a commissioner from his district, he was threatened with a recall.

Inquisitive voters should ask why Mijares would be threatened with a recall even before he was seated officially as commission???. For those that have actually paid attention to what is going on in our county government the answer is very simple. Mijares had the audacity to question the motives and actions of Hansen, Caddy and Rash and their highly orchestrated search for a new County Manager and their ultimate decision to hire an individual who had no experience in county management. Furthermore, as Commissioner Elect, Mijares had the audacity to question the transparency of the previous BOCC and raised questions about the fiscal integrity of the North Campus project that was pushed to approval before he was seated as a commissioner. In doing so Mijares exhibited the attributes that a voter would want in a new commissioner.

When Sue Hansen lost her position as the BOCC chair she promptly fanned the flames of the threatened Recall by manipulating several disgraced Republicans, her favorite media mouthpiece, and a few Democrats to form a cabal to push forward the Mijares recall petition. The stated reasons for the recall involved decisions made by the entire BOCC board and not just Scott Mijares.

Make no mistake, the skunk in the wood pile of the recall issue is disgraced ex-republican Sue Hansen. She has consistently sowed the seeds of discord and hostility among unsuspecting county employees. And has hand-picked an unknown candidate to replace Mijares. That unknown candidate has yet to express any understanding of county issues or interest in our county government.

The recall question is a travesty that has been fostered upon the voters of Montrose County by a group of unscrupulous individuals in a blatant attempt at a power grab. The Recall question on your ballot deserves a resounding NO vote.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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4:30pm



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Charlie on his
birthday**

***Start @ corner of Main &
Townsend & line Townsend
both sides as far as we can
go - invite friends**

***Wear your Turning
Point/Charlie memorabilia**

***Bring your flag**

**Bring a sign in support of
free speech**

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LEFTISTS SUPPORTED BY BIG MONEY EXTREMISTS, YOUR TAX MONEY

Editor:

A local Left wing newspaper -- GJ Daily Sentinel 5 October 2023 -- recently published an article to expose the Indian schools of a hundred years ago for guiding American Indian children to adopt the melting pot culture and ways of Americans. "The schools were opened across the country as part of a Bureau of Indian Affairs policy to assimilate Native Americans into white society. And while operators of the schools were supposed to get permission from families to board students, they often didn't, ripping students away from their parents..." The first fundamental was to separate the children from their parents in order to break the family influence to preserve the old tribal ways.

The decades-long goal by our modern Leftist education establishment to destroy the melting pot culture and ways of Amer-

icans, and re-institute tribal ways by pitting groups of Americans against each other uses the same first fundamental, separating children from their parents. Far Left extremist school board candidates distinguished themselves by opposing parents' power to choose what school would educate their children. It was the fundamental of this election. The Leftists are supported by big money extremists and your tax money laundered through "nonprofits".

Now we have a headline in the Montrose Daily Press, "Trafficking doesn't look like you think it does".

Well yes, it turns out that it does. "To prosecute sex trafficking of adults, force, fraud, or coercion must be provable, although that isn't so when it comes to children, who cannot legally consent to any kind of sexual conduct." Our school establishment and Library Board are ada-

mant that they are entitled to engage children in any sexual contact that is their ever more extreme fashion, without any legal consent.

Police still make arrests on child pornography charges, but there are no arrests for child molestation or exploitation by members of the virulent anti-Christian, anti-traditional-American education establishment. The ultra-Left extremist "Educators" and Librarians have free rein to engage minors in sexual conversation and activities and guide them to sexual mutilation without their parents consent, and call parents who wish to protect their children from such depredation Domestic Terrorists. There is no sign that police and DAs have any investigations or intent to protect families.

Charles Zimmerman, Montrose
The tenets of Left-wing totalitarianism are conform, comply, Submit, and OBEY.

GET OUT AND VOTE

Get out and VOTE:

To the Good folks of Montrose, America. This is the most important election we have had in a long time.

We have an opportunity to go back to educating our kids in what they should be learning. Reading, writing and arithmetic!! No more DEI, CRT, or LGTB nonsense. The School Board election is supposed to be non-partisan, but we all know it's not. We

need to vote for good conservative people who are about education and not indoctrination.

Write these names down so you don't forget who they are when you get to vote: TIFFANY VINCENT, SCOTT SCARBOROUGH, SHANE DALEY, and NEISHA BALLECK.

We also need to vote NO on the recall, if we lose SCOTT we will have a liberal Board of Commissioners.

Vote NO on MM and LL it is a sneaky end around to get rid of TABOR!!!

Jim Abney, Montrose
All kids don't need a free breakfast and lunch.

Save that for the kids that need it, NOT ALL KIDS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL ONLY.

Please get out and Vote. God Bless You and God Bless America

Thanks for listening



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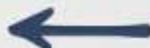
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEBUNKING MISLEADING CLAIMS IN COLORADO RURAL VOTERS FLYER

Editor:

In a recent flyer distributed by **Colorado Rural Voters**, with **Phoebe Benziger** listed as the registered agent, several accusations were leveled against Commissioner Scott Mijares claiming he is somehow **"NOT FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE"** in what appears to be a **desperate attempt to discredit him**. Let's examine these claims one by one and set the record straight based on the facts. This is almost comical coming from someone who is tied so heavily to the far-left, that they would be worried about anyone being fiscally conservative, but I digress.

1. Allegation: Scott spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on severance and interim salaries after forcing out county staff.

Reality: Commissioner Mijares did not cost taxpayers a single dime in severance payments. Frank Rodriguez and Marti Whitmore resigned voluntarily. It was Sue Hansen who pushed for the severance

payouts. Emily Sanchez resigned *without notice* making her ineligible for rehire.

2. Allegation: Gave a \$15,000/month salary to his friend, former commissioner David White.

Reality: David White is not on a salary. He holds a three-month contract with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for management consulting services and serves as Interim County Manager on a strictly temporary basis. White's extensive experience is worth far more than his compensation and has been invaluable in stabilizing operations after the mess left by the previous county manager.

3. Allegation: Almost cost taxpayers \$3 million by holding up the North Campus project.

Reality: Far from costing the county money, Mijares questioned the project's necessity and approval—rightfully so, as the building, greenlit by Hansen, Rash, and Caddy, was inadequate for its intended purpose. By pushing to evaluate whether

spending \$24 million was prudent, he aimed to potentially save the county \$21 million. This isn't a loss; it's fiscal responsibility. Benziger's logic mirrors the flawed mindset of claiming "savings" on unnecessary purchases during a sale, ignoring affordability. The county finance department had already determined the county couldn't afford both the new campus and historic courthouse renovations, but the prior board approved it anyway. Mijares simply requested a 45-day pause to review.

Sue Hansen and Phoebe Benziger's push to remove Mijares raises questions about their motives. Voters deserve transparency, not distortions, in local governance.

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).

WHEN SUE HANSEN IS ABSENT AT MEETINGS, SO ARE THE GANG MEMBERS WHO ASSOCIATE WITH HER

Dear Editor,

My letter is about **ideologies** not parties. We have Republicans, those who called themselves Republicans then left that party when it wasn't needed any longer, those who still call themselves Republican, groups with individuals registered as Democrats and Unaffiliated. They hang together, they come to BOCC and work session meetings in Montrose. The interesting piece of this is when Commissioner Sue Hansen is absent at meetings, so are the gang members who associate with her.

One group is called Indivisible. In our area they appear to be those registered as Democrats and Unaffiliated who show up in front of businesses and on the steps of City Hall wearing red robes and white hats. Mike Johnson, House Leader, yesterday called Indivisible, a radical left group. Then we have the League of Women's Voters, Unify Montrose, No Kings, and the group of men who dressed in white pants with red paint on their crotches, standing on the street corner, all who want power to control. We have certain Republicans rubbing shoulders with individuals who stand in these far left groups, pulling chairs up to the proverbial table bargaining to shut the People off the

land and give water away, working with non government organizations like Trout Unlimited, The Walton Family Foundation and the Wyss Foundation. When commissioners like Sue Hansen want to have a seat at the table with Micheal Bennett and Hickenlooper, the People who use the land don't win. They shut down coal mining and coal fired power plants because they are not "green" but will pollute agricultural land with solar panels and wind machines. They support killing babies in the womb, and do NOT have a problem maiming our children by pushing transgenderism. They are environmental activists that have been employed by agencies such as the US Park Service or other federal agencies who then join in with the above mentioned groups and NGO's. Sides are created; new sides and old sides that have always been and always will be but now we are seeing interesting bedfellows coming together because of shared **ideologies** who have now worked together and created a recall. What is the purpose of the recall? What is the purpose of having Kirsten Copeland on the ballot? It is for one reason and one reason only! Power! Power corrupts absolutely. It appears that those that created this recall

of Scott Mijares do NOT want fiscal accountability nor do they want to support funding the sheriff's department, or resolutions going to President Trump or resolutions that protect our land from federal land grabs such as GORP, the NCA or Monuments. Look at all the work that has been done that Commissioner Sue Hansen won't sign. It is all of public record for all to see. Sue Hansen needs a partner to support her. What is a better way to succeed in this endeavor? Leave the Republican party who helped to get her elected, conspire with groups that think the same and bring them to commissioner meetings, start lies in the local newspaper, create division inside the county administration and spread lies that two commissioners are not doing their jobs. All of this for what???? Power!!!!

We now have two strong voices supporting funding the sheriff's office that the people voted for, who also support keeping our land open, protecting our water and letting the laws of the Constitution, the rule of law rule. It seems simple to me.

As for me and mine, we will vote NO to recall Scott Mijares and draw our line in the sand.

Respectfully, Barbara Hulet, Olathe

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP



Maggie Legg hits a kill shot Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE RED HAWKS FOOTBALL

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 55, DOHERTY 6

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team hit the road for their second league game, traveling to Colorado Springs to destroy the undermanned Doherty Spartans. The Red Hawks' high-flying offense and their lights-out defense put up 55 points while giving up a meaningless late touchdown to increase their overall record to 7-0 and 2-0 in league action.

The Red Hawks scored five touchdowns in the initial twelve minutes of the first quarter, and then added another pair of scores in the second quarter to involve the running clock, as the score mounted beyond a 40-point spread in the second quarter. As per usual, the Red Hawks cleared their bench throughout the entire second half of action, giving up a single score late.

The Red Hawks' next opponent, the Mesa Ridge Grizzlies come to Montrose on Friday, Oct. 17 with the kickoff scheduled for 6 PM. The Grizzlies invade Montrose sporting a 3-4 record overall and a 1-0 record in league action. The Doherty Spartans now own a 2-5 overall record and are 0-2 in league action. The Red Hawks are 2-0 in league play while Mesa Ridge and Pueblo West are each 1-0 with all remaining games in the Southern Colorado #1 League.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, DURANGO DEMONS 0

The rampaging Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team continued their winning ways last Saturday with a 3-0 victory over the Durango Demons on their home court. The Red Hawks won all three games by the scores of 25-23, 25-16 and 25-23. The Red Hawks continued to put together a

powerful offense and a stingy defense as they kept their win streak in tack. The Red Hawks improved their overall record to 15-0 and 6-0 in league play.

NONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, GUNNISON COWBOYS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team celebrated a longstanding tradition of raising awareness and funds for breast cancer research and the support of our local Bosom Buddies Support Group of Southwestern Colorado. This was pink-out night, and the volleyball team and the entire school pitched in to raise awareness and funds for a very worthy cause. The Red Hawks took no prisoners on Oct. 7 as they defeated the Cowboys 25-13, 25-14 and 25-14 to complete a sweep.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, VILLAGE MOUNTAINEERS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks took on a tough team in Colorado Springs last Saturday and came away with a hard-fought victory 3-0. The Village grew stronger as the match proceeded. The initial game was captured by the Red Hawks 25-16. The second and third games ended up with the Red Hawks winning by margins of 29-27. Both games 2 and 3 went into overtime for the Red Hawks to come out victorious.

Maggie Legg and Marcella Mendoza led the offensive attack with 26 and 14 kills each. Per usual Lilly Nelson led all setters with 39. Reina Contreras also chipped in with 14.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, UNIVERSITY BULLDOGS 2

The second match last Saturday featured the University School in Greeley, Colorado. The Red Hawks won the first game 26



The Montrose Cheerleaders turned out to support the Montrose Pink-out raising funds for cancer research. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

-24 but the Bulldogs took games 2 and 3 by the scores of 21-25 and 19-25. The Red Hawks regrouped and won the final two games 25-17 and 15-13 to keep their record unblemished. Maggie Legg led all attackers with 25 kills. In the Dig department, Legg had 18 while Nelson and Mendoza added 14 and 11. Nelson also handled 43 sets.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SOFTBALL: MONTROSE RED HAWKS 5, PALISADE BULLDOGS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks have completed their 2025 regular season as one of the more successful softball teams in the past number of years. The Red Hawks ended the regular season with 15 wins and 7 losses and now await the seeding of teams for the playoffs. The Red Hawks are currently ranked 14th in the 4A playdown. The seedings will come out just after the *Mirror* is released.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 5, PALISADE BULLDOGS 1

The games and the season come down to a precious few, and the Red Hawks continue to stand tall. The Red Hawks hosted the Palisade Bulldogs and defeated them 5-1. The home team scored their 5 runs on 5 base hits as freshman Marlo Monson led the way with a pair of singles. The Red Hawks left six runners stranded. Freshman Bentley Schiller was the winning pitcher, and she struck out 10 Bulldogs in the win.

DELTA PANTHERS 6, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 5

The final game of the regular season saw

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg

the Delta Panthers squeeze out a one-run, 6-5 victory over the Red Hawks. Both teams managed 7 hits, but the Panthers mixed in 3 extra base hits in the Panthers total. Sophomore Aubrey Blacker and Freshman Bentley Schiller each had a pair of base knocks. Junior Cheyenne Whitcomb had a pair of runs batted in to lead in this category. Schiller pitched a complete game and took the loss.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SOCCER:

RED HAWKS 1, GLENWOOD SPRINGS DEMONS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks soccer team welcomed the Glenwood Springs Demons to Montrose on Saturday, and defeated the Demons by the score of 1-0. The Red Hawks scored a single goal in the first half of the contest and then made it stand up with a very tight and stingy defense.

RED HAWKS 4, GRAND JUNCTION CENTRAL WARRIORS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks improved their overall record to 8-2-2 overall and 5-2-1 in league action last Tuesday as the Red Hawks defeated the Warriors 4-1. The Red Hawks jumped out to a 1-0 lead and then outscored the Warriors 3-1 in the second half of the contest. The Red Hawks are currently ranked 89th in the state playoff chase. The tournament seedings will be released soon so stay tuned.

Facts the Recall Supporters Don't Want You to Know

All BOCC decisions made are made by the board.
Not by individual board members.

The County Manager and the County Attorney serve at the pleasure of the BOCC; not one singular Commissioner.

The BOCC is authorized to hire only two people, the County Manager and the County Attorney.

Colorado State law requires the Board of Health to select and appoint the Public Health Director. It is illegal for the BOCC to appoint this position.

County Mgr., Assist. County Mgr., and County Attorney offered their resignations on the same day voluntarily. Their resignations were never accepted by the board.

Vacancies created by the resignations of the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, and County Attorney created payroll savings to Montrose County taxpayers of over \$207,000 – far exceeding the severance payments of \$177,000.

The County Manager (usually the highest paid county employee) is responsible for the success or failure of all county operations. He/She is therefore authorized to hire or fire Directors. County Commissioners DO NOT Hire or Fire Directors or employees.

Say No To The Recall of Scott Mijares
www.scottm4montrose.com

Before you believe the claims being made by the Recall Committee please research the facts that govern our county.

This is a very important election that could have long term impacts to the community you love.

Say **No** to "Indivisible"
Say **No** to "No Kings"
Say **No** to "Hands Off"
Say **No** to those who want to cancel a free and fair elections.

Say **NO** to replacing a duly elected Commissioner who earned 18,159 of your votes with a candidate who will assume office with just 1 vote.

Say NO to the recall of Scott Mijares
Keep Mijares on the BOCC.
He is doing what you elected him to do.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE NO ALL THE WAY DOWN THE BALLOT

Editor:

Where's your passion, Montrose? We need Conservative passion in Montrose to protect our County and our children. The liberals are full swing trying to take over Montrose while most of us may not even be aware- extreme liberals, aka INDIVISIBLE, NO KINGS, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, etc. Yes, they are in Montrose and, yes, they show up to most local board meetings to get their way.

If you look deeper in **every area of our county**, there are large liberal foot prints taking over while Conservatives end up not voting or are clueless to what is happening here.

For example, did you know **our local library spent over \$17,000 on pushing LGBTQ agendas with YOUR tax dollars** in 2024-2025? Some of that went to groom our local children and \$2,000 of that literally SPONSORED Montrose Pride with OUR TAX dollars! They say they need more money to stay open but somehow want to feed the homeless or groom our children. I don't think that is the job of a local library, especially by way of taxing us on our property taxes- a tax on what we ALREADY OWN, OUR PROPERTY!

Let's stop this madness, Montrose!

Our library will not host Christmas programs and hasn't for years. Why? They

say it might offend someone. Did you know that 90% of Americans celebrate Christmas, yet they will hold grooming LGBTQ sessions for children? I find that offensive.

Not sure they have our best interest in mind and need to be investigated. The LGBTQ agenda offends way more people than Christmas does and yet they seem fine with that. Vote NO!

The current City Council ballot issues mean less accountability for City Council members, WOKE gender changes and even welcomes non local judges, like Denver judges. What a terrible package deal! Absolutely not! Vote NO!

Everyone will get a ballot this week if you are registered to vote. Fight the extreme liberal agendas by voting in every one of the **CONSERVATIVE school board candidates: Tiffany Vincent, Shane Daly, Neisha Balleck, and Scott Scarborough.**

Democrat Alice Murphy is pushing the opposition for a reason. As current board member, she **supported controversial Title IX changes impacting girls' safety that allow biological males into girls' locker rooms and bathrooms.** This raises serious concerns among parents and community members about the safety, fairness, and privacy of girls' sports and spaces. We need change in our school district

and to hold our liberal superintendent accountable- did you know she considers Trump supporters racist? School is for reading, writing and arithmetic, not liberal agendas. We are not a 3rd world country, California, or Chicago!

Democrat code words to be discerning of: "No political agenda" means "only liberal agendas allowed"

"Representing everyone" means

"representing democrats"

"Feeding the children" means "We didn't spend your tax dollars wisely."

"We are inclusive" means "Let us exploit and gaslight you."

Democratic policies are not kind but damaging. They destroy children, cities and nations. There is nothing "kind" about it.

Vote NO all the way down the ballot and hold government accountable! We also don't need an **automatic liberal choice for a county commissioner** replacement either. Montrose is at a detrimental Conservative crossroads and every Conservative voter needs to **spread the word like the future of our county depends on it because it does!**

Remember: Vote Conservative Candidates and Vote NO all the way down the ballot!

~Jodi Wooden, representing 6 generations in Montrose

HOW COOL IS THIS?

Editor:

I found Kirstin Copeland's "Hi! I'd like to introduce myself" Ad in the October 6th edition of the Mirror very interesting. It would appear that she thinks she is actually running for the position of county commissioner. The reality is she is the hand-picked replacement candidate put up by the Democrats behind the recall of Commissioner Mijares. What that means is, if the recall is successful, **and she gets just one vote**, she will be the next commissioner for District 1. **How cool is that**, just vote for yourself and you can get elected county commissioner. No need to campaign, no need to answer questions from your "constituents", just list your "qualifications" on a web site and vote for yourself. It should not be that easy to be "elected" county commissioner. Don't let this ridiculous recall disenfranchise the 18000 voters who elected Scott Mijares. **VOTE NO on the recall.**

Ben Alexander, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RECALL: IT'S ALL ABOUT POWER, CONTROL, REAL CONSEQUENCES AND TURNING MONTROSE CO. BLUE

Editor:

The ballots are out. I was talking with a friend of mine on Wednesday, and it came to my attention the amount of misinformation that has been propagandized by the recallers. We just had a vote for county commissioner last November. Now again and at lightning speed we have a ballot question before us to recall Commissioner Scott Mijares.

Questions arise? Have you wondered how and why that happened? Who organized the recall effort? Who supports the recall effort?

I and others have "persistently" called out corrupt and self-dealing public issues and people by name over the years and will continue to investigate such matters.

The second "persistent" effort is by the left side of the ledger of Montrose politics. Their unending objective and desire to take over politically the administration of the Montrose County government is not a secret.

That in a nutshell is the entire issue before us the voters. Stories like commissioner Mijares is not a republican

abound. Mr. Mijares was certified as a republican in a true bill, or he could not have been certified to be on the ballot for county commissioner otherwise. The issue of the current board hiring their own choice of county attorney and manager (direct reports to the commissioners) is true.

Please note that the previous board of county commissioners and numerous boards of county commissioners many years before them did the same thing.

I have attended many BOCC meetings and had a chance to talk with some of the attendees supporting the recall and asked them why they were there, and did they understand the issues they were there for? You will not be surprised when a number of the attendees simply stated that they were asked to show up and so did they. It was also evident in my opinion that many of them did not understand the issues, nor could they articulate why they were protesting the various issues other than to support the agenda. To further the point, many of the same supporters

had not appeared at previous BOCC meetings over the years to protest the very same actions and votes of previous boards of county commissioners. It is not the question or action before the commissioners but it's all about "THE PERSON OR WHO IS CASTING THE VOTE".

For sure, this is not a feel good question before us on the ballot. It is about power, control and the future of Montrose County for years to come. WHO and HOW we will be represented, the policies that will be put into law and regulations to follow is what we are voting for.

Last question? I know absolutely nothing about the replacement candidate and policies??? This looks like a recent national tactic all over again. Say nothing, do nothing and skate right in. This is not a school popularity contest without consequences.

Please vote "NO" ON THE RECALL QUESTION AND RETAIN SCOTT MIJARES.

PS. Don't wait, delay, or hold your breath to vote or Montrose County may very well turn "BLUE".

Jim Anderson. Montrose

VOTING YES TO RECALL SCOTT MIJARES

Editor:

My name is Don Gladwell and I'm a life-long Republican. I'm encouraging all eligible voters to vote yes to recall County Commissioner Scott Mijares.

It has been my privilege to live in Montrose for over 53 years. In that time I have learned that city, county and school board politics should be nonpartisan. When choosing who to support in local elections the deciding factor should not be party affiliation but the character of the individual running for office.

Over the last 30 or more years there has been a Democrat in Montrose who has proven himself to be honest and of upmost integrity. Bill Patterson has served our community as County Commissioner,

City Councilman and DMEA Board Member. Even though he's a Democrat I have always supported him. His political party choice didn't matter. What did matter was that he was a proven leader that always put the good of the community above all else when performing his elected duties.

Mr. Patterson is a prime example of why political affiliation should not dictate our choices in local elections.

Some will label me as a RINO. Some claim that a good Ronald Reagan republican is completely loyal to the party no matter what.

Obviously I disagree. I believe that Ronald Reagan would be appalled at some of the actions of our local Republican Central

Committee. Republican Rick Dunlap was elected County Commissioner because of his honesty and integrity. And yet his own party campaigned against him. Shameful!

And now we have Commissioner Mijares who has done nothing but bring chaos to our county government. The county administration has lost numerous competent employees due to Scott Mijares reckless actions. I don't care that he's a republican. We deserve better.

So I am joining the vast majority of the citizens of Montrose County, Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliated, in voting YES to recall Scott Mijares. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Don R. Gladwell, Montrose

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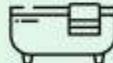
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CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE YES TO RECALL COMMISSIONER SCOTT MIJARES

Editor:

Voters, I made a mistake in last year's election. I didn't research Commissioner Scott Mijares's career track record in time, nor did I nominate a viable alternative. I grew complacent, thinking things were going fine in Montrose county, and didn't pay close attention.

You too? The result: Mijares ran unopposed.

But we can course-correct now with a recall, rather than wait out his full term.

The first alarm for me was after we sadly lost Commissioner Rick Dunlap. I was dismayed that Mijares would leverage a vote from Commissioner Pond (newly appointed as Dunlap's replacement by relatively few Republican Central Committee members) to elect himself Board Chair prior to either person gaining commissioner experience. Disappointingly, Mijares has turned down commissioner-training opportunities and fails to work toward practical solutions that manage the county's inevitable growth or promote our neigh-

bors' health and economic wellbeing. Such disregard by an elected official who is paid a full-time salary to govern is concerning.

The second red flag came in March. After initially voting to hire Public Health Director Dr. Mirza Ahmed—a tenured public health professional whose resume includes some time at the World Health Organization—Mijares reversed himself when a handful of residents publicly objected to Ahmed's foreign degree and criticized him, calling him a "globalist." Instead of standing by his vote and Dr. Ahmed's qualifications, Mijares used a procedural technicality to demote Ahmed and reopen the hiring process. Months later, the same qualified candidate was rehired. That waste of time and taxpayer money wasn't leadership—it was caving to fear and bias.

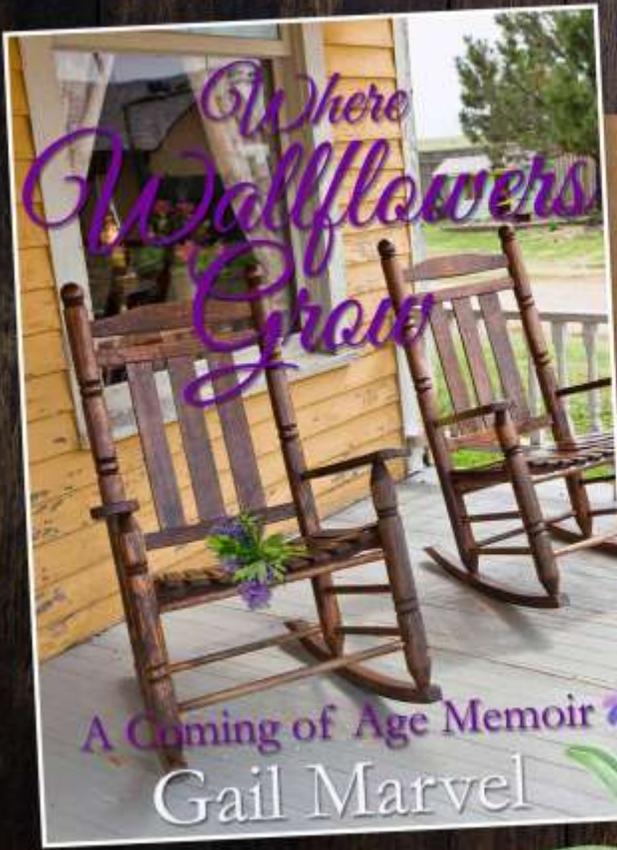
Other troubling instances are easy to find. Browse commissioner meeting recordings at <https://www.montrosecounty.net/390/Agendas->

Minutes-Upcoming-Board-Meetings. You'll see Mijares stalling county projects started before he took office, pushing ideology-driven resolutions that shout into the void and alienate political allies, and ignoring years of public input supporting solar zoning that would sensibly expand property rights and generate county revenue. You'll also witness how he treats people: other commissioners, staff, and neighbors.

Mijares's pattern of wasted opportunity, divisive politics, and bullying don't serve Montrose County. Where is his leadership on practical issues like our county's eroding Medicare coverage and escalating insurance costs? Water and infrastructure planning for future growth? Economic opportunity? Keeping this a great place to live, work, and play?

We deserve commissioners who strengthen our community, not weaken it. Vote YES to recall Commissioner Scott Mijares.

Catherine Stroh, Montrose County



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET JUSTICE BE DONE THOUGH THE HEAVENS MAY FALL

Editor:

“Let justice be done though the Heavens may fall”! I first heard this maxim in the movie BELLE when the Lord Chief Justice of England ruled against powerful slavers which was previously unheard of. I was unsurprised when I read Commissioner Mijares had publicized the names and addresses of the citizens who had signed the recall petition. I know his type.

Many years ago I worked for a mean, incompetent bully who, for example, would order staff members to perform certain work tasks and then yell at them and me for doing what he had ordered. He destroyed the careers of four dedicated staff members and I was next on his hit list, when the headquarters located 8 states away finally figured out he was the problem and was removed.

Commissioner Mijares also needs to be removed for some of the very same reasons and more. We tell our children to stand up to bullies, and yet, we adults often do not. This is not about party affiliation. It is about decency and competence. Prior to the election, please look at the facts and feel sad for those unjustly fired or harassed into quitting .

“Let Justice be done though the Heavens may fall” and vote YES to recall Scott Mijares.

Sue Zanol, Montrose

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COUNCIL PROCLAIMS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH From pg 1

So, we...came with the Spanish, we learned their customs, they learned ours...thank you for helping us at MADA. You guys did a lot of good for us, and you guys have always supported us as well. I appreciate and I wish to thank all the City Council and City employees for all the help you give us."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Frank read the rules for public comment.

Mallory Shaffer, Director of the Montrose Children's Museum, spoke. She thanked the City of Montrose for their help and support. "...Since opening we have served over 9,500 visitors... children, parents, and grandparents experiencing learning through play. We've served more than 400 students across the school districts in the region, through school field trips and educational programs. We've also served over 400 individuals through our Museums for All program, which allows people...families on SNAP benefits, to get in for free...since 2023, thanks to the generosity of our community and local supporters like the City of Montrose, we've raised over \$266,000 to sustain and grow our operations.

"Looking ahead one of our goals is...to bring a city services exhibit to our museum...a rotating, interactive experience where children can learn about how the city works...the city's support has been woven into every stage of our growth...on behalf of our board, staff, volunteers, and all the families that we serve, thank you guys for making this vision a reality..."

Next, Michael Murphy spoke on behalf of the Montrose Library. Murphy said that the library will have two measures on the ballot this fall. He explained the reasoning and need for the measures. The first ballot measure, 6A, extends the current mill levy, he said. "...it's not a new tax, it's an extension of the current tax..."

Murphy discussed how the funds collected have been used to meet community needs, and said that the second ballot measure, 6B, will allow the library to collect the full mill levy as approved and grow alongside the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the [minutes of the September 15, 2025, special City Council meeting](#) and the [September 16, 2025, regular City Council meeting](#) as presented.

YOUTH CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

After hearing from the Applicant, Council voted unanimously to appoint Keira Ouldroyd to the Montrose Youth City Council for the 2025-2026 term.

SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE REQUEST FOR MONTROSE PAVILION LIGHTING

Council voted unanimously to approve a [sole source waiver and purchase totaling \\$181,850 from Barbizon Lighting Company](#) for the Montrose Pavilion lighting upgrades in the auditorium and lobby area.

CHILDCARE FACILITY OPERATOR AGREEMENT

"I think this is very much a plus for this community," Councilor J. David Reed said, speaking at length as Council considered approving an [Operating Agreement between the City of Montrose and Access Early Education Foundation for childcare operations at 703 S. 9th Street](#).

Community Development Manager Jace Hochwalt presented information. Among other things, the City of Grand Junction, which operates a daycare in-house, incurs a \$600,000 deficit. "They offer very similar hours of operation, employee pay..." Hochwalt said.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri asked whether teachers and nurses would receive discounts; Hochwalt said that would depend on whether their employer contributes to the program.

Councilor Doug Glaspell asked about staffing, Mayor Dave Frank said that staffing levels are mandated by the state. Council spent time in discussion.

In a four-to-one vote following the discussion, Council voted to approve the [Operating Agreement between the City of Montrose and Access Early Education Foundation for childcare operations at 703 S. 9th Street](#). Councilor Ed Ulibarri voted "No."

JC MITCHELL ADDITION ANNEXATION

Council held a public hearing on the an-

nexation of the JC Mitchell Addition, and then voted to approve:

-[Resolution 2025-16, findings of fact](#) for the JC Mitchell Addition annexation; [Ordinance 2691 on first reading](#), for the annexation of the JC Mitchell Addition.

ORDINANCE 2692-FIRST READING

Following a public hearing, Council approved [Ordinance 2692 on first reading](#), zoning the JC Mitchell Addition as an R-2, Low Density District.

ORDINANCE 2693 - FIRST READING

Council approved [Ordinance 2693](#) on First Reading, amending the zoning district designation of lot 1 of the Murphy Boundary Line adjustment from R-1A, Large Estate District, to OR, Office-Residential District.

ORDINANCE 2694 - FIRST READING

The final item was also unanimously approved--[Ordinance 2694](#) on First Reading, amending the zoning district designation of a portion of Lot 1 of the Black Canyon Golf Course Boundary Line Adjustment from P, Public District, to R-1A, Large Estate District.

STAFF REPORTS

Youth Council Coordinator Gunnison Clamp gave an update. Orientation is complete, there are ten students in the program this year.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Judy Ann Files said she went to the grand opening of the Rendezvous Apartments built by Volunteers of America; the city had helped VOA obtain a CDBG grant, she said. "I was very impressed that day when I got there...it was just one of those heartwarming things... And Jace, of course got up...and said...'anybody wants a grant, just ask the city of Montrose and Jace'll write it for 'em.'"

Mayor Dave Frank said that the city will close down Main Street from Townsend to Park Avenue for the Halloween Candy Crawl. Frank encouraged parents to shop Downtown, "Support our local business..."

Frank said he looks forward to the upcoming Christmas events.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD NOT VOTE FOR SCHOOL BOARD ENCUMBENT ALICE MURPHY

Editor:

Alice Murphy is a nice person and I have had many interactions with her. I have observed her on the School Board since August 2021 and have concerns about her continuing to be a Board Director for the following reasons:

1. She voted twice to block school choice.

Alice Murphy voted two separate times to deny the charter application for Montrose Classical Academy—a decision that was ultimately overturned by the Colorado State Board of Education in a **bipartisan 8–1 vote**, including support from four Democratic members. Her stance was out of step with both state education leaders and the community.

2. Her decisions cost taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars.

By defending the board’s unlawful charter denial, Alice Murphy and the district spent significant taxpayer resources on legal fees—money that could have supported classrooms and students instead.

3. She opposed approving Montrose Classical Academy, a school families clearly wanted.

In 2024, **63% of Montrose County voters supported Amendment 80**, the school choice amendment, signaling strong community support for more educational options. Her repeated votes against Montrose Classical Academy ignored this clear public mandate.

4. She supported controversial Title IX changes impacting girls’ safety and privacy.

Alice Murphy supported the new Title IX rules that **allow biological males into**

girls’ locker rooms and bathrooms, raising serious concerns among parents and community members about the safety, fairness, and privacy of girls’ sports and spaces.

5. She backed the rapid rollout of an untested K–5 program that failed to deliver results.

Murphy voted to launch the new **Teaching and Learning Academy** model across **all K–5 grades at once at Johnson Elementary**—affecting more than 400 students—rather than introducing it gradually. After the rollout at Johnson, **student assessment scores declined across the board** on the most recent CMAS results, showing the risks of implementing unproven programs too quickly. Also, several families withdrew from the district.

6. She has not improved academic outcomes.

Under her leadership, student performance has declined. In 2025, **only 37% of students in grades 3–8 are reading at grade level**, and **just 24% are proficient in math**—evidence of a board that has failed to address persistent achievement gaps.

7. She aligned with groups actively opposing school choice.

Mrs. Murphy participated in the closed Indivisible Montrose group, which organized opposition to the new charter school. Rather than representing the full community, she sided with a political group working to limit educational opportunities.

She was an active member of the **Montrose & Ouray Counties Indivisible** Facebook group, which **vehemently opposed**

Montrose Classical Academy during both application periods in 2024 and 2025.

Screenshots show that she **RSVP’d “yes”** to an event explicitly organized to rally opposition to the charter school. The event description read:

“We have been asked by a local retired teacher to work to rally in support of defeating the application AGAIN of Montrose Classical charter Academy. The next meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 is critical! Please attend in person and voice your opposition and or write a letter opposing this unnecessary charter school for one of the many reasons listed below and in the discussion.”

Her participation in these activities shows that she was not a neutral decision-maker, but rather an active opponent of school choice in the community she serves.

8. Her record reflects resistance to innovation and accountability.

Instead of supporting school choice, safeguarding student spaces, or prioritizing proven academic strategies, Alice Murphy has repeatedly chosen to defend the status quo—even as outcomes worsen and families demand better options. Also, in the time she has served as a Board Director, she has not disagreed or gone against the Superintendent’s agenda.

Mrs. Murphy’s history as a Board Director shows that she does not truly represent the majority of families in Montrose County. Please vote for Scott Scarborough for District C.

Thank you.

*Leah Vandersluis
Concerned Citizen*



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCHOOL DISTRICT G: SHANE DALY OR JESSICA CORRIGAN?

Editor:

This is critical school board election. The majority of Board members have been rubber-stamping the Superintendent's agenda. They have not been acting as the Superintendent's boss as they are supposed to do. We need Board Directors who will represent the majority of families of Montrose County, and currently most do not.

First, let me state that I have spoken with Jessica Corrigan, and she is a very nice person. This is not about personalities, and I have nothing against her. However, I am concerned about her attitude towards Montrose Classical Academy Charter School (MCA).

At the UVEA Forum, I asked her about whether or not she supports MCA, and she obfuscated the issue. She said that MCSD has plenty of options for families already, indicating that MCA is unnecessary. At the League of Women's Voters

Forum, she said, "I believe in the power of public education." This discounts private education or home schooling. Why not say that she believes in the power of education? By the way, MCA is a public school!

Also, Mrs. Corrigan said, "Our district is far from failing." We have definitely been failing in teaching our kids the basics as our CMAS scores show. Maybe we are strong fiscally, and have great teachers, but academically, most of our students are not making the grade.

While serving on the District Accountability Committee, Mrs. Corrigan posted biased comments in a public forum (Montrose Message Board FB group), and has since deleted all of them. This was during an active review period for MCA and she was involved in scoring a rubric and giving a recommendation to approve or deny MCA. (I can supply screenshots.)

Mrs. Corrigan has not been in favor of

Montrose Classical Academy, even though school choice is very important to Montrose County families.

According to TRACER, she is supported by many progressive liberals, particularly, Alice Murphy. This concerns me and should concern those who want to see changes to our Board. Incidentally, when you see her signs, they are often with Alice Murphy's.

Finally, she believes that we should uphold our State laws even if they step on the toes of parental rights. Should parental rights be ignored? So according to her stance, students who receive counseling regarding gender dysphoria, for example, do the parents not need to be notified?

As I have said in a previous op ed, we have enough Board members who have come out of public education. We need more diversity of backgrounds.

Please vote for Shane Daly!

Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

A VOTE FOR THE RECALL IS IN FACT IS A VOTE AGAINST THE MCSO

Editor:

Ballots are out and voters should be aware that a vote FOR the Recall is in fact is a vote AGAINST the men and women of The Montrose County Sheriffs department!! How could that be said by a friend of mine? The answer is fairly simple. For over three years now Sheriff Lillard has been unable to attract and retain qualified road deputies because Hansen, Caddy and Rash had consistently failed to fully fund the Sheriff Department in addition they continued to pilfer monies from the Sher-

iff Department PSST account for unintended uses. This past summer Commissioner Pond did a masterful job in developing Resolution 36 that clarifies accounting procedures that will protect the Sheriff PSST account. Pond and Mijares voted for the resolution while Hanson voted against it while at the same time professing her unwavering support of the Montrose County Sheriff Department. How is that for speaking out of both sides of her mouth??

If the recall is successful Hansen and her

unknown hand-picked replacement candidate would surely rescind Resolution 36.

In that event our Sheriff Department will bear the brunt of continued under funding and PSST fund monies will continue to be up for grabs for the county. Such malfeasance puts our road deputies and the general public at great continued risk.

Protect our road deputies and the general public as well as preserving the PSST fund strictly for use by the Sheriff Department by voting NO on the Recall.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REPLY TO SEAN M. POND, MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

Editor:

I have to provide another perspective to Commissioner Pond's editorial in the Montrose Mirror last week.

First, I want to thank Commissioner Pond for having 3 more meetings to discuss solar power generation across the county. It is important to have citizen involvement in the development of governmental regulations. What I hope is that the people who have been providing input over the last 2 ½ years at the Master Plan meetings, Planning Commission meetings and BOCC meetings are not simply ignored and instead their input is respected. As we have discussed, solar power generation regulations are necessary to protect Montrose County residents AND to provide regulations that solar power companies understand and can abide by. Developers will know the rules of the game before they propose a project.

The process of developing regulations has been long and arduous, but it does not mean the rules will be the same for DEC-ADDES as Commissioner Pond states. Regulations can always be changed with text and rezoning amendments. Amendments are designed to be responsive to changes on the ground and county constituent input. The energy industry and consumers recognize that coal is not always economically viable (see articles on coal lease sales in southeast Montana), and solar is cheaper, stable, reliable, easier and quicker to employ. Renewable power produced more electricity last year than did coal. Solar power generation is here to stay, and it will become part of the fabric of the

Uncompahgre Valley.

The difference between Alternative 1 and 2 is stark. Alternative 1 has many regulations and conditions for approval which Commissioner Pond fails to mention with his comment - 'Very few restrictions'.

Alternative 2 is made to look like a champion for all open spaces and the rural way of life because it restricts all solar power generation to individual rooftops and effectively eliminates any manner of larger or utility-scale solar facilities. But what happens when a nuclear plant or a gas-fired plant is proposed? The doors will be open and our open spaces and rural way of life will be changed.

Alternative 2 also has punitive rules in it aimed only at solar power generation. One such rule is to restrict any solar power generation within 2 MILES of a scenic highway.

This is in response to the one solar project proposed near Naturita and is one mile away from a scenic highway. The project is out of sight, next to a substation and can stabilize the area's electric grid and provide power exclusively to our region. There is overwhelming support of people that have taken part in the process in support of solar energy.

Alternative 2 is so restrictive, that in my opinion, no projects will be proposed or built in Montrose County. This means our electricity will be more expensive, as the price of carbon-based energy is becoming more volatile, less reliable, as it has to be brought in over aging transmission lines, and will be controlled by out of state companies rather than by our local electrical

co-ops.

The Garnet Mesa Project in Delta just came on-line and is producing enough electricity for 18,000 homes. This brings DMEA's locally produced renewable energy in their profile to 20%. Local means generated here, now and over local transmission lines.

People have attended 2 ½ years of meetings, and there have been over 1,000 people that have supported solar power generation. We have held meetings in Naturita for people to voice their opinions and to discuss the issues and over 400 people in the county have signed a petition for the Montrose Board of County Commissioners to vote in support of Alternative 1. We also walked door-to-door in Nucla and asked people their opinion, and more than 80% signed in support of Alternative 1. We have been on the ground talking individually to people.

So it is good the Commissioners are holding 3 meetings across the county: one in Nucla on October 29, one in Olathe on October 30 and one in Montrose on November 3. This is a good attempt to reach out to more people. Unfortunately, those 'other' people have not come to the many public meetings since the start of the moratorium on solar power generation over 2 ½ years ago.

So, yes, please write to Trichmond@MontroseCounty.net and Spond@MontroseCounty.Net and voice your opinion. I know my support is for Alternative 1.

Tony Hoag

Citizens Climate Lobby Montrose



AFW's Jake Jabs Still the Boss at 94

US RETAIL GIANT HAS A HEART FOR THE WESTERN SLOPE



Photo of Jake Jabs at his Englewood American Furniture Warehouse is by Carole Ann McKelvey for the Montrose Mirror.

By Carole Ann McKelvey

COLORADO— Jake Jabs, founder and CEO of American Furniture Warehouse (AFW), is the entrepreneur who pioneered the high volume, big box home furnishings store, starting with one store in 1975 and growing to become a top 20 retailer with 14 stores in Colorado, Arizona and Texas. This year AFW celebrates 50 years in business with their founder still at the helm. Jabs sat down with this reporter recently in Denver, and graciously showed her a tour of his warehouse.

As the owner of one of the largest privately-held companies in Colorado, Jabs said that he believes the keys to selling furniture are “honesty, knowledge about the product and competitive pricing.” His mantra is and always has been, “Do It Right, The First Time.” With a trucking fleet of more than 800 trucks – tractor trailers, box trucks and even trucks for customers to rent – white glove deliveries are made coast to coast.

Jabs personally designed this warehouse, with his corporate offices at the far end, where he can see trucks arriving and customers picking up furniture. With wrap-

round windows, on a clear day he can also see the Rocky Mountains. Today wasn't a clear day.

Jab's story is a true American rags-to-riches tale, one that began when he opened a store selling musical instruments in Montana, his home state. He said he had an empty floor upstairs and bought a truckload of furniture to fill it. “It happened that the furniture sold more than the guitars,” he said. And that, they say, is history.

Jabs was one of nine siblings (an older brother died at age two of diphtheria). His parents (whom he credits with his work ethic) were Polish and Romanian immigrants. His father had immigrated to Brazil and then to the United States after being conscripted into the Russian Army when they invaded the small family farm just inside the Polish border. His mother and father met through a family friend and married in Detroit, Michigan.

It was then off to Montana, to be near her parents and share the life of a sharecropper. Jabs' father saved enough money sharecropping to purchase his own ranch, moving the family from the Little Horn

Valley to the Big Horn Valley. When he was very young, Jabs remembers his father brought a small log cabin and attached it with a doorway to their small frame main house. All the boys slept in the unheated log cabin. In the mornings they would dash into the kitchen of the main house to dress by the wood stove their mother had going. Their family home had no heat, no running water, and no bathroom. There was an outhouse with a Sears catalog.

Jabs recalls in his memoir, “*An American Tiger; Jake Jabs, An Autobiography*” that at about the age of six, he and his older siblings began their work in the morning at 4-5 a.m. -- “we'd milk our several cows, gather eggs, slop the pigs and do whatever else needed doing.” Then the day's work began: “We'd work the sugar beets until about 10 a.m. When it finally warmed up, we'd thresh alfalfa. The alfalfa would bring 22 cents a pound, a lot of money in those days.”

The kids would continue to work the sugar beets (hoeing and thinning) until after dark, he says. They finished at about 8 p.m. “Looking back, it was hard work. The boys would take turns deferring school until November, helping harvest the crops during those war years.”

But education was very important to Jab's father, who had not been able to finish more than the second grade in school, and spoke broken English all his life. He insisted that the children get a good education. All eight Jabs kids went to college, with five graduating. After Jake graduated from Montana State College in Bozeman, he went into the Airforce as a 2nd lieutenant, thanks to his dad insisting he join ROTC. Jabs and his brother worked their way through college doing odd jobs and playing music, and Jake sold guitars.

The musical talent came from his family band; Jabs' father played the violin, his sister the piano, an older brother the guitar and Jabs played the banjo at local happenings and weddings. He practices his music to this day, with his trusty guitar sitting in his office. He might have stayed

AFW'S JAKE JABS STILL THE BOSS AT 94 *From previous pg*

In music, he said, but "my singing voice isn't that great." He is known for having performed for AFW at charity events. AFW is known for giving back to the community --to the tune of \$1M a year to area charities--particularly those that help the hand-capped.

Jabs is a proven master at mixing entertainment and mass retailing, with a penchant for playing guitar for store customers and appearing with exotic animals in television commercials. He said he can't do the exotic animals anymore; the practice was banned after an attack on the Las Vegas animal trainer act of Sigfried and Roy. But for years, AFW was known for the lions and tigers and bulls! Oh my!

As a former Air Force officer, Jabs focuses on hiring veterans, offers incentive pay to employees, and spends a full day with each new hire to instill his passion for honesty, providing value, and fully informing each customer with detailed product information tags. He has written two books, "An American Tiger" and "Thriving in Tough Times."

In Colorado, Jabs is ranked as the fifth Top Corporate Philanthropist, exceeded only by large, public companies. He said that he believes in the power of education as a mentor and is a frequent lecturer for the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at his alma mater, Montana State University (where, he was awarded an honorary doctorate degree) and for the University of Colorado Entrepreneurial Business School. He has accumulated many industry, business, and charitable honors and has been inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

Jab's ties to the Western Slope run deep. He opened an American Furniture Warehouse in Grand Junction ("a risky move at the time," he says) and his company is the

supporting sponsor of the annual Palisade Peach Festival. Jabs said his store in Grand Junction doesn't go for one day without shipping furniture to Montrose and Delta.

Jabs' first serious venture into the furniture business came in 1968 when he opened Mediterranean Galleries, a high-end furniture store with locations in Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Billings, Montana.

Five years later, the Mediterranean trend in home furnishings had run its course and Jabs chose to close the Galleries. Not long after, he came across an opportunity that would become his life's work. In 1975, Jabs purchased a one-location, struggling furniture business, called American Furniture Company - which he then renamed to American Furniture Warehouse. "All the signage was on the building, so it was an easy transition," he says.

Under Jabs' leadership, AFW has expanded into a sixteen-store operation with 10 stores in Colorado, three stores in Arizona, and three stores in Texas, and has experienced remarkable growth over the years. Jabs still oversees the day-to-day operations of the company and manages AFW's team of buyers, as he has done from the start.

American Furniture Warehouse is now one of the top retail furniture companies in the U.S. and one of the largest privately held businesses in Colorado.

Jabs lends his support to a number of non-profit organizations; he serves as National Vice-President of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and is actively involved with many not-for-profit organizations in Colorado.

He is the recipient of so many honors and awards it would take more than one page to list them here.

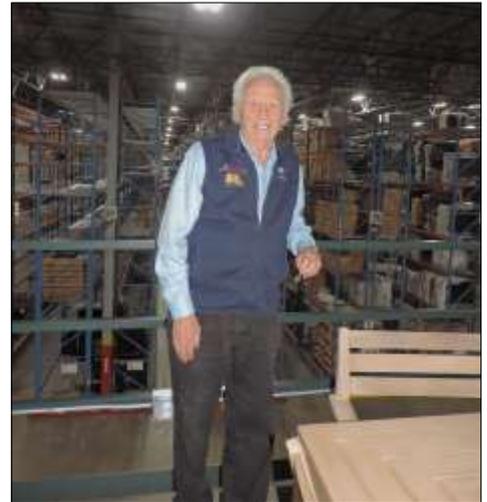


Photo of Jake Jabs is by Carole Ann McKelvey.

Over the years, Jabs has traveled in more than 50 countries and has made a lifelong study of various forms of government and business.

He often speaks to high school and college students on topics such as the basics of business and the keys to success.

The self-taught businessman credits AFW's success to "the basic American philosophy of hard work, long hours, self-confidence, the courage to take risks, and the desire to give value and service to every customer."

It hasn't been easy. He has had to spend a lot of time away from family, which he regrets.

Just 15 years ago Jabs lost his wife, Ann, to pancreatic cancer. They were married for 51 years, with three children and three grandchildren.

His daughter, Jackie, is now the President of AFW. When the time comes, Jabs will hand the reins to her. But make no mistake; Jake Jabs isn't going anywhere.

"I love what I do," he says.

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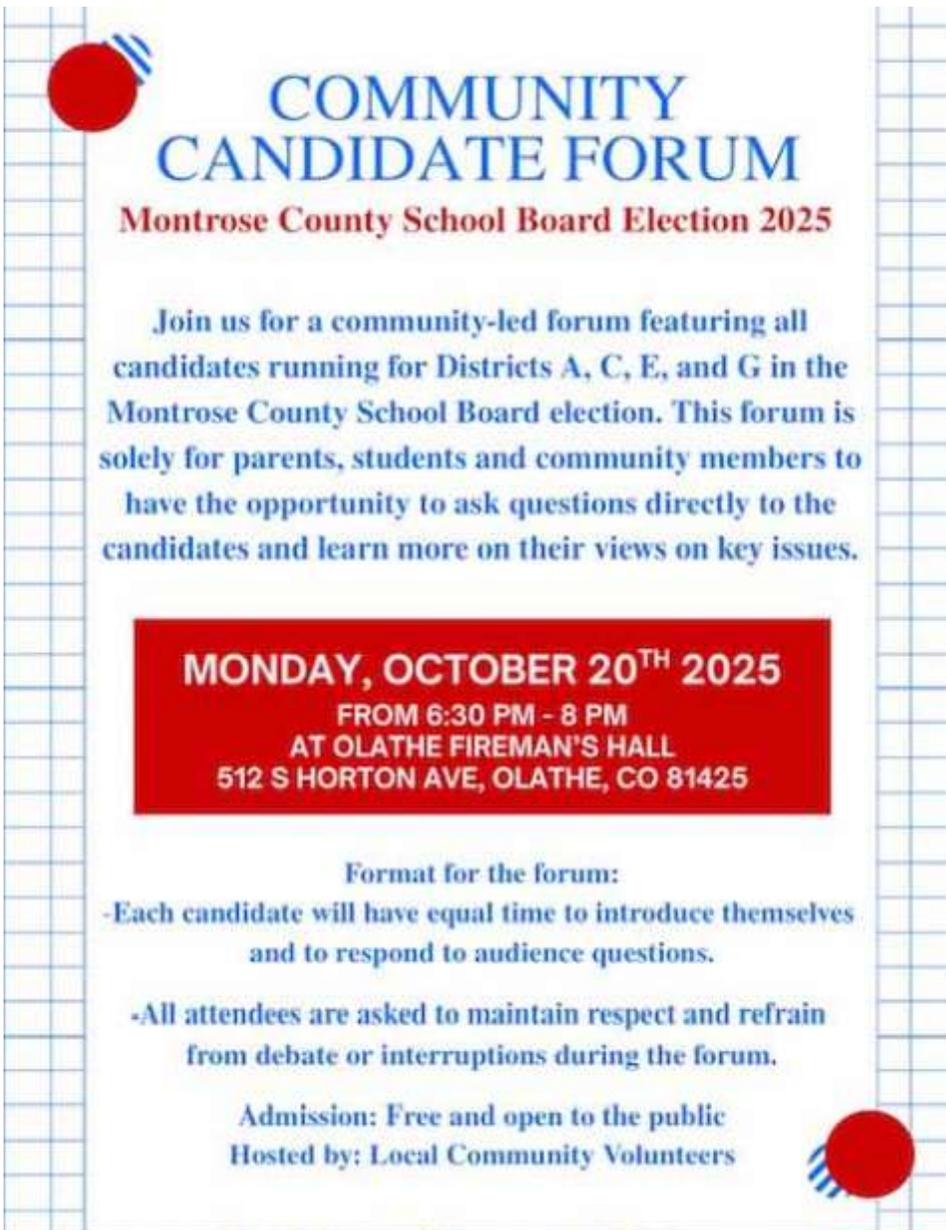
SINNERS & SAINTS BAND TO HEADLINE FIRST MRH FOUNDATION PAVILION CONCERT OF 2025 November performance to support new Camp 911 children's program and other local health initiatives

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Sinners & Saints Band will perform a benefit concert hosted by the Montrose Regional Health (MRH) Foundation on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. The concert is sponsored by the City of Montrose and proceeds will support the launch of the new Camp 911 youth program and other vital community health initiatives. "When you buy a ticket to the Sinners &

Saints concert, you're not just enjoying a night of incredible music, you're helping kids learn life-saving skills through Camp 911 and supporting community health projects that touch families across Montrose," said Kelly Anderson, executive director of the MRH Foundation and member of the Sinners & Saints Band. "This concert is about more than music; it is about neighbors coming together to make Montrose a safer, healthier place for everyone."

Camp 911 is a hands-on safety and first responder education program designed for youth in Montrose and surrounding communities. The program teaches children about emergency procedures, injury prevention, and public safety careers through interactive experiences with local police, fire, and EMS professionals. The Sinners & Saints Band delivers an energetic mix of gospel, Irish drinking songs, folk, and humor, featuring a rich blend of guitars, mandolin, ukulele, fiddle, bass, banjo, and vocal harmonies. The volunteer-based group has helped raise more than \$50,000 for local nonprofits, including the Grand Junction Symphony, Grand Mesa Performing Arts Center, Delta Egyptian Theater, Blue Sage Center, Grand Junction Art Center, and now, the MRH Foundation. Tickets are \$25 for general adult admission. Students and children ages 6 to 17 will be admitted for free. To purchase tickets, call the MRH Foundation Office at 970-240-7396 or visit MRHFoundation.org.



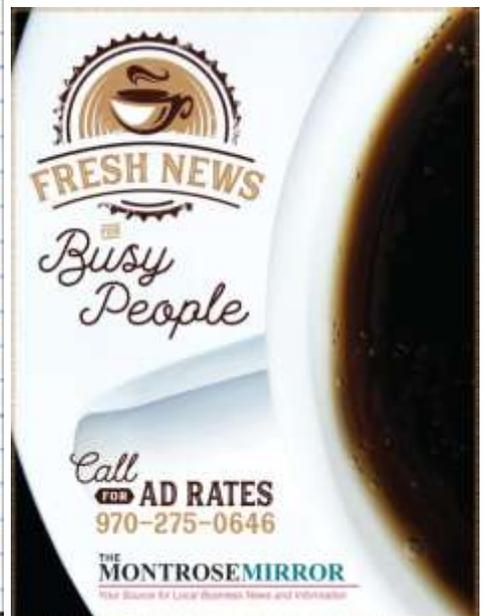
COMMUNITY CANDIDATE FORUM
Montrose County School Board Election 2025

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORY COLORADO WELCOMES NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Special to the Mirror

DENVER— [History Colorado](#) is proud to announce the appointment of its newest board member, Bonnie Gross. Gross brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience in both the nonprofit and corporate sectors to her new role. Governor Jared Polis appointed Gross to the board and her first meeting was on September 24 at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose as part of History Colorado’s “Board on the Road” initiative.

“The work of History Colorado is as vital as ever,” said Gross. “In this changing world, we all deserve to see ourselves as part of the fabric of this state and have the opportunity to use our diverse voices to shape how it moves forward. I am honored to be part of this amazing board and support its mission to reach every Coloradan.”

Gross is the manager of social investments at Xcel Energy, where she oversees the company’s volunteer program, nonprofit engagement and the Xcel Energy Foundation grant program in Colorado. Before joining Xcel Energy, Gross worked in the nonprofit sector at organizations such as Downtown Denver Partnership and the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation.

Gross was recognized with the 2024 Brian Smith Award for Outstanding Community

Leadership by Mile High United Way for her dedication to giving back to her community. In addition to History Colorado, Gross serves on the board of directors for The Park People, Mile High Youth Corps, B:CIVIC Advisory Board and the Colorado VOAD Advisory Board.

“We are deeply grateful that Bonnie is bringing her tapestry of professional skills and community passion to our board of directors,” said Dawn DiPrince, president/CEO of History Colorado & the State Historic Preservation Officer. “Bonnie’s

unique voice and variety of experience will enhance our programming and the way we serve the people of Colorado.”

In addition to Gross’s appointment, Nancy Chisholm was re-elected as the board chairperson, and Kelly Brough was elected as the vice chairperson for the 2025 fiscal year. They join returning board members Penfield W. Tate III (past chairman), Richard Benenson, Brad Clark, Kayla Garcia, Kim MacDonnell, Jackie Millet, Zebulon Miracle, Claudia Moran-Pichardo, Kate Siegel Shimko and Paul Weissmann.

FORO DE CANDIDATOS DE LA COMUNIDAD
Elecciones a la Junta Escolar del Condado de Montrose 2025

Acompáñenos en un foro comunitario en el que participarán todos los candidatos que se presentan a las elecciones del Consejo Escolar del Condado de Montrose por los distritos A, C, E y G. Este foro está dirigido exclusivamente a padres, estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad, quienes tendrán la oportunidad de formular preguntas directamente a los candidatos y conocer mejor sus opiniones sobre cuestiones clave.

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DE 6:30 PM A 8 PM
EN EL OLATHE FIREMAN'S HALL
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LOCAL CONTROL OR LOCAL OBSTRUCTION? MONTROSE SCHOOL BOARD'S CONDESCENDING RESISTANCE TO CHARTER INNOVATION

Editor:

Local school boards are entrusted with advancing education, but when that trust turns into gatekeeping, it undermines the communities they serve.

The Montrose County School District Board of Education's meeting on September 23, 2025, exposed this issue, as Board President Sarah Fishing and Board Member Alice Murphy displayed a condescending resistance to the Montrose Classical Academy's (MCA) charter application. Despite a near-unanimous 8-1 remand from the Colorado State Board of Education, their response was to reluctantly approve MCA's application while imposing excessive, unfounded conditions, revealing a troubling disregard for both state oversight and community choice.

The State Board's Clear Directive

The State Board of Education's 8-1 vote to remand MCA's charter application signaled that Montrose's initial denial lacked merit, urging a fair reevaluation.

This bipartisan consensus, rooted in the state's extensive experience reviewing charter appeals, underscored MCA's revised application as thorough and viable. Yet, Fishing and Murphy's responses during the meeting suggested not only skepticism but also a dismissive attitude toward the state's authority and MCA's efforts.

Fishing's Condescending Critique

Sarah Fishing's remarks were steeped in disdain for the state oversight process. She accused the State Board of reviewing a "different application," stating, "I don't feel that 100% of the time, they were reviewing the same application that we were reviewing." She further claimed the State Board "stepped way outside of their

regulatory and statutory bounds" and made "accusations... that are just completely unfounded and untrue, not based in any kind of reality."

Fishing framed Montrose's board as the sole arbiter of truth, dismissing state officials as out of touch: "Our state board members have very little idea about what it is in Montrose." This accusation is particularly bold given Fishing's apparent disregard for the strong community support for school choice in Montrose, which MCA's application reflects.

Murphy's Arbitrary Conditions

Alice Murphy proposed approving MCA's application with conditions, framing it as a "compromise" but echoing Fishing's obstructive tone. She expressed frustration over a potential "ping pong game" with the State Board, citing costs for "reviewers and lawyers." Murphy then imposed additional requirements beyond the State Board's recommendations, such as demanding 200 enrollment intentions and further scrutiny of English Language Learners (ELL) and special education provisions, despite MCA's application already addressing these adequately. Her insistence on a "secure and safe" building, when MCA's new facility option was already under consideration, feels like an arbitrary hurdle designed to delay progress. These conditions suggest a reluctance to embrace MCA's innovative model rather than a genuine effort to ensure quality. If this is the type of attitude Murphy has toward our children, she deserves no place on the School Board.

Undermining Parental Choice

The irony is stark: a board claiming to champion local control is stifling it by obstructing parental choice. MCA's classical

education model, emphasizing rigorous academics and character development, offers Montrose families a valuable alternative. Yet Fishing and Murphy's attitudes betray skepticism, if not hostility, toward this innovation. Their excessive conditions disregard the State Board's validation and MCA's thorough revisions, risking alienation of educators and parents seeking diverse educational options. By prioritizing control over collaboration, the board undermines the very community it claims to represent.

A Call for Fresh Leadership

The Montrose board must abandon its condescending posture and embrace collaboration. The State Board's expertise and bipartisan consensus deserve respect, not dismissal. Approving MCA without excessive conditions would honor the community's right to choose and align with educational equity. True local control empowers families, not obstructs them. This year's school board elections offer a chance for change. While Fishing has termed out, Murphy's re-election bid represents an opportunity to replace stagnant leadership. Montrose needs board members with fresh perspectives who prioritize student success over entrenched agendas. It's time to reject obstructionist tactics and support leaders who will allow our children to thrive. Montrose, let's make the changes our kids deserve.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CLERK & RECORDER SHARES INFORMATION ON RECALL ELECTION

From Tressa Guynes, Montrose County Clerk & Recorder:

I've received several inquiries surrounding the Recall Ballot Measure whether it is successful or unsuccessful. So I thought I would communicate and clarify the status and next steps of the potential recall of Montrose County Commissioner District 1 Scott Mijares.

As in every election, we will publish the UNofficial results on Election night, November 4 at approximately 8:00PM.

The following day starts the statutory 8 day cure time frame, which will end Wednesday, November 12 at 11:59PM. Then the following Thursday, November 13, we will scan our last voted and cured ballots for the final posting of UNofficial election results.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 1-12-116 (see below) Sufficiency of the recall - Majority Rules. -If a majority of the count is No, the recall count is Unsuccessful, and the incumbent Scott Mijares continues in office.

-If an even number of No vs Yes, the recall count is Unsuccessful, and the incumbent Scott Mijares continues in office. However, please note an even count would trigger a statutory mandatory recount.

-If a majority of the count is Yes, the recall count is Successful, and the incumbent Scott Mijares is removed from office upon the qualification of the successor. If the Recall Count is Successful, only then will

the votes show for the Successor Candidate Kirstin Copeland on the Results Report.

The Qualification of the Successor is based upon the Certification of the Final Official Election Results. The Election Results become Official upon Canvass. Canvass is conducted by the Canvass Board, consisting of the 2 Major Political Parties' Representatives and the County Clerk & Recorder. We will be able to Canvass after the statewide Risk Limiting Audit is complete and final. The proposed deadline for the statewide Risk Limiting Audit is Tuesday, November 25.

As such, we expect we should be able to Canvass Wednesday, November 26. After Canvass, we will publish the Final Official Election Results.

In the event the recall count is successful, the Successor Candidate Kirstin Copeland will take Office immediately upon the completion and final Canvass. Please note C.R.S. 24-12-101(1), requires Kirstin to take an oath before entering the discharge of the Office.

Further, in the event the recall count is successful and due to the timeliness and scheduling for a Judge to administer the Oath, pursuant to C.R.S. 30-10-416 (below), I as the County Clerk and Recorder am authorized to administer her Oath. Let me know if you have any questions, and feel free to share this information to

interested parties.

Thank you, Tressa

Section 1-12-116 — Sufficiency of the recall

If a majority of those voting on the question of the recall of any incumbent from office vote "no", the incumbent continues in office; if a majority vote "yes", the incumbent is removed from office upon the qualification of the successor. If an even number of electors vote "no" and "yes" on the question of the recall of the incumbent from office, the incumbent continues in office.

Section 24-12-101(1) - Form of oath or affirmation for public office - requirements for oath or affirmation When a person is required to take an oath or affirmation before the person enters upon the discharge of a public office or position, et al Section 30-10-416 — Clerk to administer oaths or affirmations - take affidavit or deposition The county clerk and recorders of the several counties in the state of Colorado are authorized, within their respective counties, to administer all oaths or affirmations required to be taken by any person upon any lawful occasion, and to take affidavits and depositions concerning any matter or thing, process, or proceeding pending or to be commenced in any court, or any occasion wherein such affidavit or deposition is authorized or required by law to be taken.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO YOUR CHOICE, MONTROSE. WHAT DO YOU WANT ?

Editor:

The voters of Montrose have a choice to make. You will likely see your ballots hitting your mailboxes over the next day or two, if you have not already received them. In those ballots, there are many measures that will shape Montrose's future, from the taxes we pay to what is taught in our schools and who will sit on the board of county commissioners.

We all need to be conscious of the consequences of our vote.

We need to understand that every one of us holds the key to our future in our hands. Here are my personal feelings on each measure and why. I have written about most of these extensively already, so I won't bore you with lengthy explanations.

Here is my **MJB voter guide** for those of you who care what I think. (Many will not, and that is quite all right **and** understandable. LOL!)

1.County Commissioner: Should County Commissioner Scott Mijares Be Recalled? VOTE NO/AGAINST

a. Personally, I do not believe he should be. Recalls are for illegality, not personality conflicts, which is what we have here. The recall committee launched their campaign because they don't like Scott's personality. That is not a legitimate reason for a recall. The list of reasons on the petition does not rise to that level. I don't think we want to see an environmentalist (Kirstin Copland) in that seat, which is what we will get if you vote yes. A **NO VOTE** allows Scott to retain his seat as commissioner.

2.Measure 6A and 6B: Does the Library need more money? VOTE NO/AGAINST

a. If you vote NO, the library is not going to get any funding cut. Voting no will simply ensure you are not paying more.

3.City Charter Amendments: VOTE NO/ AGAINST

a. With the last amendments to the charter, we were told they would be good for another 50 years. That was 12 years ago. Enough said!

4.Proposition LL & MM: VOTE NO/ AGAINST

a. These are the state TABOR measures designed to look like they are only going to "tax the rich." Do not be fooled. If they get away with this, they will keep ratcheting it down until they eliminate TABOR altogether. The Democrat-controlled legislature in Denver has been doing everything they can to bypass TABOR every chance they get.

5.Montrose County School Board is extremely important, as your vote will determine our children's future. Choose wisely. I had the opportunity to see all these candidates answer questions live on October 7. Here is my impression and how I am voting.

a. District A

i. **Neisha Balleck: YES** Voted for MCA (not status quo), understanding there needs to be changes within the district. Interested in holding district leadership accountable. Balleck has a clear track record of solid leadership.

ii. **Darren Sofka: NO.** Sofka's record is questionable. Under his leadership, a highly qualified varsity coach resigned shortly after tryouts, leaving the program in disarray, and his communication with staff, parents, and players has been criticized.

b. District C

i. **Scott Scarborough: YES** Wants to see change with a more classical approach to the learning environment.

ii. **Alice Murphy: NO.** Ms. Murphy supports Title IX rules that allow boys in girls'

locker rooms and bathrooms. That is a no-go for me. She voted twice against Montrose Classical Academy, even though 63% of Montrose prefers school choice (Amendment 80, 2024), before essentially being forced to vote yes on the third vote after the state board voted 8-1 to approve MCA. Also, scores have not improved over four years under her tenure, and she does not want change, as evidenced in her voting record and affiliations.

c. District E

i. **Tiffany Vincent: YES** Strong conservative voice who has a vast array of perspectives from both private and public school experience to pull from to provide a different point of view.

ii. **Hollie Mundell: NO.** Sounded very generic at this particular venue, IMHO.

iii. **Kris Besler: NO.** Enamored by Superintendent Stephenson's stale TLA program from a 50-year-old failed California program that did not work then, so I question her judgment. But that's just me.

d. District G

i. **Shane Daly: YES** Shane has my respect. *A father of five*, he has been a foster parent and leads FCA. The man has a real heart for children and their future. He definitely has my vote and my respect.

ii. **Jessica Corrigan: NO.** Jessica left me feeling as though she was trying more to impress her boss in the audience (the superintendent) than she was vying for the post. Not a quality I am looking for in someone running for school board.

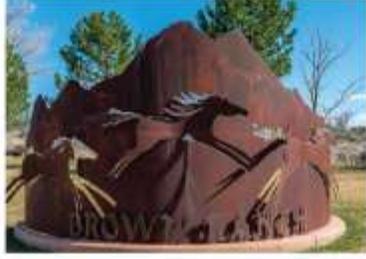
Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A NEW VOICE FOR EDUCATION. MY JOURNEY TO THE SCHOOL BOARD



Courtesy photos Kris Besler.

Dear Montrose:

My name is Kris Besler, and I'm running for School Board Director in District E. As a mother of four, my children are in kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades. I never envisioned myself as a stay at home mom. However, when our oldest son was born with medical needs, my husband and I made the difficult decision for me to step back from my career.

Prior to this change, I spent 14 years in hospitality training, leadership, and development, where I focused on enhancing team performance, fostering leadership skills, and promoting effective communication across diverse groups.

These experiences solidified my commitment to community engagement and collaboration.

Leaving the corporate world wasn't easy, so I began volunteering with the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), where I quickly realized the profound importance of parental involvement in our education system. I have spent several hours in the classroom several days a week over the last 8 years volunteering at the Early Childhood Center and Johnson Elementary School. Working with students helping them read and write has always been a true passion of mine.

My commitment to community service

blossomed as I became the first Board President of the Montrose Children's Museum and later volunteered for the Rocky Mountain Family Engagement Coalition.

Through these experiences, I've witnessed firsthand the challenges and triumphs within our educational landscape, and I've become an active and engaged parent.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Communications, a Bachelor's in Political Science, and a Master's in Diplomacy, which have equipped me with the skills to navigate complex discussions and advocate effectively for our children's education.

Our district has much to offer; there are numerous strengths, and their commitment to keeping our children safe is clear. I believe there are also many opportunities for growth. My journey to run for the school board was sparked by the rollout of the Teaching and Learning Academy at Johnson. During this time, I recognized a divided board and felt unappreciated as a parent, with little effort made to include us in critical discussions. This experience highlighted the significant communication gap between parents and the community.

Since then, I have observed a conscious effort to include parents and community members' voices. The district has recognized the need for improved communication and has made progress toward imple-

menting effective strategies to bridge this gap, however, I still hear the community of parents and teachers not getting their communication needs met.

I envision a district that actively listens to parents and acknowledges that they know their children best. Family engagement is vital, but are we providing families with the tools and resources they need to be successfully engaged? We must ask ourselves how we can better educate the community so they understand what's happening in our schools. When it comes to making fiscal decisions, the community deserves the ability to make informed choices responsibly.

I believe in fiscal transparency, open communication, and keeping politics out of this campaign. It's essential to ensure a quality education for all children, regardless of their background. Additionally, I wholeheartedly support our teachers, recognizing their critical role in shaping our children's futures.

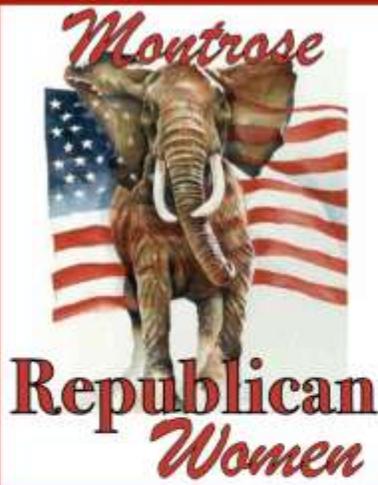
When I learned that Sarah Fishing had served her full term as School Board Director in my district, I decided to pursue this journey with a grassroots approach, emphasizing communication transparency and accountability. I don't rely on social media; instead, I prefer face to face conversations. I meet people where they are, listen to their concerns, and take action by asking questions, seeking answers, and following up.

As I campaign for this position, my core belief is that parents should have a voice in their children's education. It's imperative that teachers receive the support they need to do their jobs effectively, and community members must be educated about the issues facing our district. Together, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for our children's education.

This campaign is not just about a position; it's about building a community where every voice is heard, respected, and valued. I hope to bring that vision to life as your next school board representative. Please support me in this journey.

Kris Besler, Montrose

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October 2025



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Friday, October 17th

Noon - 1:30p (Doors open -11:30a)

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Please RSVP: MontroseRepublicanWomen@gmail.com

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THE 2025 HDSA TEAM HOPE 5K - GRAND JUNCTION TAKES PLACE SATURDAY, OCT. 25 AT IMONDI WAKE ZONE

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA) will host the the 2025 Team Hope 5K - Grand Junction, on Saturday, October 25th at Imondi Wake Zone, 1583 Cipolla Road, Fruita, Colorado, 81521. Registration starts at 9:45 AM and the event starts at 10:00 AM. All proceeds support HDSA’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington’s disease (HD) and their families.

Team Hope is HDSA’s largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the U.S. and has raised more than \$28 million for HD since its inception in 2007. Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and communities walk together each year to support HDSA’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by HD and their families.

For more information about the event, please contact Monica Mayerle (mayerlemonica@gmail.com).

Online registration and donation information can be found [HERE](#)

HDSA's Team Hope Walk Program is nationally sponsored by Neurocrine Biosciences and Teva Pharmaceuticals.

2 New Services

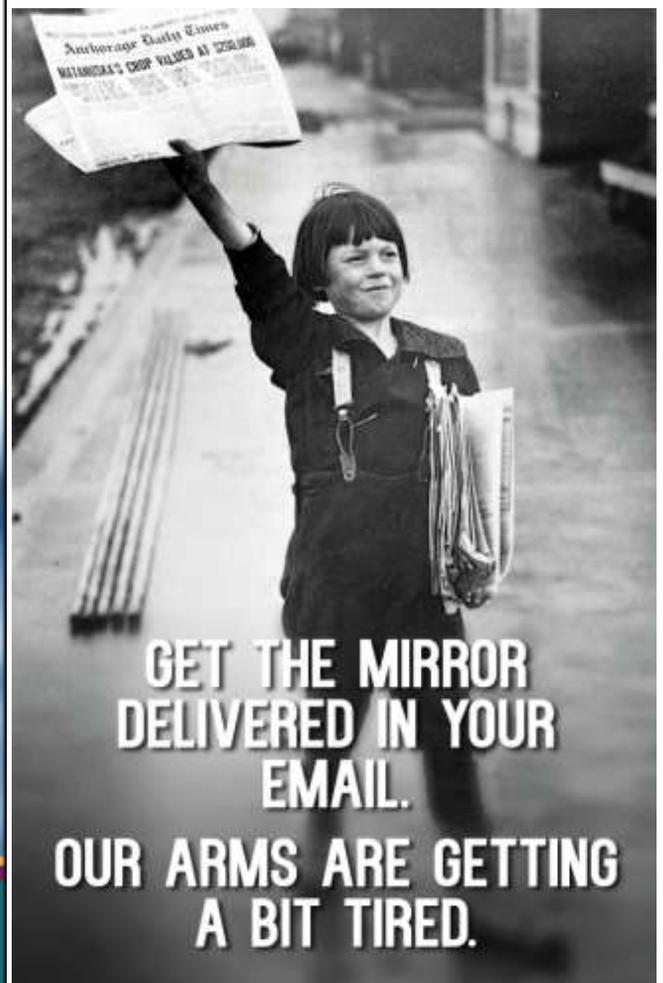
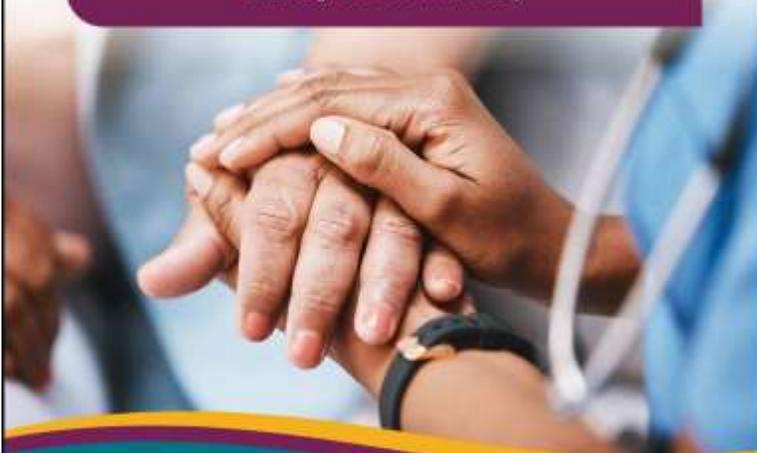
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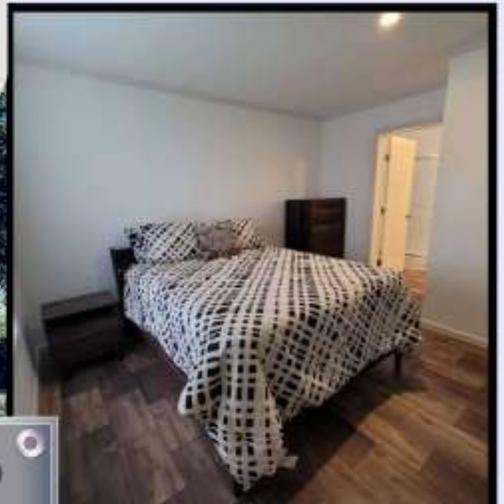
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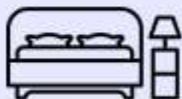
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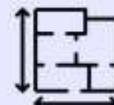
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Hidden Lake

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THEY WILL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT

Editor:

The Nobel Peace Prize has for some time been little more than a bad joke. That was verified when Obama was given the prize for doing absolutely nothing other than being elected president. He then went on to drop 26,000+ drone strike bombs on more than seven countries and to intentionally deepen racial divisions in America. Trump has signed more peace deals and stopped more wars than the last five US presidents combined. But he is not a liberal, so no Peace Prize.

President Trump rallied the international community, including bitter enemies, to bring an end to the two-year war in Gaza. Israel and Hamas have agreed to a cease-fire and the release of hostages as negotiations continue. Hamas began the war when thousands of Gazan men poured across the border, slaughtered over 1,200 civilian men, women, and children, wounded 3,000 more, and took over 200 innocent hostages. Israel has waged this war in extraordinary fashion, warning about imminent attacks to spare civilians, and keeping an enemy supplied with energy, food, and water throughout the war. Israel's sole goals have been to bring the hostages home, including those murdered after capture, and to ensure Hamas can never attack again.

Hamas's openly stated goals, by contrast, have been Israel's eradication, the death of all Jews worldwide, and conquering the West. Leftists across America, Europe, and elsewhere have enthusiastically supported Hamas's goals. They repeat the false narrative that the Jews, who had occupied the land continuously for around 3,800 years, were the colonizers, while the Muslims, who conquered the land in the 7th century and only populated it beginning in the 19th century, were the "indigenous" people. Muslims and leftists have a common enemy: Western civilization. It's rather ironic that the same people in America who were screaming about a "genocide" are not happy about this deal. They hate it that it was Trump who achieved it, but equally important is the fact they always knew there was no genocide and only hoped for the eradication of the Jewish state.

Vice President Vance pointed out a sharp contrast between White House successes and Democrat failures: "While we're all

celebrating this incredible success that we've had on the world stage, the country could be doing much better if Chuck Schumer did his job and opened the government." While Trump is ending another war, ushering in global peace, and delivering on a host of other promises that make America and the world safer, Democrats can't even end their self-imposed government shutdown over free health care for illegal aliens. The proposed continuing resolution is the same short-term funding extension that virtually all Democrats voted to pass 13 times during the Biden administration. Schumer's shutdown wants to shakedown the American taxpayer with a \$1.5 trillion spending spree. Much of the focus has been on Democrats and health care for illegals (\$200 billion for 1.4 million illegals), which Democrats lie about, but there is a long list of the kinds of insanity the Democrats want added. In addition to funding for NPR and PBS, they want: \$3 million for circumcisions and vasectomies in Zambia; \$833k for transgender people in Nepal; \$4.2 million for LGBTQ people in the Balkans and Uganda; \$3.6 million for pastry cooking classes and dance focus groups for male prostitutes in Haiti; \$500k for electric buses in Rwanda; \$6 million for media organizations for Palestinians, \$300k for a pride parade in Lesotho; and \$882k for social media and mentorship in Serbia. That's just a sampling of the pet projects Democrats want tacked on to a four-week funding bill while they continue to receive their own paychecks. One writer correctly labeled the shutdown as "Schumer's Shake-down."

It is rather funny that Democrats have a distinct pattern of getting on the wrong side of the American public on issue after issue. I see our community is going to be blessed with another "No Kings" rally this month. I will be amused to see those people attempt to cite Trump's very popular policies – strict immigration enforcement, closing the border, imposing law and order in crime-ridden cities, etc. – as they accuse Trump of imposing totalitarian rule. Instead of attempting to persuade Americans that they have a better plan to accomplish the things voters want, they will just rally against everything Trump accomplishes. They will totally ignore the fact that the majority of Americans want these policies, and voted for Trump so

he could enact them.

Democrats are so convinced in the righteousness and urgency of their cause, they are totally uninterested in influencing public opinion with reason, honest dialogue, or negotiation. The government shutdown is just one example. Another example this week is the deranged Democrat candidate for the Virginia attorney general, Jay Jones, who wrote about wanting to "put two bullets in the head" of his Republican rival – and went on to text about wishing death on that person's children. Jones later stated in a telephone conversation that he wished the Republican's wife could watch her child die in her arms. This is the same Democrat who was convicted of reckless driving when he sped 116 mph on a major highway, but was only fined and given community service. He then got away with doing over half his community service working for his own political action committee. Most revealing, Democrats refused to pull their endorsements of this lunatic or to demand his withdrawal. It is better for Democrats to remain silent about violent rhetoric against innocent children by one of their own than risk losing a state attorney general position to a Republican. Our Trump hating "No Kings" marchers will want to be sure and object to Trump's naval bombardment of Venezuelan narcoboats connected to dictator Nicolas Maduro before they reach US shores, an action immensely popular with American citizens. A strong majority of Democrats even support that, as well as the Venezuelan people themselves. The marchers will want to tell us how much they hate the deportation of criminal illegal aliens and how important it is to also give them free health care. Let's hear about how those Antifa thugs don't really deserve to be dismantled and jailed. While they are championing foreign drug dealers, they might as well talk about their positions on the transgender issue, on abortion-on-demand, and on males dominating women's sports and sharing their locker rooms. What you won't see or hear from Democrats is a reasoned argument supporting their positions. Their argument, to the extent they have one, is that they know better than the American people and they will tell you what you want.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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COLORADO DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL HONORS THE RETIREMENT OF FIRE INVESTIGATIONS K9 ROTC AND WELCOMES NEW K9 WAFFLE

Special to the Mirror

LAKESWOOD- Fire and Life Safety (FLS), a section of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), a division of the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), is both celebrating a legacy and looking toward the future as it announces the retirement of Fire Invest-



igation K9 ROTC and introduces its newest Accelerant Detection Canine, Waffle.

From 2020 to 2025, K9 ROTC has been more than just an investigative partner—he has been a protector, a detective, and a loyal friend to agencies across Colorado and to his handler, DFPC Fire Investigator Brian Eberle.



K9 ROTC will retire after 5 years of service. Courtesy photos.

“Congratulations to ROTC on his 5 years of dedicated service to the state of Colorado. During his service ROTC’s laser trained nose helped investigate more than 180 fires collecting evidence and holding arsonists accountable, with an accuracy rate of 94.2%, keeping Coloradans and our communities safe. The State of Colorado thanks ROTC for his service to the state and wishes him a restful retirement full of treats, walks in Colorado’s iconic outdoors, long naps in the sun, and countless tummy rubs. ROTC is leaving some big paws to fill, but I’m thrilled to welcome Waffle to the fire investigation team to keep Coloradans and our communities fire safe,” said Colorado Governor Jared Polis.

In August of 2024 [ROTC met Governor Polis](#) at the state capitol where the governor highlighted the incredible work K9 Fire investigation dogs like ROTC do to investigate the sources of fires, hold those responsible for fires accountable, and keep Coloradans and our communities safe. Today, in honor of ROTC’s 5 years of service, through an official proclamation, Governor Polis declared October 8, 2025 as [ROTC Retirement Day](#).

“ROTC has been an invaluable asset not only to the Division but also to every agency he has collaborated with,” said Chris Brunette, Chief of the DFPC Fire and Life Safety Section. “His contributions have led to the successful apprehension of criminals and the recovery of vital evidence,

2 New Services

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MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

Join us - Wednesday,
October 15th at 5:00 pm

Montrose County Sheriff's Office
1200 N. Grand Avenue

**TOPIC - Investigation - Crime
Scene**

Presented by Ted Valario,
Commander - MCSO Investigations



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CBI AGENT RESIGNS OVER BIGAMY CHARGE

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

CBI – LAKEWOOD, CO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has accepted the resignation of an Agent based in the Pueblo region following an internal affairs investigation.

Joe Somosky was cited with Bigamy by the 4th Judicial District Attorney’s Office on July 20, 2025.

The CBI placed him on administrative leave as soon as it learned of the charge and conducted an

internal investigation into the alleged conduct. So- mosky resigned in lieu of termination following the conclusion of the investiga- tion.

His conduct was reported to the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training database.

All questions about his criminal case should be directed to the 4th Judicial District Attorney’s Office.

All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.



Former CBI Agent Joe So- mosky. Courtesy photo.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOPEWEST WELCOMES NEW CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BREEANA GUMPERT

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Breeana Gumpert, MBA, joins the leadership team at HopeWest as Chief Development Officer. She brings expertise in fundraising strategies, donor relations, community outreach, and event management. In her role, Gumpert will guide the organization’s philanthropy and community engagement efforts. Fueled by her passion for uniting people with purpose and cultivating relationships, she aims to transform generosity into lasting impact.

“What stands out most about Breeana is her exceptional blend of vision, passion, and relationship-building skills,” said Deneen Silva, President and CEO of HopeWest. “Her ties to our community and the relationships she has built over the years are key in driving our mission forward. She brings not only a strong commitment to advancing our mission, but also a proven ability to connect with people, inspire generosity, and create meaningful partnerships that will help shape the future of HopeWest.”

With nearly a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership and fundraising, Gumpert’s support of the HopeWest mission will help maintain our reputation as a trusted resource for families across the Western Slope facing serious illness, aging, and grief. “HopeWest’s mission is profoundly personal to me because it reflects the values of compassion, dignity, and connection that I hold dear,” Gumpert said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to cultivate relationships with our donors, volunteers, and community members, and to help ensure that every family we serve feels supported and cared for during life’s most difficult times.”

Gumpert previously served as Development Director at Colorado West Land Trust, where she led major donor engagement, capital campaigns, and strategic partnerships to advance land conservation, safeguard water resources, and expand outdoor access across western Colorado. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services with a minor in Business Administration and went on to complete her Master of Business Administration in Leadership at North-eastern University, equipping her with both the vision and expertise to inspire philanthropy at the highest level.



Breeana Gumpert, MBA.
Courtesy photo.

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Dr. Michael S. Tonzi
Urologist

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Call for an appointment today!

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

"YOU ARE NOT ALONE,' CAREGIVERS ASSURED AT SUMMIT, IN 'THE HARDEST JOB IN THE WORLD'

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The hardest job in the world is said to be twenty-four-seven caring for a family member who has a long-term illness. Given that reality, the Caregiver Support Foundation's motto, "You are not alone" also has to be real; it must have teeth. Family caregivers at the foundation's September 30 summit evidently thought it does. More than 100 registered for the four-hour event at the Montrose Pavilion. After perusing information tables and displays by the event's sponsors, attendees heard introductions then broke into discussion groups led by support professionals. "What I got from the summit was knowledge of the resources for caregivers that are available," from sponsors and talks, said Cathy Trujillo, who lives in Montrose County. She has been a caregiver for her sister, who has Down syndrome, for 11 years. "We don't always know about everything out there, and the summit is a great way to find out." Cathy added that it's "good to hear from others [about their caregiver situation] and to know that you are not alone in it." She has attended each of the seven annual CFS summits and volunteered as a greeter at the recent one. Her experience was similar to that of Sonia Scott of Orchard City, who took part in the summit for the second year. She has been a caregiver for her husband, Steve, for several years. Steve suffers from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), commonly known as lung scarring. He worked as a director of telecommunications for General Electric and for Ernst & Young (EY) accountants before his illness. Sonia has help from HopeWest hospice in Delta, but still appreciated the emotional and practical support she felt at the CSF summit and, particularly, at the CSF-sponsored support group in Delta. Her Delta group meets twice weekly and usually has six-to-eight people there. "There are people there who know what you are going through; that's so helpful," Sonia said. "And at the summit you see that there are a lot of resources out there that you may not be aware of." CSF sponsors six caregiver support groups similar to Sonia's; three are online and three in person. There are two in-person groups in Montrose and the one in Delta. For more information on these groups



Caregivers browse sponsor tables at the Montrose Pavilion. Courtesy photo.



Caregiver Cathy Trujillo. Courtesy photo.



Caregiver Sonia Scott. Courtesy photo.

and on Zoom links, call either Laird Landon at 970-275-2138 or Bill Bottomly at 970-787-2343. "I felt good about the event," said Melanie Fairlamb of Delta, the foundation board's vice chair. "The point is to help family caregivers get through a tough and stressful time. I know that the foundation members were very supportive of me when my husband was in a care facility. I'm very proud of the work we do to help others who are going through this difficult process." She and all other members of the five-member board of directors have experienced long-term caregiving for an ill family member. The same is true of support-group facilitators. "It is amazing the amount of information and wisdom our support group facilitators have because of their own personal experiences," Melanie said. **Why caregiving is so lonely** "What makes caregiving so lonely?," Laird Landon, PhD, the Caregiver Support Foundation (CSF) chair, asked in introducing the summit's agenda. He then gave a sobering outline of how a typical caregiver situation unwinds: "It usually begins with a chilling diagnosis of a loved one's condition," he said. "That changes everyone's view of the future. It causes sadness and reassessment of goals. The immediate family experiences loss, but also a threat to their own obligations."

The situation progresses from there: — Caregivers struggle to describe their situation. It is changing often. They don't want to complain. It's hard to describe the overwhelming burden. — Distant family members minimize bad news, so they can justify not helping. "You know Dad more than any of us." "You can do this best." "I'll visit when I can." — Families are often separated by distance and their own family obligations. — The primary caregiver

has a radical change in priorities. They have less time for themselves and their social life and hobbies. This cause friends and neighbors and family members to either help or withdraw. — The diagnosed person only leaves the house for medical reasons and the caregiver spends more time at home without much social contact. — Friends withdraw because they don't know what to say, and maybe are afraid they'll be asked to help. "CSF helps by creating a safe place for caregivers to share their feelings and challenges," Laird said. "Additionally, the foundation brings together multiple professional organizations and product representatives at the annual summit to give caregivers information and awareness that many others are in similar situations as theirs.

"All of this validates that the situation is difficult and it is not themselves as caregivers who are failing, Laird said. "You are not alone." "I thought the Summit went very well. As attendees visited our CSF table, there was a large range of questions, with different caregiving circumstances," recalled Colleen Steinberg, a board member. Most table visitors, she said, thought they were alone in their situations, were looking for help and liked being among others in similar circumstances.

She offered information on CFS's support groups and on placing a loved one in long-term care as well as on other topics.

"It was a wonderful exchange of information, education and, most of all, support. We suggested ideas to try in difficult situations, were able to direct attendees to other sponsors that might have resources for them and reminded them to take care of themselves."



HOSTED BY:
DOUG SPEEDIE, MD



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Editor:

Let's be honest—county government doesn't always get it right. That's exactly why you elected me: to speak up, to challenge insiders, and to make sure your voice is heard. I don't sugarcoat things, and I don't back down from doing what's right—even when it's unpopular among the vocal minority.

Since day one, I've fought to bring accountability, honesty, and common sense to our county government. I believe in law and order, and keeping our communities safe. That's why I strongly support our Sheriff's Department, our first responders, and the District Attorney's Office.

Lately, I've been particularly concerned by what appears to be a rise in criminality among our youths within our community. **Let me be clear:** Public Safety is the cornerstone of a civil society and requires the highest priority. Criminal activity, regardless of age, threatens us all. That is why we must equip our law enforcement and prosecutors with the tools they need to keep Montrose County safe and secure.

SAY NO to letting the bad guys roam free in our neighborhoods—and **SAY NO** to the recall of me, Commissioner Scott Mijares. Keep me working for you by voting **NO** on the recall.

Thank You,

Scott Mijares

Montrose County Commissioner

scottm4montrose@gmail.com

www.scottm4montrose.com

970-765-0507 Google voicemail.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE NORTH CAMPUS

Editor:

Below is a copy of the North Campus Opt Ed—originally submitted to the Montrose Mirror on February 11, 2025. Since then there have been 2 more revisions to the contract and costs have ballooned to an estimated \$30,000,000. It has also come to light that the previous board executed a **“Right of First Refusal” (see Link)** to an out of state developer 23 months before finalizing the North Campus construction contract. This is highly unusual. This took place while the previous BOCC was charged with protecting **your county assets**. All three previous board members signed the Recall Petition. Roger Rash, Keith Caddy, and Sue Hansen.

=====

It has been almost a year since I announced my intention to run for the office of Montrose County Commissioner. My campaign message was simple. More transparency, more accountability, and more citizen involvement. Apparently my message resonated with our voters because 18,159 voters (70% of votes cast) said they wanted me to represent them on the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners. That was the greatest number of votes of any candidate on the November ballot. Even more than Donald Trump.

Now that I am sworn in as one of your County Commissioners I plan to follow through on my commitment to greater transparency, accountability and more citizen involvement. However, I am just

one of three commissioners and we operate as a board, not as individuals.

This was highlighted at this weeks BOCC meeting. For those who have been following, I have been calling for more discussion, deliberation and more transparency with regard to the proposed north campus project.

As such, I made a motion to: “Consideration and possible action of the Board to implement a 45 day freeze on construction and public engagement activities with regard to the North Campus construction project.”

Since it has been announced that construction will not likely begin until April I did not think there would be any objection. I was wrong. My motion failed to get a second from my fellow board members and my motion died on the floor.

As a board member who is committed to the success of our county I will respect the decisions made by our board however, as an elected member of the Board I feel like it is my duty and obligation to let our citizens know why I made the motion and what its intent was.

Let me be clear, I am not opposed to the construction of a new home for our county employees. My concern is the process that has lead us to where we are right now. Let me explain.

This project began over 2.5 years ago. A contract with the Wold Architects & Engineers for \$1,261,875 was executed on 8/29/22. This contract had a planned completion date of one year but was extended and revised 3 times with the latest revision

revision announced at a public BOCC Meeting on 12/18/24 bringing the running total over \$1,500,000. That is 2.5 times the original budgeted expense of \$600,000 presented in 2022.

As an elected official charged with the oversight of our counties financial matters this concerns me. I think it is worthy of a discussion. What is even more concerning why the previous board was in such a hurry to execute a contract to build this building knowing the most recent revision to the engineering called for dramatic changes to the design just 21 days earlier.

So here we are, we have a new board and we are expected to pick up where the old board left off. Sadly, the public has still not had a chance to weigh in on the project to express their concerns or support of this project. Financing for this project is nebulous. It has just been announced that the county is currently seeking a variance from the city because the building is too high for current building codes, and concerns over parking availability at the Justice Center have not been adequately addressed.

Like I said, I am not opposed to a new home for our county employees but it seems like this project has been pushed along without the careful thought it deserves on behalf of our taxpayers.

This is a time when we need to engage in discussion, not shut it off. And that is why I made my motion.

*Scott Mijares
Montrose County Commissioner
District 1*

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and smell the ~~coffee~~ **NEWS!**

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

**SUNDAY, NOV. 2ND
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KENNETH "KEN" M. SHORTER ***March 13, 1948 — October 3, 2025***

KENNETH "KEN" M. SHORTER was born on March 13, 1948, to Bill and Elizabeth Shorter in Denver, Colorado. He grew up in Edgewater with his three sisters—Carol, Janet, and Sharon—and in 1963 his family moved to Montrose. Ken graduated from Montrose High School in 1966 and went on to attend Colorado State University.

On March 22, 1972, Ken married the love of his life, Nancy VanRiper, in Loveland, Colorado. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and adventure, raising their three children—Lisa, Kelley, and Brian—mostly in Denver and Colorado Springs.

Ken began his career in construction, where his talent, dedication, and strong work ethic led him into management and eventually into entrepreneurship. He owned several successful businesses in cabinets, countertops, and flooring, earning the respect of colleagues and clients alike. Ken took great pride not only in his discipline and business success but also in mentoring others, sharing lessons that extended far beyond the workplace.

After retiring, Ken returned to Montrose to enjoy life closer to family, friends, and the outdoors he loved. He found joy in the mountains, favorite fishing spots, and time spent on the golf course. At home, he devoted countless hours to nurturing his beautiful yard and gardens and was always ready to lend a helping hand to friends and neighbors.

Ken cherished family above all else. He found happiness in camping, fishing, exploring nature, and cheering on his children at their school and sporting events. His grandchildren—Austin, Samantha, Dylan, Connor, Josie, and Colton—were his pride and delight. Every shared moment with them was treasured, creating memories full of love, and affection.

Ken also deeply valued the friendships and family connections that filled his life. Whether attending reunions, hiking with loved ones, listening to summer concerts in the park, or enjoying quiet conversations on the porch, he brought warmth and kindness to every gathering.

His legacy lives on in the hearts of those he leaves behind – in the laughter of his children, the lessons he taught, and the values he instilled. He showed us that true success comes not from wealth or comfort, but from honesty, hard work and love.

Ken passed away at home in Montrose on October 3, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Carol. He survived by his devoted wife Nancy; children Lisa, Kelley, Brian (Erika), and Lori from a previous marriage; grandchildren Austin, Samantha, Dylan, Connor, Josie, and Colton; sisters Janet and Sharon (Steve); sisters-in-law Lael VanRiper and Terry Mason; brother-in-law Rick VanRiper; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

In lieu of flowers or gifts the family kindly requests donations go to the Montrose Regional Heath/San Juan Cancer Center in Ken's name.

To his many friends, thank you for being part of his journey and for the love and memories you shared along the way.



Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RONALD LEE "PETE" MATTICS

February 4, 1935 — October 1, 2025

RONALD LEE "PETE" MATTICS was born Feb. 4, 1935, to LaRue LaRoy and Lucille (nay Davies) Mattics in Cañon City, Colo. He passed October 1, 2025, at his home on the farm surrounded by family, including his ever faithful dog, Jill.

As a toddler, he moved with his family to Casper, Wyo., then on to Oak Ridge, Tenn., where his father was a machinist on the Y12 Project. As a teenager, he road his motorcycle cross country to Denver where his older brother, Bob, was working as a mechanic. Pete earned a welding certificate from the Emily Griffith Opportunity School, then joined his brother working for Stanley Aviation.

Pete and Bob enjoyed attending dances at the local Grange Hall in Aurora. It was at the Grange Hall where he met the love of his life, Ella Jane Baker, from DeBeque. Jane and two of her sisters, Betty Lou and Dorothy Mae, all worked for the phone company as operators. Pete and Jane were joined in Holy Matrimony March 25, 1958.

Shortly thereafter, Pete took his grandmother, Elsie Belle Davies, to visit her sister, Alice May Putnam, in Olathe, where she and her husband, Harry, managed a small orchard. On the ride back to Cañon City, Grandma Davies suggested Pete and Jane buy the Putnam Orchard and move to the farm to raise a family, which is exactly what they did in 1958. Son Kerry arrived in 1962; daughter Jeri arrived in 1964; and daughter Jody completed the family in 1966.

Pete and Jane worked tirelessly to restore the orchards, improve the irrigation sys-

tem and cropping practices, and diversify the crops by planting peaches, pears, nectarines and cherries along side the apples. It was a family affair in the summers, with all three children working on the farm, driving tractor, weeding and harvesting fruit. For decades, Pete was active in the Western Colorado Horticultural Society, serving as president in 1974, and being honored as the Peach Grower of the Year in 1982. During the winters, he also worked construction jobs, helping to build the Morrow Point, Crystal and Silverjack dams.

Pete was heartbroken when Jane passed of cancer in 1986. After several years, he started attending dances again, and returning to favorite activities like hunting and fishing.

Kerry returned to help Pete manage the farm after graduating from Colorado State University in 1986. Together, in 1996, they installed the first large-scale drip irrigation system in Montrose County, and used it to diversify the operation by adding tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, cucumbers, onions, potatoes and other vegetables.

As Kerry took on more management responsibilities, Pete started exploring. He enjoyed traveling and several times he and a companion drove to Alaska for summers filled with fishing, camping, dancing and finding quirky restaurants. In the winters, he would venture down to Mexico and Arizona at times, but more frequently was found on local dance floors; he thoroughly enjoyed music and dancing.

Pete is survived by his son, Kerry, wife Tammy and grandsons Kurik, Kalten and



Kael, wife Paige (Collins); daughter Jeri and her son Chase Omernik; daughter Jody, husband Donnie Kattner, and their sons Donovan, wife Makenna (Terrell) and great granddaughter Charlotte, and Jaxon Kattner. He was predeceased by both parents, and brothers Dick and Bob.

Services will be held Sat., Nov. 1 at 3:30 pm at the Circle 3 Cowboy Fellowship, 62885 LaSalle Road, Montrose, with a harvest dinner to honor Pete following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family would sincerely appreciate gifts to HopeWest Hospice, and would like to thank the HopeWest staff and all of Pete's caregivers for their tireless work to keep Pete comfortable and happy in his home as he transitioned from this world.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.

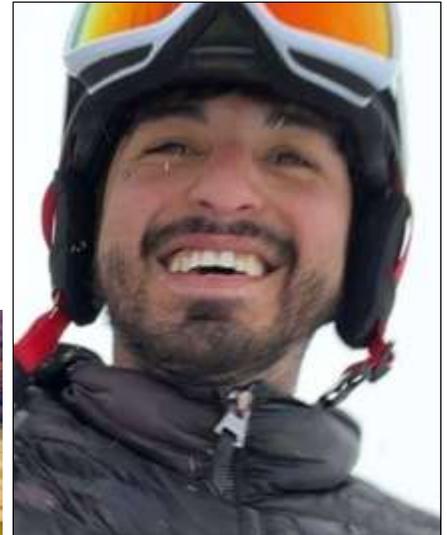


COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

INOC PEREZ

February 15, 2001- September 30, 2025

In Loving memory of Inoc Perez, born February 15, 2001 and passed on September 30, 2025 in Montrose CO. Inoc was a loving father, caring brother, wonderful uncle and son. Inoc’s memory is carried on by his son Majteo (Mylee), his brothers Victor (Maizey) and Cesar, his sister Vanessa (Paolo) and parents Guadalupe and Anna. The jokester of the family, Inoc could light up the room wherever he was, and loved making everyone laugh. Inoc will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in peace, until we see him again, his spirit forever alive in the hearts of those who loved him. In the words of Inoc “Lets go!”



SHARON DIANE BRICKELL

November 25, 1953 – October 4, 2025



Cherished wife and best friend who lived with grace, kindness, and steadfast spirit Forever loved, Sharon Diane Brickell November 25, 1953 – October 4, 2025
Sharon Diane Brickell, 71, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on October 4, 2025. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Sharon earned her master’s degree in Food Sciences and devoted her career to helping others as a registered dietitian. She will be remembered for her quiet strength, gentle kindness, and steadfast spirit — shy and kind with a constitution of steel.
Sharon is survived by her loving husband of 29 years, Michael O. Brickell, and her beloved cat, Matty.
“Thank you, Sharon Diane, for being the best wife I could have asked for. Through you, I learned the art of true love. I love you.”



ISSUE 543 Oct. 13, 2025

ART & SOL

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ACUPUNCTURIST JOSH GEETTER WILL TELL TALES AT STORIES & POEMS NORWOOD OCT. 15

Special to Art & Sol

NORWOOD-Oriental Medicine practitioner Josh Geetter has been working his wellness clinic and pharmacy, Medicine Ranch, in Telluride for the past several decades. Wednesday, Oct. 15th, he will share stories at Stories & Poems Norwood in the Lone Cone Library starting at 6 pm.

Geetter, whose dad was a physician, places Oriental Medicine with its five main branches-- acupuncture, herbs & diet, bodywork, yogas, physical therapy & meditation, and heat therapy (cupping) – in the framework of Integrative Medicine (IM). “True IM means collaboration,” he explains, “It’s the oncologist working with the acupuncturist working with the dietitian working with the physical therapist working with the general practitioner.”

Doctor of Internal Medicine Sharon Grundy, who serves as Medical Director of Primary Care at the Telluride Regional Medical Center (TRMC) and as Public Health Medical Officer for San Miguel County, has this to say about Geetter, “I found

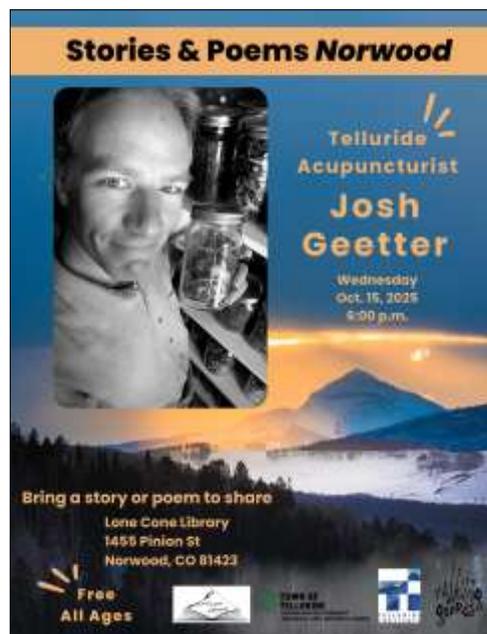
Josh’s collaboration and support to be invaluable ... He’s a master of medicinal herbs and a true healer. We’re blessed to have him in our community.”

For those who like prompts for stories or poems, this month’s prompt is: “Autumn in the Mountains.”

The Stories & Poems free series happens on the third Wednesday of each month. Our featured guest will give a 30-40 min. presentation, followed by a short question and answer period after the presentation. Then there’s a passing of the gourd, where community members in attendance are encouraged to share stories or poems.

A collaboration of the Lone Cone Library and the Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds poetry program, Stories & Poems Norwood is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the library, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and Talking Gourds’ Fischer and Cantor poetry contests.

For more information on poetry contests



and Talking Gourds programs, visit the website www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds. For questions about the event, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at art@tellurideinstitute.org

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS TO MEET

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet 9am - 12pm on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Halloween is our theme of the month. Wear black and show off your coolest Halloween-themed projects. Local fiber artist Bobbie Irwin will share the history, uses, and techniques of "twining", an ancient form of weaving. Later in November, Bobbie will teach an all-day workshop for those interested in learning more. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

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CONTACT DETAILS

📞 970-249-0493

✉ manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com

🌐 www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com



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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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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:

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, montroseumc.org

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

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

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

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

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

roseumc.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

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

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-

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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-

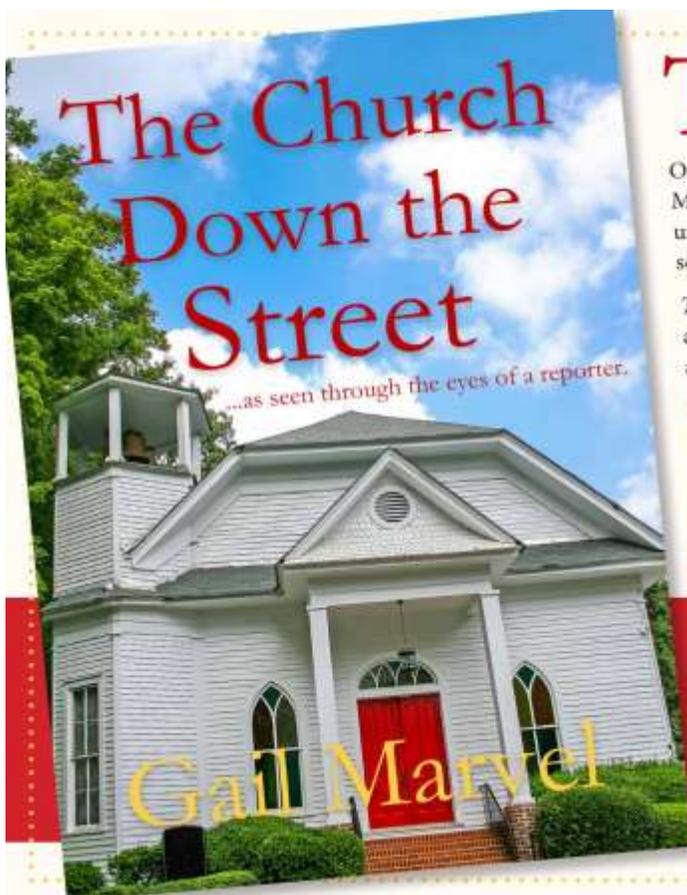
6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org
Current Pastor: Roland Kassales
Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

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?



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 and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter





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3 bedroom
2 bathrooms

CONTACT:

- 📞 19702753195
- ✉ lesliemorerealtor@gmail.com
- 🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE PRESENTS: ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL Nov 7, 2025 - Nov 29, 2025

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Get ready for a magical journey with Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*! Follow the story of an extraordinary little girl with a sharp mind, a big imagination, and the courage to change her destiny. Despite her cruel parents and the terrifying Miss Trunchbull, Matilda's wit and bravery inspire everyone around her. A captivating tale for both kids and adults—filled with heart, humor, and wonder. Don't miss the show that proves even the smallest can make the biggest difference! Directed by Bethany Ward with Shannon Rediger and Rachele Rediger. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838. Family discounts available through box office!

Friday, November 7, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT
 Saturday, November 8, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT
 Sunday, November 9, 2025 - 02:00 PM MDT
 Friday, November 14, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT
 Saturday, November 15, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT
 Sunday, November 16, 2025 - 02:00 PM MDT

Friday, November 21, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT
 Saturday, November 22, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT
 Sunday, November 23, 2025 - 02:00 PM MDT
 Friday, November 28, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT
 Saturday, November 29, 2025 - 07:30 PM MDT

JAMES MASON NAMED TO THE DEAN'S LIST AT PALMER COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC

Special to the Mirror

DAVENPORT, IA -- James Mason of Montrose, CO, has been named to the 2025 spring trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa. Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa, and Port Orange, Florida.

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970-648-0609



Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227





Beer Barn II
970-249-5550



CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

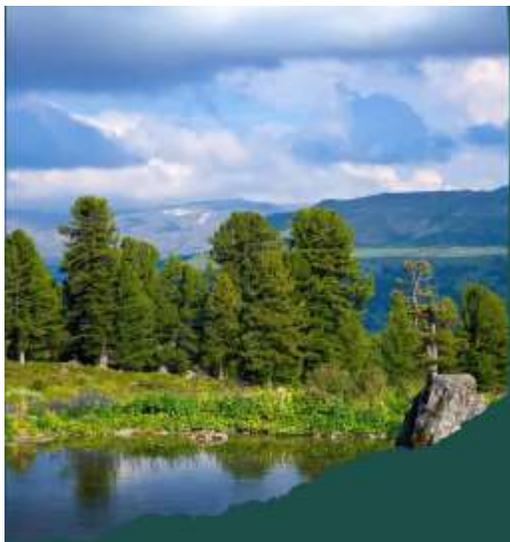
SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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TIM JONES



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Contact Author and Speaker:

🌐 laurenhallruddell.com

✉ agescapesnow@gmail.com

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TRIVIA NIGHT

Hosted By:



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

Saturday Nov 1st



**PRIZES
SNACKS
& FUN FOR
ALL!**

Please join us for our fifth Annual Trivia Night at the Elks Club!

Date: Saturday, November 1st at 5pm.

Registration: \$30 per person (up to 8 people per team)

*Includes unlimited access to appetizer & dessert bars and non-alcoholic drinks.

*Elks Cash Bar will also be available



Scan to Register

MORE INFO

970-275-0751



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.

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>



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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

Tuesday - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays-Black Canyon Audubon Society hosts monthly birdwatching field trips in the Montrose area on 1st Tuesdays of the month and in the Delta area on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Check out the website for field trip details at 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. 13-The Northern San Juan Great Old Broads for Wilderness invites you to meet our national executive director, Reba Elliott, via Zoom at the Ridgway library Monday Oct 13 from 1-3pm. Following the talk, we will honor National Indigenous People's Day with a nature journaling activity and share. All are welcome! Bring paper/ journal and colored pencils. Email northernspanjuan@greatoldbroads.org with any questions.

Oct. 15-Have you ever wondered about the Three Sisters crops at Mesa Verde and how they connect to Ute Origin Stories? Come and hear Kellie Carroll the Education Coordinator at the Ute Indian Museum tell us. Oct. 15 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church, 19 S Park Avenue, Montrose. Chipeta Archaeological Society. Free.

Oct. 18-Montrose County Event Center | Oct. 18, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Join the Ute Indian Museum for the second annual Uncompahgre Pow-Wow. Visitors can enter a ceremonial dance contest and enjoy local food and even win prizes for their participation. More details about contest categories and how to be a vendor can be found [here](#).

Oct. 23-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet 9am - 12pm on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Halloween is our theme of the month. Wear black and show off your coolest Halloween-themed projects. Local fiber artist Bobbie Irwin will share the history, uses, and techniques of "twining", an ancient form of weaving. Later in November, Bobbie will teach an all-day workshop for those interested in learning more. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

Nov. 7-Miss Suzy's Educational Services Disco & Auction. 6-9pm Montrose Elks Lodge. Tickets can be purchased through Miss Suzy's or at the door. \$20 adults-\$10 Teens-\$5 children. Fall Crafts-70's Attire Contest-Dance Contest-Photo Booth. Call (970) 318-0982.

Nov. 13-14-First Annual Farm & Ranch Trade Show and 2025 West Slope Water Summit, Montrose County Event Center.

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



Surrounded by fall foliage, the former Montrose City Hall lends timeless beauty to South First Street Downtown. Mirror Staff photo.



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

