



ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION



**THANK YOU TO ALL UNITED STATES VETERANS!**

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## HANSEN LEADS BOCC MEETING, NO MANAGER FINALIST ANNOUNCED

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-When the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 5, two commissioners were present: BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond and Commissioner Sue Hansen.

"Good morning, everybody," Hansen said, as she gavelled the meeting to order, "And welcome to the regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meeting. It is November 5<sup>th</sup>, it is 9am. We're going to start as we always do with the Pledge."

Hansen asked Dennis Olmsted to lead in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reverend Garrett Agajanian of St. Stephen's Anglican Church delivered the invocation. He read from *Psalms 33:12*. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance..."



Roger Rash asked that Item D-2 be tabled until all ballots are counted. Meeting Screenshot.

*Continued pg 18*

## MADA DIRECTOR HONORED BY CITY OF MONTROSE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With Councilor J. David Reed attending virtually, the Montrose City Council convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Mayor Dave Frank welcomed everyone and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. All councilors were present, as were Youth Councilors Katie Jakino and Niyati Patel. Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files had no changes to the meeting agenda.

### YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Mayor Dave Frank presented the You Make A Difference Award to Bethany Maher of the Mexican American Development Association (MADA). Maher was honored for her role in revitalizing the non-profit organization. "Thank you...we're super excited about our expansion Downtown...to expand our commercial kitchen space...it will be a full commercial kitchen with multiple users at once...all those users will not only have a kitchen, but a place to sell their food."

### HOSPICE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Mayor Frank read the



At the regular Council meeting of Nov. 4, City of Montrose Mayor Dave Frank presented the You Make A Difference Award to Bethany Maher of the Mexican American Development Association (MADA). Meeting Screenshot.

*Continued pg 32*

[Red Hawks Sports:](#)  
*By Cliff Dodge!*

[Friends of Youth and](#)  
*Nature Leads the Way!*

[Red Hawks Football Awaits State](#)  
*Tournament: By Cliff Dodge!*

[The Satisfied Self:](#)  
*Column by Gia Pirelli!*

# 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. This rule now includes requests to re-print letters that have already run.

**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,*

## 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

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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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## Teens After Hours: Winter Wonderland

**November 14,  
6:00-8:00 PM  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS TO MEET NOV. 20 AT EVENT CENTER

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street, on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Fall is our theme for the month. Wear brown and bring autumn projects or your current work to show. Program will be a parade of quilts and toys for Dolphin House. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

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# RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL: RED HAWKS QUALIFY FOR STATE



By Cliff Dodge

## MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, SILVER CREEK RAPTORS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team continued their winning ways as they hosted one of 12 regional competitions to determine which 12 teams advance to the CHSAA state championships at the Denver Coliseum beginning next Thursday.

The Silver Creek Raptors were first on the menu for the Red Hawks. The Raptors, sporting a 9-16 overall record, jumped out to a quick lead before the Red Hawks found their comfort zone and defeated the Raptors by the score of 25-21 in the first game. The Red Hawks started slowly and did not catch and surpass the Raptors until the Red Hawks took the lead at 20 to 19. The Red Hawks then won going away, outscoring the Raptors 6 to 2.

The Red Hawks jumped out to an 8-0 lead in game two before the Raptors could dent the scoreboard. At the mid-point of the game the Red Hawks led 16 to 3, and then coasted to a 25-7 victory in game two. The third game was much tighter but the Red Hawks stayed comfortably in control and won the third game by the score of 25-17.

## MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, PALMER TERRORS 0

The Red Hawks needed to continue their winning ways as the Palmer Terrors took center stage. Not to worry, as Head Coach Shane Forrest's charges left nothing to chance when they destroyed the Terror 25-9 in game one, 25 -8 in game two, and 25-19 in the third and final game. The Red Hawks thus finished the pre-tournament portion of their schedule with 22 wins and three losses and have qualified for the state championship.

The Red Hawks will travel to the venerable Denver Coliseum to begin play next Thursday at 1PM. The championship will select the top four teams for first round byes. The remaining eight teams will play each other to determine seedings and the championship will then be determined in a double-elimination competition. The seedings will be announced on Monday afternoon. Stay tuned.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE FOR VETERANS DAY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — In observance of Veterans Day, City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Downtown Visitor Center, City Shop, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department offices will close on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

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

City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Tuesday, Nov. 11, will instead be served on Wednesday, Nov. 12, and Thursday, Nov. 13.

For residences south of Niagara Rd and east of Townsend Ave, trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

For residences north of Niagara Rd and west of Townsend Ave, trash pickup will occur on Thursday, Nov. 13.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service on Tuesday, November 11, will instead be served on Friday, Nov. 14.

The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open, along with the golf course snack bar. The Rusty Putter restaurant will be open.

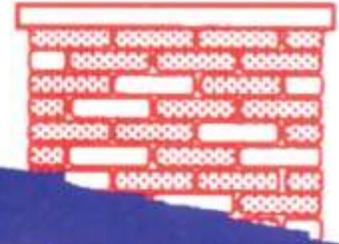
Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit

[www.CityofMontrose.org/Trash](http://www.CityofMontrose.org/Trash)

For information about the City of Montrose visit [CityofMontrose.org](http://CityofMontrose.org).



The image is a decorative invitation for a ribbon cutting ceremony. It features a gold-colored ornate border. In the top left corner is the Montrose, Colorado logo, which includes a circular emblem with a mountain and water scene, surrounded by the text "MONTROSE, COLORADO" and "1871". The main text is centered and reads: "You're Invited to a: **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**". Below this text is a blue ribbon graphic that is being cut by a pair of gold scissors. The date and time are listed as "November 10, 2025" and "From 9:00am - 10:30am". The location is given as "Courthouse: 320 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Montrose, CO".



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## AFTER SIX YEARS OF NO INCREASES: DMEA RATE HEARING SCHEDULED

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-DMEA is proposing changes to its rate tariff to take effect Jan. 1, 2026. The proposed change, currently under review by DMEA’s Board of Directors, is driven by the rising costs in recent years of providing safe and reliable power.

The proposal includes increasing the standard single-phase residential access charge from \$29.50 to \$37 monthly, a fixed-price change of \$7.50 per month. Electric charges are calculated based on access charges (the cost of maintaining the distribution grid) and energy charges

(the cost to deliver energy consumed).

DMEA is not proposing a change to the energy rate for the residential rate class. The proposed rate tariff changes include energy and access charge increases for other rate classes, such as small commercial, large commercial, industrial, irrigation, and municipal single-phase. Additionally, residential and small commercial time-of-use rates will be discontinued. The proposed rate changes were designed to provide fairness to members and represent a 7.49% average increase for the entire membership base.

“Despite more than a 25% inflation increase since 2019, DMEA has been able to keep rates stable for six years thanks to the dedicated work by our team to manage expenses,” said DMEA Chief Executive Officer Jack Johnston. “Unfortunately, like most industries, we have also seen a continued rise in our costs of operational expenses. In addition, ongoing infrastructure maintenance drives our need to raise rates to ensure the reliability of our grid and continue to provide the quality service our members deserve.”

Since 2020, DMEA has made several strategic decisions to stabilize rates, reduce wholesale power costs, and expand local renewable generation.

“This wasn’t an easy decision to move forward with a rate increase proposal—we understand the economic challenges our members are already facing,” said Board President Stacia Cannon. “As a member-owned cooperative, our focus isn’t profit; it’s keeping the lights on, safely and reliably. This proposed rate adjustment is a careful step to cover higher costs for materials, equipment, and operations so we can continue providing the dependable service our members count on.”

As part of the regularly scheduled board meeting on Dec. 16, DMEA will host a Rate Hearing at 6 p.m. at the Montrose office (11925 6300 Road, Montrose). Members may make comments in-person at the Rate Hearing, mail comments to DMEA attn: Rates, 11925 6300 Road, Montrose, CO 81401 before Dec. 10, fill out an online comment form at [dmea.com/rates](http://dmea.com/rates), or email [rates@dmea.com](mailto:rates@dmea.com) before Dec. 10th at 5 pm.

After reviewing and discussing member comments at the hearing, the board may vote on the proposed increase. If approved, the proposed rate changes will take effect Jan. 1, 2026. For more information on the proposed rate changes, please visit [dmea.com/rates](http://dmea.com/rates). Assistance programs are available for members who may need help paying their electric bills at [dmea.com/assistance-programs](http://dmea.com/assistance-programs).

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DMEA RECOGNIZED AS BEST IN THE VALLEY

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has been recognized by the community as the “Best Place to Work” in the *Montrose Daily Press* 2025 Best of the Valley Awards.

The annual awards highlight outstanding local businesses and organizations, with winners chosen through public voting by community members. The honor reflects the strong connection between DMEA and

the members it serves across Montrose and Delta counties.

“At DMEA, we believe great service starts with great people,” said Jack Johnston, CEO of DMEA. “Our employees take pride in powering their neighbors’ homes and helping our communities thrive. This award celebrates their teamwork, dedication, and the positive culture they’ve built together. As your local electric cooperative, we are committed to making a differ-

ence in our community, and that starts with our talented staff.”

DMEA employs 148 people and serves more than 30,000 members across Montrose and Delta counties. The cooperative provides safe, reliable, affordable electric service while supporting local growth through innovative energy and broadband solutions. For more information about DMEA and career opportunities, visit [dmea.com](http://dmea.com).

**WEST SLOPE**

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*Troubled Waters<sup>2</sup>*

**AGENDA & REGISTRATION**




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---

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# RED HAWKS FOOTBALL AWAITS STATE TOURNAMENT



Red Hawks Football team warming up. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team, coming off their bye week, are now ready for tournament play. The opposition is now known. Frederick defeated the Bear Creek Bears by the score of 35-7 to provide the opposition for the Red Hawks on Saturday Nov. 15 at the Montrose stadium. The kickoff is slated for 1 PM.

The Red Hawks have used the bye week to rest, relax, and get over the bumps and bruises a 10-game schedule inflicts on those who play contact sports. The other side of the bracket will feature Riverdale Ridge vs Monarch. The lower half of the bracket has Mesa Ridge at Palmer Ridge and Vista Ridge at Broomfield.

The other side of the bracket features Dakota Ridge playing Golden and Northfield playing Pueblo West. Durango and Ponderosa will tangle as will Grand Junction and Heritage.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SNAP BENEFITS TO RESUME IN NOVEMBER

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA COUNTY— Coloradans who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to help purchase healthy food will begin receiving full payments for the month of November 2025, the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) announced. CDHS will start loading payments onto Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards and SNAP participants will begin to see payments on their EBT cards as early as Saturday, Nov. 8. All SNAP participants can expect their full payments to be available over the next few days.

If you need more food resources during the government shutdown, we encourage you to reach out to your local food banks or community agencies in your area.

To find these resources in your area, please contact:

-Colorado 211: Dial 2-1-1 or (866)760-6489 or visit [www.211colorado.org](http://www.211colorado.org)

-Feeding Colorado Resources at [www.feedingcolorado.org/find-food](http://www.feedingcolorado.org/find-food) or [info@feedingcolorado.org](mailto:info@feedingcolorado.org)



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November 12 - Open to public at Historic County Courthouse

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November 12 - Open to public at Historic County Courthouse

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## WESTERN SLOPE FARMERS & RANCHERS INNOVATION EXPO THURSDAY, NOV. 13 - SATURDAY, NOV. 15

*Special to Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Western Colorado Soil Health Committee (WCSHC), in partnership with the Shavano Conservation District and Colorado State University Extension, invites you to the Western Colorado Farm & Ranch Innovation Expo on November 13, 14, and 15 at the Montrose County Event Center.

This free, public event is designed to educate and inspire our agricultural communities by showcasing the latest in innovative technologies, tools, and equipment. Topics include soil health, water conservation, livestock management, crop health, and farm productivity.

For more than a decade, the WCSHC has been a leader in advancing soil health in Western Colorado, bringing nationally and internationally recognized speakers and presentations to the region. This year, the Expo will kick off immediately following the Montrose County Water Summit, connecting attendees with even more opportunities to learn and collaborate.

The Expo will feature:

- Hands-on demonstrations in the main arena
- Cutting-edge agricultural tools and technology
- Networking with producers, innovators, and industry leaders

Last year's event welcomed hundreds of participants, and this year we're expecting over 500 attendees.

Whether you're part of regenerative agriculture, a traditional farm or ranch, or simply want to see the latest innovations in action, the Innovation Expo has something for you. Mark your calendars: November 13-15 Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th St, Montrose, Colorado 81401

Come learn, connect, and discover the future of agriculture—right here in Western Colorado. Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1113423270655552/>

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ELEVATE INTERNET RECOGNIZED AS REGION’S TOP INTERNET PROVIDER

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Local readers have again recognized Elevate Internet as the region’s top internet provider. The company earned the title of “Best Internet Provider” in both the *Montrose Daily Press* and *Delta County Independent* 2025 Best of the Valley Awards, marking the fourth consecutive year Elevate has received the honor.

The annual Best of the Valley Awards celebrate outstanding businesses and organizations that positively impact Montrose and Delta counties. Winners are determined through community voting,

making the recognition a direct reflection of customer satisfaction and local support. “Receiving this award is especially meaningful because it comes from the people we serve,” said Kent Blackwell, Chief Administrative Officer of Elevate Internet. “Our team works hard to deliver fast, reliable, locally supported internet service that our communities can count on. Being named Best Internet Provider for the fourth year is a true testament to that commitment.”

Since its launch in 2016, Elevate Internet has grown to serve thousands of homes and businesses across the Western Slope,

providing legendary fiber internet through a locally owned and operated network.

To date, 95 percent of Delta-Montrose Electric Association members have access to this award-winning internet service, and 100% are projected to have access by the end of 2027.

The company continues to expand its reach, ensuring more rural residents have access to high-speed connectivity that supports work, learning, and entertainment.

For more information about Elevate Internet or to determine if service is available in your area, visit [elevateinternet.com](http://elevateinternet.com).



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SMPA'S PROPOSED RATE INCREASE FOCUSES ON BALANCED COST RECOVERY AND MEMBER CHOICE

*Special to the Mirror*

NUCLA— San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has announced a proposed electric rate increase for all consumers, scheduled to take effect on **Dec. 15**. The proposal is designed to ensure balanced cost recovery in the face of rising expenses while maintaining SMPA's commitment to providing members with reliable power and meaningful choices in how they manage their energy use.

For **residential consumers**, the proposed change includes a **\$5 increase to the monthly access charge**, bringing it to **\$33 per month**, and a **3¢ increase to the on-peak energy rate**, bringing that rate to **25¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh)**.

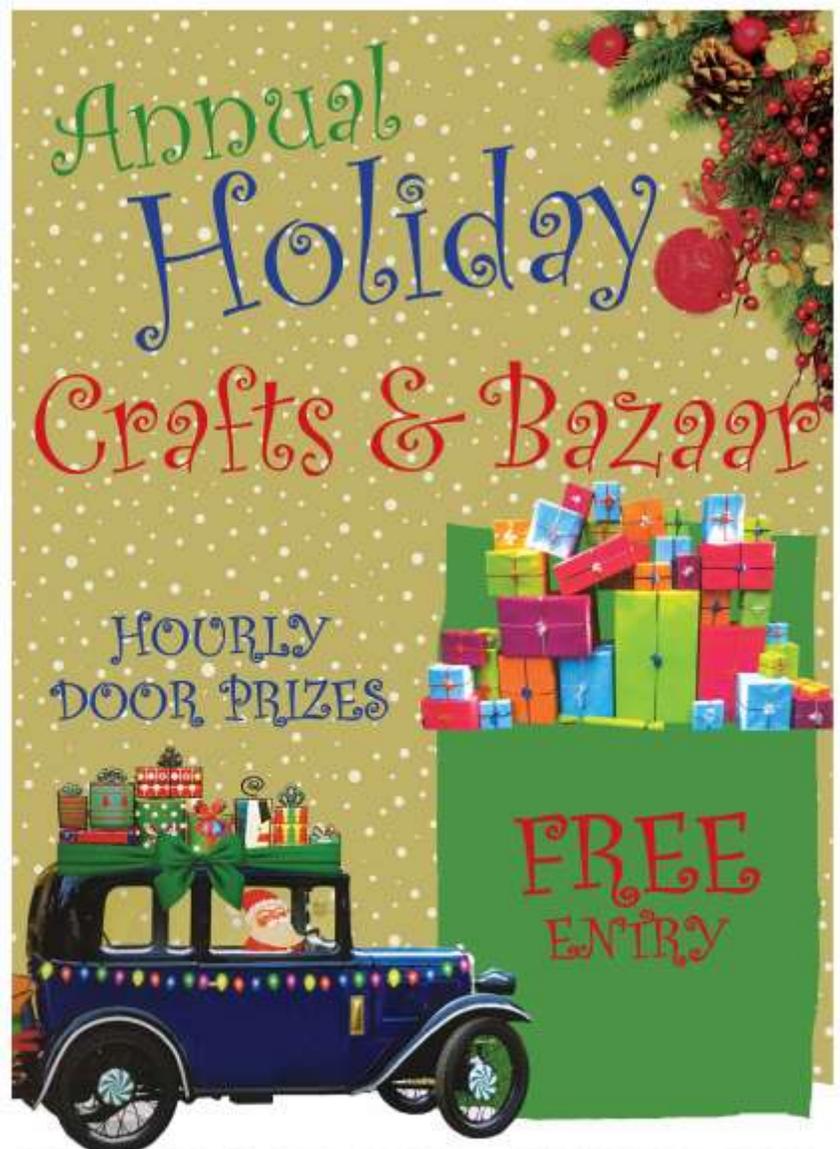
Unlike many utilities across the nation, SMPA has kept rate increases to a minimum over the past several years, limiting operational costs through efficient practices and cost-saving measures. Recently, external expenses have made a relatively greater increase necessary. **Wholesale power rates**—including a **7.2% increase** from its power supplier is a major cost driver. Additionally, there have been continued increases in materials, insurances and investment in **critical infrastructure projects** which ensure the cooperative can maintain safety, reliability, and resilience across its service territory. Over time, SMPA's rate increases still pale in comparison to the rate of inflation and average electric costs, nationally.

"As a not-for-profit cooperative, our mission is to provide reliable and cost-effective power. To do that, we must ensure that the fixed costs of maintaining **1,800 miles of line across our rugged service territory** are covered fairly, regardless of how much energy is consumed," said **SMPA Chief Executive Officer, Brad Zaporski**. "This proposal is not just about a rate change; it's about building a modern rate framework that is more equitable for all members while giving them the tools to actively reduce their expenses."

SMPA's Energy Efficiency, Beneficial Electrification and 'Timing Matters' rebates ([www.smpa.com/energy#berebates](http://www.smpa.com/energy#berebates)) are examples of tools that **bolster members' ability to make the most cost-effective use of energy**. To further support members, SMPA introduced the On-Bill-Repayment program. This program allows members to purchase energy-saving technologies like home heat pumps, insulation and other home efficiency measures with no money down, paying back on their monthly bill.

A rate change comparison for all rate classes is available at [www.smpa.com/rates](http://www.smpa.com/rates). SMPA encourages members to provide written comment on the proposal by emailing [rates@smpa.com](mailto:rates@smpa.com) before **Tuesday, November 18th**. Members may also take part in the **proposal review and public comment period**, which will be held during the **regular board meeting on Tuesday, November 18th, at 9 a.m.** The meeting will be conducted virtually, and members can register to attend via [www.smpa.com/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes](http://www.smpa.com/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes).

By engaging in this process, SMPA members help ensure that the cooperative remains transparent, accountable, and responsive to the communities it serves.



**FRIDAY, OCT. 31ST • 9 AM TO 4 PM**  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 1ST • 9 AM TO 4 PM**  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- Montrose County Human Services is now accepting Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) applications through April 30, 2026. LEAP is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and managed locally by Montrose County Human Services. LEAP helps low-income households with winter heating costs, though it does not cover the full amount.

“Many people don’t realize that LEAP can help with all types of heating including propane, gas, electric, wood, even coal,”

said **Mirian Mason**, Montrose County Eligibility Supervisor. “Our goal is to keep everyone in our community warm and ensure no one goes without heat during the cold winter months.”

Benefit amounts vary based on income, household size, and primary heating costs. Most payments go directly to the household’s energy supplier. LEAP recipients may also qualify for furnace repair or replacement, weatherization services, and temporary assistance through the American Rescue Plan for past-due utility or water bills.

To qualify, households must pay heating

costs directly or as part of rent, and income must not exceed 65% of the state median.

For the 2025–2026 LEAP season, the maximum monthly income for a one-person household is \$3,607.00. Applications are available at Montrose County Human Services, 1845 S. Townsend Ave., or online through the [LEAP website](#). Applicants must provide proof of income and their most recent heating bill or rent receipt.

For more information, call 970-252-5000 or the HEAT HELP Hotline at 1-866-432-8435.

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MCA is a public charter school **opening Fall 2026** for K-5 students in Montrose County. Our curriculum fosters a strong foundation of knowledge and critical thinking.

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MCA follows the Core Knowledge Sequence, providing a strong foundation in language arts, math, science, history, and the arts.

✔ **Classical Education Model**

Emphasizing critical thinking, logic, and character development, MCA prepares students to lead with integrity.

✔ **Innovative and Inclusive Learning**

MCA fosters an engaging environment where all students, including those with diverse needs, are supported and empowered to excel.



## Interested in your student attending MCA?

Complete our Intent to Enroll Form

Helps us plan and prepare for the needs of our future students.



## HANSEN LEADS BOCC MEETING, NO MANAGER FINALIST From page 1

Said Agajanian, “....I am asking that you graciously grant them wisdom and sound judgment, I pray for the agenda set before them today. Please give an assurance of what would please you and what would benefit those who live and work in Montrose County...”

Following Roll call, Deputy Clerk to the Board Melissa Howie reminded all that the Courthouse ribbon cutting would take place on Nov. 10 at 9am.

“The courthouse will be open to the public starting on November 12th,” she said.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ray Langston spoke. “We had an election last night. The results still is not totally clear, there is some outstanding votes still yet to be counted. But it looks like the recall has been successful. And it is unfortunate that we had to take that step. But the contempt that Commissioner Mijares and Commissioner Pond has shown the citizens of this county is just totally unacceptable.

“Regardless of whether you agree with the citizens of this county or not, as elected officials you work for everybody in this county. Not just the people you agree with. And the very least you could do at least listen to everybody’s concern, you don’t have to act on it but listen and be polite when you do so...too many times Commissioner Mijares and Commissioner Pond both have been very disrespectful. You shouldn’t do that, and this recall is the result of that. With that in mind I hope we all can put this behind us, move forward, and put this county in a positive direction.”

Roger Rash spoke. “First thing I want to say is it was an honor to serve as your Montrose County Commissioner and it broke my heart to watch what happened in the last eight months. That was a really sad thing. To watch our board basically disregard the peoples’ comments and interest. One thing I’d like to really do is, I’d like to thank Leslie Quon, for standing up and voicing what was really going on.

“When we lose that many directors right off the bat, and she is the one person who stood up and made a public comment, that motivated me to help in this recall effort. And I am so grateful that you have done that, and you are my hero,” Rash said. “Thank you. That took a lot of cour-

age. And she put her well-being and job on the line to do that, and that’s despicable that she had to do that.”

Rash asked that Item D-2 be tabled until all ballots are counted. “...We had an outstanding county manager when I left this post and not so much right now...Mr.

Pond...I asked you not to make any major changes, and you disregarded that...”

“Thanks Roger,” Commissioner Hansen said.

Next to speak was James Neigherbauer, who lives on the Horsefly Road and rides his bike to town three days a week. Neigherbauer said that the condition of the northbound portion of the road is horrendous and filled with junk that appears to have fallen off a truck. “If you ever ride your bike along the shoulder, it will make you embarrassed to a certain extent to live in this area with what’s on the side of the road...I just hope that something could be done about it. It’s an embarrassment.”

Hansen said, “Thank you Mr. Neigherbauer, we’ll pass that on to Road and Bridge and have them take a look at it.”

Next, Mike Kuchler spoke. “It’s pretty obvious that this recall effort...was planned even before Scott got elected,” he said. “It was planned even clear back in the middle of when they were running for the position to start with...it processed pretty much as soon as it was available to happen...you had a *Montrose Daily Press* that has been steadfast against Sean and against Scott Mijares this whole time,” Kuchler said. “They’ve been just repeating and spouting out the rhetoric that everybody else had that was going forward in this thing...if you’ve got enough people you can turn around and you can convince the people that somebody’s bad or somebody’s doing something wrong...but what you’re going to find out, is in the legislation going forward in Montrose County, you’re going to find out the decision you made and the costs that it gave you.

Kuchler said, “Because you had people that were willing to do what they could to help this county and the counties around it to be able to maintain their land, to be able to go out and do things on that land that they want to do and to be able to live the way they need to live here.

“And you’re going to see that likely taken



**Karen Sherman Perez spoke about a lack of code and ethical conduct for county commissioners. Meeting screenshot.**

away from you, because the people that are after that have already shown their intent.

“We’ll just see how our commissioners, what direction they go with that intent...I’ve seen the positions they’ve taken, I’ve seen the stand that our commissioner has done on not signing the things that should have been signed and staying back and letting the other two sign ‘em, saying ‘I’m not going to be a part of it,’ backing out from even the Republican Party and saying, ‘I’m not even going to be a part of this party while they’re in it.’

“And you know, well, whatever,” Kuchler said. “It’s up to you to do whatever you want, Sue. But I see this as a referendum against the Montrose people instead of for it.”

Sue Gattis spoke next. “Not everybody was influenced by the paper. Some of us did research. And we went back and looked at all of the video that was available that you could see of the meetings...once you go back and look and see how things were handled then you come away with a different opinion, has nothing to do with the paper, I don’t even get the paper...perhaps other people looked at the meetings and how they were handled and maybe came to a similar decision.”

Karen Sherman Perez spoke about a lack of code and ethical conduct for county

# HANSEN LEADS BOCC MEETING, NO MANAGER FINALIST *From previous pg*

commissioners. "...previous boards of commissioners passed an agreement saying this is how we will work as a board together, so that we can ensure the best interest of our county as well as this is how we will respond respectfully to our constituents who reach out expressing concerns even though we might disagree..."

Sherman Perez said, "I have received multiple responses that I found to be very demeaning and rude in response to my legitimate concerns, such as the recent decision to...approve a three-day hiring process for a permanent county manager. I received a response from Commissioner Pond that did not even address my issue and was full of assumptions, accusing me of being part of a radical activist group that didn't represent the best interests of Montrose County...moving forward, I think that's really important so that we can really work together as a community and move forward the important decisions that impact us all.

"And I would beg to defer with the gentleman who spoke previously," she said, "that we have a very diverse county here in Montrose, people from all walks of life, from all backgrounds, all colors, and we have different needs and I think that it's a disservice to point fingers and say it's a select group of people who are making the decisions and calling the shots...I hope the County will consider a resolution that will set forth how we work together..."

Mary Maurer spoke. She said she had gathered signatures for the recall effort. "What surprised me when I joined it, because I kept watching the BOCC meetings and seeing how rude everybody was treated," Maurer said. "We as the public. I was astounded at the number of people who came up to me...neighbors, lots of people came and said, 'I want to sign.' So, there was no nefariousness about this whole recall, it was on the up and up, and there were a lot of different people who helped, and it obviously struck a note with a lot of people, and they wanted it to happen."

## INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager David White acknowledged the request by Roger Rash to remove Item D-1, "Consideration of second reading and passage of proposed ordinance 2025-01 prohibiting the introduction, support, facilitation, or habitat establishment of non-native animal species, including migratory arrivals, into Montrose County, Colorado."

Item D-1 was removed from the Agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

## GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

With Item D-1 removed from the agenda, commissioners considered Item D-2, "In accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(3.5) and C.R.S. 8-5-201, the Board of County Commissioners established a recruitment timeline and published the required job notice for the County Manager position. The posting closed on October 23, 2025, with 13 applicants. The Board may now name a finalist or finalists, noting that no employment contract may be offered for fourteen (14) days following the announcement, per statute."

County Human Resources Director Leslie Quon said, "...Due to the current circumstances the board will not be announcing a finalist today."

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners approved two Planning & Development items:

- The CH Minor Subdivision [MI25-004] proposal to divide 7.11 acres into two lots at Parcel 372312300009; and
- The Creekside Minor Amended Plat [AM25-001] proposal to create an easement and replat boundary lines at Parcel 399501200081.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOCC entered Executive Session with the County Attorney and Staff pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a) and (4)(b) for discussion regarding the possible transfer of real property and legal advice regarding the Kinikin Road project.

The meeting was adjourned.



***In the absence of BOCC Chair Scott Mijares, Commissioner Sue Hansen led the meeting. Screenshot.***

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COUNTY TO HOST RIBBON CUTTING FOR RESTORED HISTORIC COURTHOUSE NOV. 10

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County invites the community to celebrate the completion of the Historic Courthouse renovation at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Monday, November 10 at 9 a.m. Following remarks from county leaders and project partners on the courthouse steps, the ribbon will be cut to mark the reopening of this cherished landmark.

A special public open house will follow from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., offering visitors a first look inside the beautifully renovated building. The courthouse will officially reopen for county business on Wednesday, November 12.

The event marks the culmination of a multi-year effort to preserve and modernize one of Montrose County's most iconic landmarks. Dedicated in 1923, the courthouse has long stood as a symbol of the county's heritage and civic pride. The renovation has carefully blended historic preservation with modern functionality, ensuring the building continues to serve residents for another century.

Led by Montrose County in partnership with DOLA, local contractor Stryker and Company, Inc., and the Blythe Group, the \$14.9 million project represents a significant investment in the community's future. The project was completed without issuing debt. Construction began in early 2024 and focused on retaining the building's historical character while upgrading its systems, accessibility, and workspaces to meet modern standards.

As part of the renovation, several county offices including the Board of County Commissioners, Assessor, Treasurer, GIS, Attorney, Communications, and Veteran Services will move into the courthouse. The restored space provides enhanced and accessible service for residents as well as improved efficiency for staff, while preserving the historic details that make the courthouse a cornerstone of Montrose County history.

The Ribbon Cutting and Open House offer residents a first look at the craftsmanship and care that went into bringing this his-

toric structure back to life. The county encourages community members to join in celebrating this milestone achievement and honoring the legacy of the court-

house as it enters its next century of service.

For more information, visit [www.montrosecounty.net](http://www.montrosecounty.net).

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[HomesteadatMontrose.org](http://HomesteadatMontrose.org)

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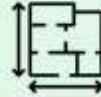
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🌐 [www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com](http://www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com)

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with all the trimmings. Everyone is welcome!

# Community Thanksgiving Dinner

**FRIENDSHIP HALL  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025  
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**If you wish to volunteer,  
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**We are very happy to offer delivery in the  
Montrose, Colorado area.**

**Please request delivery by noon  
on Wednesday, November 26.  
Call **970-318-6724** or sign up online.**

**Donations are appreciated, but not required.  
Donate online or mail your check to  
PO Box 3540, Montrose CO 81402.**

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



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[www.tchnetwork.org/raf](http://www.tchnetwork.org/raf)

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## Need Support for Substance Use or Recovery? We're Here to Help.

### Recovery Access Fund (RAF)

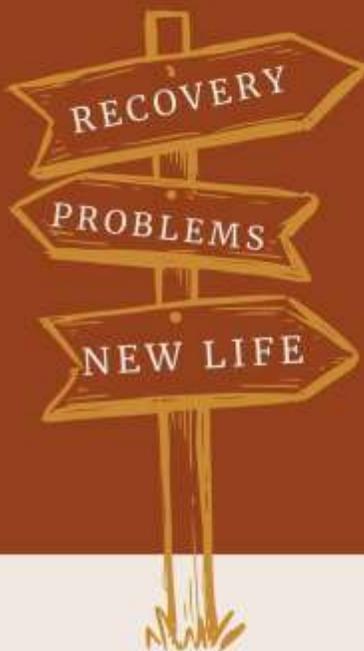
Residents or workers in Montrose, Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties can apply for a Recovery Access Fund (RAF) scholarship.

#### What You Get:

- Up to 12 counseling or therapy sessions at \$110 each
- For anyone with substance use challenges, in recovery, or sober curious



## Scan the QR code to get started today!



## Recovery is possible — you're not alone.

Behavioral Health Navigators can help you:

- Find a counselor
- Access healthcare
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- Connect to ongoing resources

### APPLY NOW



[www.tchnetwork.org/raf](http://www.tchnetwork.org/raf)

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MRH CEO JEFF MENGENHAUSEN FEATURED ON NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND WELLNESS PODCASTS *Discussions explore Navy SEAL training, leadership, and advancing healthcare excellence*

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) Chief Executive Officer Jeff Mengenhausen was recently featured on two national podcasts, the LeadUp Podcast and the Crackin’ Backs Podcast, to discuss leadership, resilience, and the lessons he carried from his Navy SEAL training into healthcare administration.

The LeadUp Podcast, hosted by Mike Harbour, president of Harbour Resources and founder of Developer of Leaders, features leaders in business, healthcare, and public service who share practical strategies for building stronger teams and organizations. The Crackin’ Backs Podcast, hosted by chiropractors Dr. Terry Weyman and Dr. Spencer Baron, focuses on physical, mental, and nutritional well-being, featur-

ing insights from medical and performance professionals around the world. “It’s like chess,” Mengenhausen said during his LeadUp interview. “You start strategizing. You have to drive forward, and I think it’s that mentality that we’re going to do this and we’re going to get it done. It’s a 20-mile march. If you’re sprinting, you’re going to burn out. It’s small, incremental changes that grow into greatness, consistency, and driving for that vision.”

In both podcast appearances, Mengenhausen reflects on his journey from Navy SEAL training to leading a regional health system. He shares how the discipline, teamwork, and accountability of military life shape his approach to leadership and patient-centered care. Mengenhausen

also discusses challenges facing healthcare organizations today and how Montrose Regional Health is setting a new standard for rural hospitals nationwide.

Episode 460 of the LeadUp Podcast featuring Jeff Mengenhausen is available at [tinyurl.com/yrb9xbmt](http://tinyurl.com/yrb9xbmt). Episode 244 of the Crackin’ Backs Podcast can be heard at [tinyurl.com/47jezaaa](http://tinyurl.com/47jezaaa). For more information on Montrose Regional Health, visit [MontroseHealth.com](http://MontroseHealth.com).



**Chief Executive Officer  
Jeff Mengenhausen**

**Black Friday and Small Business Saturday**  
**After Thanksgiving**  
**Nov. 28-29, 2025 • 9am to 4pm**

**50<sup>th</sup> Basement Boutique CRAFT SHOW**

Live Music

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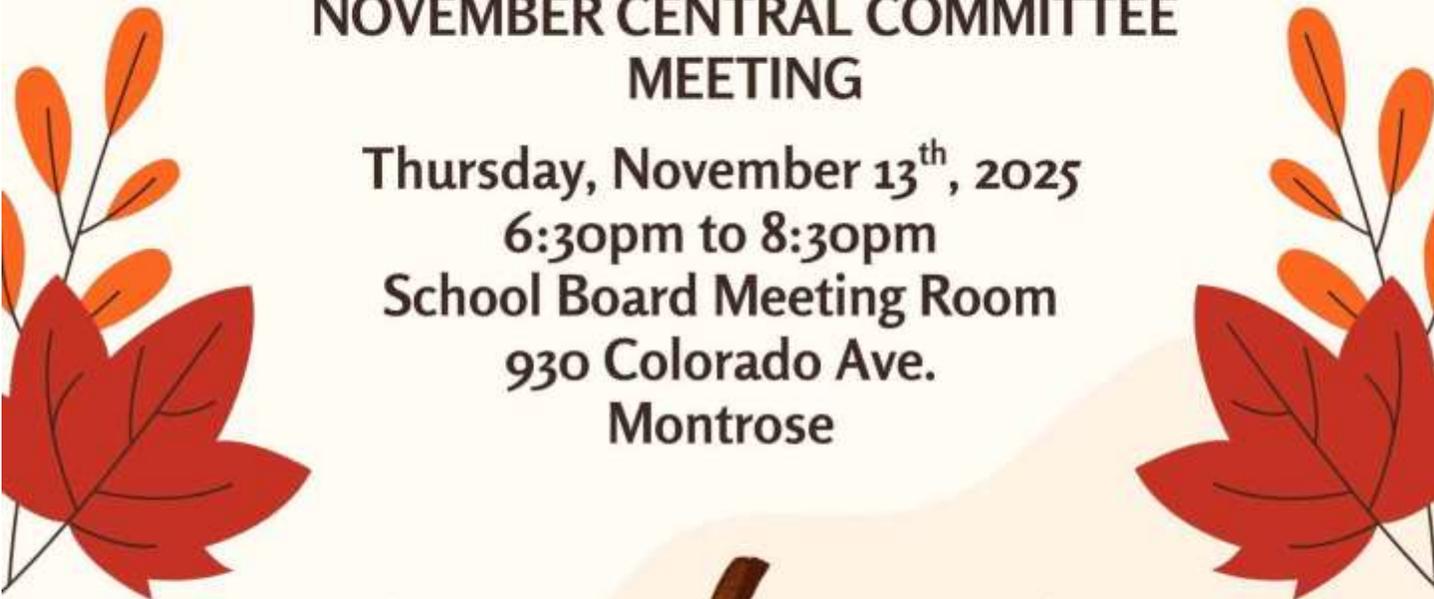
Gifts of canned goods much appreciated to support Sharing Ministries



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**REPUBLICANS,  
PLEASE JOIN US!**

**NOVEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING**



**Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
6:30pm to 8:30pm  
School Board Meeting Room  
930 Colorado Ave.  
Montrose**



**PAID FOR BY MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

# UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

## U.S. POSTAL SERVICE TO OBSERVE VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY, NOV. 11

### United States Postal Service

COLORADO— The U.S. Postal Service will observe Veterans Day on Tuesday, Nov. 11. All Post Office locations will be closed in recognition of the federal holiday. Only Priority Mail Express will be delivered that day, and regular mail delivery and retail services will resume on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

“On this important day we honor the military veterans who have served our nation,” said Postmaster General and CEO David Steiner. “The Postal Service is proud to be one of the largest civilian employers of America’s veterans. Their dedication, discipline and commitment to service enrich our organization and strengthen our connection to the communities we serve.”

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.

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 that allow customers to both drop off and pick up packages, often with 24/7 access available.

Many self-service kiosks are available 24/7, offering customers flexibility and convenience even when Post Offices are closed for the holiday.

For more information on USPS services, visit [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).





# SAN JUAN

## CANCER CENTER

## OPEN HOUSE

### AND COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS DISCUSSION

Please join us as we celebrate the new San Juan Cancer Center (Medical Oncology) and the Francie Smiles Infusion Center!

Tour the new building and learn about MRHs latest progress with the CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment).

**Tuesday, November 11**  
**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

San Juan Cancer Center and the Francie Smiles Infusion Center  
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Hot chocolate & cookies provided.

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## SEMI GOES OFF THE SIDE OF WOLF CREEK PASS

### Regain Bladder & Bowel Control

Free Community Health Talk on the Benefits of Axonics® Therapy with Michael S. Tonzi, MD

Wednesday, November 12, 2025  
12:00-1:00 PM

Montrose Regional Health - Conference Rooms A/B  
800 S. 3rd St., Montrose, CO 81401

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 970-497-8100.

**Axonics Therapy** is a minimally invasive treatment that uses gentle nerve stimulation to improve bladder and bowel control. It helps restore communication between the brain and pelvic nerves, providing long-lasting relief from symptoms such as incontinence and overactive bladder. Many patients experience an improved quality of life and greater confidence in daily activities.



Colorado State Patrol Courtesy photo  
MINERAL COUNTY-At approximately 08:21 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, the Colorado State Patrol responded to a crash involving a single commercial motor vehicle that went off the side of the highway and down the mountainside on Highway 160, 17 miles north of Pagosa Springs, before the scenic overlook. A 2020 Freightliner, hauling a trailer with canned drinks, was southbound on Hwy 160 near milepost 161. The Freightliner hit the barrier wall on the right side and bounced off. The semi rolled through the guardrail on the left side of the roadway down a steep embankment. Both the cab and trailer were destroyed rolling down the mountain. The driver, a 23-year-old male from New York, was not immediately located amid the large debris scene down the mountain. He was later found and was pronounced dead; it was confirmed that he had been ejected from the cab. The semi's trailer split open prior to rolling down the side of the mountain and spilled its cargo on the roadway. CDOT used a plow to clear the roadway of the cargo and debris. The initial investigation revealed that the semi was traveling at an excessive speed, with smoke coming from the brakes, and that the driver failed to take the runaway truck ramp 1.5 miles before the crash. The Colorado State Patrol Vehicular Crimes Unit will be handling the investigation.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## LIBRARY CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY FOLLOWING ELECTION RESULTS

*Library Campaign Election Committee*  
 MONTROSE— The Montrose Regional Library District is grateful to supporters and everyone who participated in this year’s election. While we are very disappointed that voters chose not to continue the .85 Mill Levy and did not remove the growth limits for property tax collections in the district.  
 “We understand the hard choices fami-

lies must make in these tough economic times,” said Emily Schneider, Library Election Committee Co-Chair.  
 This outcome will have a significant impact on the Montrose Regional Library District’s budget and the services the district provides to the community in the coming years.  
 “Our mission remains the same and we will strive to continue services and pro-

grams patrons rely on,” said Rachel Zatterstron, MRLD Trustee and Co-Chair of the Library Election Committee. “We have an amazing library district and we are determined to keep it strong as we plan for the future.”  
 The district will share more information in the coming months regarding adjustments and opportunities for community involvement.



Those who live in freedom  
 will always be grateful  
 to those who helped preserve it.

Remember and thank our veterans on Nov. 11  
 as you celebrate Veterans Day.

**Donate today to the Montrose Veterans Memorial**  
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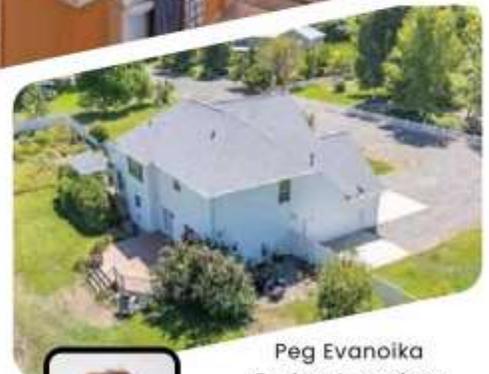
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## FEATURES

- 3 Bedrooms
- Covered Porch
- 3 Baths
- Shed/Storage
- Spacious Deck
- Koi Pond

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# MADA DIRECTOR HONORED BY CITY OF MONTROSE From pg 1

[the proclamation](#) and invited Kelly Thompson to accept it.

## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

First to speak was Mel McKelvey. "...I am the chair of the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance, a local community organizing group...the UVA and All Points Transit have been working in partnership for more than a year, working to advance specifically the movement of Montrose's public transportation-based needs....I am also here as a constituent and community member who is one paycheck, one medical emergency, one car breakdown away from not being able to access resources in this town...just about a year ago the 2A lodging tax that we were integral in passing...we know that the public transportation needs more investment. We need to be serving this community; we know that we need more creative solutions to move around the residents of Montrose so that they can lead productive lives."

McKelvey introduced Kendra Stucki, also of Uncompahgre Valley Alliance.

Stucki said, "It was really nice to talk to you all on a one-on-one basis...I'm on the leadership team of the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance...we successfully created a funding stream from the lodging tax revenues. Meanwhile, All Points Transit made several advancements and changes to their system in the course of the year, to better serve the community, knowing that they had very significant financial constraints.

"We're here tonight to ask the city to prioritize this money going to the city's only public transportation system, All Points Transit. In addition, UVA and All Points Transit want to collaborate with the City Manager's Office as well as the Community Development Office about the innovative and creative ways the revenues from the lodging tax can be spent to improve a robust, local transportation infrastructure and bring community voices to the table. "We'd love to have a meeting with anybody that's interested prior to the next budget meeting."

John Brown spoke, once again asking council to declare Montrose a non-sanctuary city. Brown said that he is not

against immigration. "...Matter of fact, our country is founded on immigration. The differences between legal and illegal immigrants is how they entered our country and how they will assimilate into this country, and how will they work within the confines of our immigration laws.

"A major part of our Colorado and National budgets have been going to illegal immigration support. We seem to bend over backwards to provide a gold-plated welcome mat to those individuals who have entered our country illegally while at the same time ignoring the problems of our own citizens who need essential services.

"Please declare Montrose non-sanctuary before it is too late," Brown said.

"Speaking of essential services...the city needs to step up to provide aid and assistance to our own citizen homeless population. Right now the weather is getting colder and there is only one place in town where our homeless population can get out of the cold--the Lighthouse, or Brown Center...that only provides a place for up to 30 people to get out of the cold...the Lighthouse, Inc and Shepherd's Hand, both agencies provide essential services to the most needy in our community, and the city keeps finding reasons to shut them out.

"Why not work with the Lighthouse, Inc. and Shepherd's Hand...we saw what a fiasco last year turned out to be when the city refused to help our homeless citizens and the Methodist Church stepped in to help. Look what it got them, a series of legal problems because the city will not and has not stood up to its responsibilities. Shepherd's hand does so much more than a hot meal daily..."

"Your time's up sir," Mayor Frank said.

Next to speak was Justin Oatman Grant, "Took the words right out of my mouth," he said. "...It's about the homeless. We got a problem, we do...it costs \$60,000 to put us in jail for a year. If you guys think that's a solution to our problem, it's not....as a community we should be loving our neighbors...I'm just asking, if we're camping out of sight and keeping it clean, to not be bothered.

"If we're making a mess, we'll police our own...I did...12 calendar years in DOC, I

don't like to be inside, locked doors both-er me, I have a dog I don't like...to be away from. They're my friends, we're human, just want to be treated like we're human...jail's not the right answer. Thank you."

Next to speak was Filoberto "Bill" Cordova. Cordova commended Bethany Maher for her work with MADA. "...I was one of the original members of MADA in the late '60's...MADA has always been for the community and for equal opportunity for everybody...I thank Montrose for what you have done with MADA..."

Though he now lives in Grand Junction, Cordova said, "...Montrose has always been my home, you guys take good care of it okay? Treat everybody like we are God's children. Thank you."

Applause broke out. Mayor Frank told the audience not to applaud.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the [minutes of the October 21, 2025](#), regular City Council meeting.

## ORDINANCE 2695

Council unanimously approved [Budget Ordinance 2695](#) on first reading, "providing and appropriating funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning January 2026." The [proposed budget](#) is included in the meeting packet.

## RESOLUTION 2025-18

Council adopted [Resolution 2025-18](#), "repealing and replacing Chapters 3-1-1, 3-1-2, and 3-1-3 of the City of Montrose Regulations Manual and adopting the [2026 fee schedule](#)."

The Fee schedule and a [redlined version](#) are included in the packet.

## RESOLUTION 2025-19

Council voted to adopt [Resolution 2025-19](#), to retain the City's existing permitting process and standards for electric vehicle charging developments.

## MADA BUILDING ASBESTOS REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

A member of the MADA Board, Councilor Ed Ulibarri recused himself from consideration and the vote.

MADA Director

**Continued next pg**

# MADA DIRECTOR HONORED BY CITY OF MONTROSE *From previous pg*

Bethany Maher was present as Council approved with four votes and one abstention the expenditure of \$57,415.15 for assistance with asbestos remediation of the new MADA property at 25 and 27 North Cascade Avenue.

City Manager Bill Bell gave a brief summary. "I'm filling in for Anthony Russo...it is a property that is underutilized, somewhat blighted, and really needs to be re-developed...Anthony Russo's done a lot of work on this...it has now gone from the planning stage and the contract's been issued to the contractor..."

The total project cost is estimated to be around \$2M, Bell said.

Bell said. "For quite a long time here in Montrose, we've believed one of the roles of local government is to come in and help businesses be more successful...there's unique circumstances with Downtown historic buildings and buildings that have been left in disrepair...when those properties change hands is when we get developers coming in or organizations coming in that want to do something great for the community...we know that these old buildings Downtown have a lot of hazards associated with them, and so we come in and partner, the private sector brings money to the table, or non-profits will bring their money to the table...this is just another one of those projects...we also help with other things...we believe in reinvesting in the infrastructure at the core of our business community...thankfully council's been very supportive of that...the DART program is amazing...we also just went to some conferences..."

Projects have been budgeted in a variety of places in the City's budget, Bell said. Said Mayor Dave Frank, "...One of the reasons we do this is for the public health and safety; having an abandoned or underused building becomes not only an eyesore but becomes a health hazard.

This council considers it our duty to make sure that we are making our community a safe place to live and do business."

MADA Director Bethany Maher discussed the project, which encompasses two buildings. "...We think it will take about a year, we hope..." MADA has grown and needs more space, she said. There will be a coffee shop on site, and entrepreneurs will be able to use the commercial kitchen. "We're excited, I think it's an innovative project..."

Following the vote, Ulibarri returned to Council Chambers.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SCADA SOFTWARE SERVICE AGREEMENT**  
Council approved an agreement with Browns Hill Engineering and Controls to provide Software as a Service (SaaS), at an annual cost of \$51,160, for the City's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.

**ORDINANCE 2696 - FIRST READING**  
Council approved Ordinance 2696 on first reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the Parsons Subdivision from R-4, High Density District, to B-2, Highway Commercial District.

**ORDINANCE 2697 - FIRST READING**  
Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2697 on first reading, amending the zoning district designation of 12658 6450 Road from MHR, Manufactured Housing Residential District, to R-6, Medium Density/Manufactured Housing District.

**WOODS CROSSING SUBDIVISION AMENDED PRELIMINARY PLAT**  
With Councilor Reed abstaining, the final item was approved with four votes and one abstention, the "Woods Crossing Subdivision Amended Preliminary Plat 2 expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinance and Municipal Code provisions are met and that the Applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to execution of the Final Plat."

**STAFF REPORTS**

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that he appreciated being invited to attend the Opioid Abatement Council in Loveland the previous week and thanked Council for the invitation.

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

Youth Councilor Katie Jakino said that Youth Council is working on a proclamation and is updating the Youth City Council manual. In a couple of weeks Jakino and Niyati Patel will attend the National League of Cities Summit.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Frank said, "Once again in our community we are faced with unfortunate information being put out in the community concerning our tax rate, and one of the things that I'd like to point out is that our current tax rate in the City of Montrose is three percent...any other sales tax that you see on your bills is 1.75 for the county and 2.9 for the state...the City of Montrose is one of the only communities that has a certain taxing that does not have a property tax to backfill other projects.

"We are very clear on the fact that our sales tax is the only funding source we utilize. In 2020 we put out an informational packet that showed that if we lose that funding source we would lose close to \$4M; that was five years ago. We can't take a \$4M to \$5M hit on our budget and expect to be able to function repairing the streets and getting the sewer plant and our water operating properly.

"Because of this information/disinformation the City will once again be putting out an information push packet, as well as we have available on our web site...we have answers to all these questions. I'd encourage our community please get the correct information and get the facts on these items. Thank you."

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE H-2A DILEMMA

*Editor:*

### **The Vital Role of Migrant Farm Workers**

Migrant farm workers under the H-2A visa program demonstrate an **unparalleled work ethic**. They endure grueling conditions to harvest crops that feed the nation, often working long hours in extreme weather. Their dedication is unquestionable and vital to American agriculture. However, a deeper issue arises when examining how this program intersects with social services, raising concerns about resource allocation and taxpayer burdens.

### **Addressing Recent Critiques**

In a recent article published in the Montrose Mirror October 27, 2025, Richard Bleier critiqued a prior viewpoint on H-2A workers and Social Security benefits. Bleier acknowledged that, technically, these workers are not entitled to Social Security, but he neglected to point out instances where ineligible individuals have accessed such benefits despite regulations. This highlights a broader problem of enforcement gaps in benefit distribution, separate from the core dilemma at hand.

### **Legal Framework and Eligibility Restrictions**

The primary concern lies in H-2A workers' access to other social services, which should prioritize U.S. citizens. Federal law, under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA, 8 U.S.C. § 1611), generally bars non-qualified aliens, including temporary visa holders like H-2A workers, from federal means-tested benefits such as SNAP and full Medicaid. H-2A workers are classified as non-qualified, meaning they are ineligible for these programs. They do not pay into Social Security or Medicare taxes, exempting them from FICA withholding and many H-2A workers are also exempt from federal income tax withholding as well.

### **The Loophole in Social Services Access**

Despite these restrictions, gaps exist. Some states, including Colorado, use state funds to extend benefits to non-citizens, including emergency Medicaid for undocumented or temporary residents who meet income thresholds. This creates a perceived loophole where H-2A workers, earning wages comparable to low-income citizens, might qualify for local, county, or state aid without the same citizenship scrutiny. **Citizenship is not verified as a matter of policy and qualifications often hinge on income self-reporting** rather than systems reporting income is not reported in real time through government databases and seasonal workers can game the system due to this lag. Citizens earning similar wages via W-2 employment may exceed asset or income limits, disqualifying them, while temporary workers navigate different designations.

### **Financial Burden on Taxpayers**

This setup burdens taxpayers. Nationally, improper payments and fraud in programs like SNAP and Medicaid cost billions annually. Cases reveal ineligible non-citizens receiving benefits through errors or fraud, such as in California, where the state improperly claimed \$52.7 million in federal Medicaid reimbursements for non-citizens with unsatisfactory immigration status. Similar issues appear in SNAP, with multimillion-dollar fraud schemes exploiting eligibility loopholes.

### **Colorado's Challenge**

In Colorado, the strain is evident. The state provides Medicaid to non-citizens, covering thousands each month. Recent federal investigations under the Trump administration target Colorado's spending on health care for immigrants, scrutinizing whether state funds inappropriately extend to ineligible groups. The Administration is in the process of recovering over \$1.3 billion from states (including Colorado), for illegally using federal tax dollars on health care for immigrants, which is illegal according to federal law. Yet the six states in question ignored federal law and used the federal funds regardless of the law. Reports indicate **Colorado's annual Medicaid costs for non-citizens exceed \$340 million**, a staggering figure amid budget constraints. This includes emergency care for over 36,000 non-citizens a month, amplifying concerns about sustainability. Proposed legislation, like Senate Bill 25-007, aims to repeal state-subsidized coverage for illegal immigrants, reflecting growing pushback.

### **Calls for Reform and Fairness**

This loophole undermines fairness. While H-2A workers contribute to the economy, their temporary status should limit access to citizen-prioritized services. Enforcement lapses allow some to tap into benefits, as seen in fraud cases where ineligible individuals use false documentation or system errors. Fact-checks confirm illegal immigrants, and other non-citizens are generally barred, yet real-world instances of improper access persist. Addressing this requires stronger verification and federal-state alignment. Closing loopholes would ensure resources serve citizens first, without diminishing appreciation for migrant workers' efforts. The dilemma underscores the need for reform in a system that costs billions while straining local communities.

**Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"**

**Michael is a father of five, grandfather of three, United States Air Force veteran, international recording artist, and Editor-in-Chief of the Colorado DOGE Report. He is passionate about the United States of America and the founders' genius in crafting the Constitution.**

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## “OUR COMMUNITY SHOWED UP—AND TOGETHER, WE RESTORED TRUST.”

*Editor:*

Tonight, as the results confirm the success of the recall, we are filled with gratitude and pride for this incredible community.

From the beginning, this effort was bigger than politics. Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliated voters came together when we all saw that our county leadership had lost its way—forcing the resignations of trusted employees and putting the county at financial risk unnecessarily. Bad decision upon bad decision led to a community outcry that united us all to recall Scott Mijares.

With neighbors standing shoulder to shoulder in the summer heat, collecting signatures outside the post office, the pickleball courts, Monte de Rosas, the Farmer’s Market, the recreation center, and the library and through the long days of summer and the crisp evenings of fall, our community showed up.

They showed up to talk with friends and neighbors, to sign postcards, to display yard signs, to make phone calls, to walk door to door, and to attend Honk & Wave events that lifted everyone’s spirits and spread the message of change. Together, we kept the conversation going about what matters most in Montrose County.

From the very beginning, people told us what they wanted: to restore integrity, public trust, accountability, and fiscal responsibility to our local leadership. By recalling Scott Mijares, we did just that.

To our campaign team, our volunteers, and every single supporter—we can’t thank you enough. Your energy, persistence, and kindness carried us through.

This victory belongs to all of us. It’s proof that when people come together, listen to each other, and care deeply about their community, real change is possible.

*With gratitude and love,*

*Phoebe and Linda*



## IT IS WITH GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT THAT I MUST REACH OUT YET AGAIN

*Editor:*

It is with great disappointment that I must reach out yet again to your publication due to your purposely misleading and inaccurate article regarding tax on food here in Montrose. You know the accurate numbers and chose to lie to the public anyway. I ask again for you and the few misguided naysayers who routinely team up with you, to please quit making inaccurate statements about the City of Montrose in your publication.

Thank you,

*Bill*

*William E Bell, MPA*

*City Manager*

*Montrose, Colorado*

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *The information about the sales tax rate in Montrose that was included in last week’s article on the economy was sourced from the City of Montrose web site. Still, the information provided was incomplete. While the actual sales tax rate in the City of Montrose is 8.53% as reported, The total sales tax rate is 9.33% for restaurants and 9.43% for hotel / lodging establishments. We apologize for the omission.*

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# RED HAWKS VOLLEYBALL ROUND UP

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-Prior to the regional tournaments, the Montrose Red Hawks traveled to Discovery Canyon for a two-day competition on the East Slope. The Red Hawks used this competition to tune up for the upcoming Regionals and ended up winning two matches and losing two matches.

## **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, ERIE TIGERS 2**

The Erie Tigers gave the Red Hawks all they could handle in the first match at Discovery Canyon. The Tigers won the first and third matches and the Red Hawks prevailed in the second, fourth, and fifth games. Leading the Red Hawks attack were Marcella Mendoza and Maggie Legg with 24 and 19 kills. The Red Hawks also had a dozen blocks and the team was credited with 110 digs. Lilly Nelson was credited with service receptions.

## **UNIVERSITY BULLDOGS 3, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0**

The University Bulldogs had the number of the Red Hawks this day as the scoring was close but the Bulldogs prevailed 25-22, 25-20 and 25-20. Maggie Legg led all Red Hawks with 16 kills while Lilly Nelson and Amaya Potter had 11 and 10 digs respectively.

## **MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, EATON REDS 0**

The Eaton Reds, always a tough team, ended up on the losing end of the match with the Red Hawks. The scores were 25-19, 25-18, and 25-22. The Red Hawks maintained the tempo and the flow of the game. Maggie Legg and Marcella Mendoza led the attack with 13 and 10 kills. Lilly Nelson led the team with 30 assists.

## **ROCK CREEK JAGUARS 3, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0**

The Red Hawks ran into a buzz saw in their last match of the day, 3-0 as the Jaguars basically controlled the tempo of the game. The Jags outscored the Red Hawks 25-14, 25-22 and 25-18. These four games gave the Red Hawks good tournament experience as they headed into the Regional Tournament at the Montrose Field House.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THANK YOU TO THE COUNTY AND TO THE CITIZENS OF MONTROSE

*Editor:*

After 5 years 'chasing' the Courthouse Restoration project and then finally being the successful bidder on this 'once in a lifetime' construction project we are finally closing this incredible chapter.

There are so many emotions and experiences we've all had together as a construction team.

A structural beam we discovered had failed and allowed our team to have a few sleepless nights until we could get it fixed, an alley that had to be dug up and buried 4 times for each specific utility and required meetings and coordination we now realize was a project in and of itself. Constructing a structural fire escape and new front steps along with replacing a roof and upgrading the integrity of the structural roof system all were done with care and wisdom of workmen and women from our own hometown.

Zane and Billy not giving up on finding the Time Capsule and finally 'punching through' the 3,000-pound granite stone itself entombed 103 years, 2 months and

6 days ago. That was a remarkable challenge and feat that likely won't be repeated in our lifetime, and we will cherish this as a highlight of our construction careers.

For all of this we are grateful to so many people that made it possible, Jon Washbusch, Emily Sanchez, Jennifer Murray, and Frank Rodriguez. The stewards of our County at the time Sue Hansen, Roger Rash, and Keith Caddy, for seeing this need and persevering to get it done, we say Thank you!

The BG and Company design team, Peter Icenogle, Shannon Powers, Chad Miller, and Erin Robinson, for their ideas to keep the character and allow the 'old to meet the new' in a respectful manner.

Our whole Stryker and Company construction team was instrumental in delivering the project with the highest quality and in the safest manner possible, and for that we can thank Zane Brown, Abigail Recacho, Charles Bunney, and Billy Dean for leading the way on site, and in the office, and we're grateful for their leadership from start to finish.

It's made up of a new fire protection system, 130 new windows, 4000' of condenser lines to heat and cool the spaces, 20,000' of electrical wiring and 25,000' of data wires to power up the County and to support its citizens, 120 tons of structural fill imported by conveyor and wheel barrow by men just as strong as they were in 1922, 450' of micro piles to support a new 4 story elevator, and I could go on and on.

That is what we put into this building to make it last another 102 years. What we got back was a project that gave our company, our subcontractors, and most importantly our community something to be proud of.

Today is a day to stand proud to be a Citizen of the Montrose County.

Thank you to the County and to the Citizens of Montrose for entrusting us with this beautiful opportunity to serve you.

*Stryker & Company*  
*Regards*

**CHARLES BUNNEY**

*Vice President of Construction Operations*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE MORE DISTURBING THE BEHAVIOR, THE MORE DEMOCRATS REWARD IT

*Editor:*

Democrats continue in a self-inflicted downward spiral. Senator John Kennedy put it this way: "Even duct tape can't fix the stupid" that the Democrat party has embraced. Per Kennedy, Democrats are obsessed with Trump, hate that he is still succeeding, and are fine with making the American people suffer so they have political leverage. Chuck Schumer: "Every day of the shutdown gets better for us." Bernie Sanders: "You reopen the government and we lose our leverage." Dem Congresswoman Katherine Clark: "There will be families that are going to suffer ... but it is one of the few leverage times we have."

Opening the government; paying workers, soldiers, and air traffic controllers; and funding SNAP so needy families won't go hungry is less important than having the political leverage to force taxpayers to pay for free healthcare for illegals. Like everything else Democrats do, their rhetoric on the shutdown crumbles under the least amount of scrutiny and reveals a consistent pattern of hypocrisy and fabrication.

Dem after Dem branded Trump and Elon Musk "Nazis" without any evidence whatsoever, and even labeled Hegseth a "white nationalist" because of his Christian tattoo. Now they fully endorse Maine senator Graham Platner who had an actual Nazi SS tattoo for something like thirteen years until he covered it up this past week. Platner's extremism and violent rhetoric seem to fit in quite well with today's Democrat party.

Likewise with the deranged newly elected Dem Virginia attorney general, Jay Jones, who wrote about wanting to "put two bullets in the head" of his Republican rival – and then went on to text about wishing death on that person's children. Jones later stated that he wished the Republican's wife could watch her child die in her arms. The Dems' new socialist NYC mayor, Zohran Mamdani, claimed his hijab-wearing aunt faced Islamophobia harassment on the subway post 9/11 and tried to frame Muslims as the victims – just another leftist exploiting tragedy for political gain while dismissing the 2,977 Americans murdered that day. The aunt neither wore a hijab nor lived in the U.S. during that time. A year ago, Obama insisted on black male voters supporting Kamala Harris, but actively campaigned against Virginia's present Lt. Governor Winsome Sears -- the only black candidate for governor -- in favor of Abigail Spanberger. This is the same Spanberger who repeatedly refused to condemn Jay Jones when pressed by Sears in their

debate.

An eagerness to smear without any verification is now the Democrats' stock and trade. Democrat Rep Jasmine Crockett just came out with a new message that is simply devastating for every conservative: Gasp! She called Trump and everyone who voted for him a racist! Democrats desperately try to find a message, any message, that will not immediately be ridiculed. This isn't one of them after playing that card a thousand times too many. Even more ridiculous was their "Top Priority Hoax." White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt responded to a question from a reporter about whether President Trump had any more renovations planned beyond the East Wing. She responded: "Not to my knowledge, no. But he is a builder at heart, clearly. And so his mind is always churning about how to improve things here at the White House grounds. But at this moment in time, of course, the ballroom is really the president's main priority." Democrats immediately edited the video to only include the last sentence to make it appear that the President prioritizes the renovations over all world and domestic affairs. The deception was so egregious that even CNN had to call them out on the obvious lie. During that same week, Trump was in South Korea negotiating a payment of \$350 billion as consideration for slightly lowering South Korea's tariff rate, and meeting with Chinese Premier Xi to defuse a looming trade disaster.

Trump inked four new rare-earth agreements and persuaded China to buy massive amounts of American soybeans and other farm products and to commit to yet more fentanyl-reducing policies. Trump agreed to lower China's tariff rate from 57% to 47%. Not exactly what one would do if he were sitting back at the White House picking out colors for the new East Wing.

Democrats deciding to go hysterical about Trump's east wing renovations shows how desperate they are for anything – anything – to distract from their disastrous policies and culpability in the ongoing Schumer shutdown. Even though the plans for the East Wing have been known since July, suddenly Democrats are telling us that the White House is the "People's House" and that we should somehow be offended that Trump is using private funds (\$300 million) to build a ballroom that future administrations will use. The most obvious hypocrisy was from the Clintons, including Hillary and Chelsea. The Clintons removed (stole) tens of thousands in furnishings when

they left the White House, which they were forced to return. You will also recall the scandal of their selling Lincoln Bedroom access, as well as Clinton staffers doing more than \$10,000 in damage on their way out the door prior to Bush entering. Then, of course, there are Bill Clinton's ... extracurricular ... activities in the Oval Office. (And no, Trump is not naming the new addition the "Monica Lewinsky Ballroom.") Obama added his respect to the "People's Home" when he hosted members of the Muslim Brotherhood, an extremist group designated as a terrorist organization by a dozen nations. The Biden family helped out with the discovery of a bag of cocaine in the West Wing. Hunter's laptop contained pictures of frequent drug use alongside of e-mails about personal business deals with China and Ukraine. California Governor Gavin Newsom added his hysterics, but failed to mention he approved spending one billion dollars of taxpayer money to tear down and renovate the east side of the California state Capitol. This is the same governor who just said Biden is one of the most successful U.S. presidents in the last hundred years. This is the same extremely wealthy governor who talked about being poor and being raised by a divorced single mother, but failed to mention his father was a lawyer who managed the Getty oil trust. Newsom's family friend and Getty heir Gordon Getty invested in ten of Newsom's businesses, no doubt contributing to Newsom's \$30 million net worth..

It seems that the more disturbing the behavior, the more Democrats reward it.

They have no problem attempting to shield their own liars, extremists, and hypocrites, while simultaneously slandering the opposition. You won't hear anything from the liberal media about the Biden administration's Arctic Frost operation. Arctic Frost was a fishing expedition where corrupt partisan FBI agents and DOJ prosecutors illegally investigated the entire Republican apparatus plus conservative advocacy groups – including Turning Point USA. In what was essentially a Biden administration enemies list, twenty percent of Senate Republicans' cell phones were accessed.

Staying in power trumps all ethics. Democrats have shown us that we are not the same. For example, they think the American people won't notice the difference between President Trump signing a treaty for peace in the middle east and Governor Tim Walz signing a bill for late term abortions.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## HONORING A PATRIOTIC MONTROSE PIONEER FAMILY

Dear Editor,

On this Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, I want to honor an incredibly unique patriotic Montrose pioneer family by telling their story.

The following heroes of WW2 were all uncles of Francine Romero Stollsteimer who grew up in Montrose around her uncles and enjoyed each unique, and different personality.

Fran was born and raised in Montrose and still lives here after raising her family. Please join me in recognizing the Romero family of Montrose as possibly the most patriotic family ever to live in Montrose. Henry and Mary Romero both came to Montrose before 1900. Henry from New Mexico and Mary Magdalene Kane from Missouri by covered wagon. They were married in Montrose on June 26, 1917. The blessed marriage had 5 boys and 2 girls, all born and raised in Montrose.

All of the boys played football for the Montrose Indians and went on to serve our country in the various branches of the United States military and all served in wartime. The hero Romero family members are listed below.

Henry J. Romero, was named after his father. Born April 7, 1918 at Montrose, Colorado. Henry enlisted in the U.S. Navy on November 13, 1942 at Montrose, Colorado. Henry served during World War 2 in the European theater until the war ended on September 2, 1945 and then he was honorably discharged days later on September 28, 1945. Henry came back to Col-

orado and worked for the railroad in the 1950s and for the Pueblo steel mill in the 1960s. Henry died on October 2, 1996 at Montrose, Colorado. Henry is buried at Grand View Cemetery, Montrose, Colorado next to his brothers.

Lee Edward Romero, named after his uncle Ed Romero. Born March 29, 1922 at Montrose, Colorado. Lee enlisted in the U.S. Army December 13, 1942 at Salt Lake City, Utah. Sargent Lee Romero served in WW2 as an 82nd Airborne Paratrooper in the European theater.

In October 1944 the war department notified his parents in Montrose that Lee had been shot through the throat but he recovered and continued to serve until his honorable discharge on January 18, 1946. Lee helped me coach little league baseball for the recreation district. Lee died April 10, 1996 at Montrose, Colorado. Lee is buried at Grand View Cemetery, Montrose, Colorado next to his brothers.

Melvin David Romero was born August 5, 1926 at Montrose, Colorado. Melvin enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August of 1944 and served during World War 2 in the Pacific. Melvin obtained the rank of Ensign in June of 1957. Melvin served in Korea during the duration of that war getting a 6-week rest and recuperation before going back. Finally Melvin served during the Vietnam war in the South China Sea before retiring in June of 1967.

Fortunately the United States still has the presence of Melvin Romero as he lives a good healthy life at 99 years young in Evansville, Indiana.

Donald Joe Romero, named after his

grandfather Joe Camillo Romero. Born March 13, 1929, Montrose, Colorado. Fibbed about his age to enlist March 30, 1944 at Denver, Colorado. Don served as a Sergeant in the US Marine Corps and served in World War 2. Don was aboard a carrier escort ship when it was hit by a kamikaze plane. Don was honorably discharged after the war in 1948 but was activated again for the war in Korea and the war in Vietnam. Don died June 28, 1989 at Montrose, Colorado and is buried at Grand View Cemetery, Montrose, Colorado next to his brothers.

Robert Eugene Romero born February 2, 1936 at Montrose, Colorado. Robert served in the National Guard until he joined the Army on November 2, 1955 and was honorably discharged in 1958. Robert then enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1958 and served out a career before retiring in 1978. He was a Gunners Mate and served on a destroyer ship in the South China Sea during the Vietnam war where he ran into his brother Melvin who was aboard a destroyer ship. Robert was a longtime active member of the local American Legion. Robert died November 29, 2021 at Montrose, Colorado and is buried at Grand View Cemetery, Montrose, Colorado next to his brothers. The Romero boys also had an amazing hero nephew Kenneth (Butch) Romero who served in Vietnam and was killed in a mining accident in 1969 and is buried at Valley Lawn Cemetery. Butch was Fran's brother.

Please honor the memory and the service of this brave family.

*Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## FREE CONNECT FOR HEALTH COLORADO MARKETPLACE OPEN ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) is offering **free, in-person Open Enrollment assistance** this November to help residents find, renew, or update their 2026 health insurance coverage.

Community members can attend any of the following walk-in events:

**-Ridgway Public Library:** *Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> (today), 1:00–6:00 p.m.*

**-Norwood’s Lone Cone Public Library:** *Wednesday, November 12th, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.*

**-Naturita’s WEEDC Building (217 W. Main St):** *Wednesday, November 12th, 2:00–4:00 p.m.*

No appointment is needed — assistance will be provided **on a first-come, first-served basis**, and events are **open to everyone**. TCHN’s Certified Health Coverage Guides will be available to answer questions, explore coverage options, and ensure applications are accurate and complete.

Don’t miss your chance to get covered for 2026. For more information, visit [tchnetwork.org](http://tchnetwork.org) or call **970-708-7096**.

Remember, for your coverage to begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>, you must enroll by December 15<sup>th</sup>. For coverage to begin on February 1<sup>st</sup>, you need to enroll no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2026.

Do not rely on auto enrollment this year, as premiums have changed. For free assistance in enrolling, stop by one of these important Open Enrollment events and ensure you have the coverage your family needs at a cost that works best with your budget. TCHN’s Certified Health Coverage Guides are certified by Connect for Health Colorado. They are able to assist you with enrolling through Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid), as well.

**Tri-County Health Network**

**Collaborating with their communities to improving health for everyone. TCHN is a nonprofit organization offering free Connect for Health Colorado Marketplace Open Enrollment assistance across Delta, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties.**

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE-UPDATED NEWS RELEASE

*Special to the Mirror*

### REVIEW

MONTROSE-The initial call of came into WestCO Dispatch on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 1:39 am.

Montrose County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area of 510 Chipeta Drive in regards to possible shots being fired. Montrose County Sheriff, Colorado State Patrol and Montrose Police responded and located a female victim lying on the ground with what appeared to be a gunshot wound to her body.

The victim was transported to Montrose Regional Hospital in serious condition and was later airlifted by Care Flight to Saint Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office Investigation Division conducted interviews and obtained information from possible witnesses whom were present at the scene. The scene appeared to have been the location of a large Halloween party with many individuals attending.

During the time of incident, no arrests had been made.

### UPDATED INFORMATION

On November 1, 2025 at 5:12 pm, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office Investigation Division along with Investigators with the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI) arrested a 16-year-old male in connection with this shooting.

The male has been charged with Attempted 1st Degree Murder and 1st Degree Assault and transported to a juvenile detention facility.

There is no welfare concerns for citizens living in the area of the incident.

If you have heard or have any information concerning this incident, please call WestCO Dispatch at 970-249-9110 and refer to case report number S25-17687.

Sheriff Gene R. Lillard

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## KID'S HAVEN AT HAVEN HOUSE RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE OF COLORADO FOR BEING AN EXCELLENT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Charlotte Ruiz, the Director of "Kids' Haven," brought her knowledge, skills and 15 years of experience from Kids N Us in Washington State to Kids' Haven in 2021. Haven House Board President, Lillian Fredericksen, referred to Charlotte as the "Best Childcare Director in Colorado." Ms Fredericksen went on to say that Kids' Haven has gone through an intensive process by the State that demonstrates high quality in all aspects of their program...from curriculum and business practices to teacher training and building strong partnerships with families and the community to create a supportive and enriched learning environment for children.

**Charlotte Ruiz is the director of "Kid's Haven," a preschool at Haven House Transitional Housing Program in Olathe, Courtesy photo.**

*Special to the Mirror*  
OLATHE-Colorado Shines, a program within the Colorado Department of Early Childhood Education, recently announced that "Kid's Haven," a preschool at Haven

House Transitional Housing Program in Olathe, was rated Level 5 and joins ONLY 4% of all the licensed centers across the State in achieving excellence in its early childhood program.

Haven House, a non-profit founded in 2010, is committed to providing safe, stable, supportive and transitional housing for homeless families as they work toward self-sufficiency.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CONSERVATIVE TIDE IN MONTROSE COUNTY EDUCATION TEMPERED BY DISTURBING UNDERBELLY

Editor:

As the dust settles on the November 4, 2025, election in Montrose County, Colorado, the unofficial results paint a clear picture of voter priorities: a resounding endorsement of conservative values in the classroom, coupled with a sharp rebuke of personality clashes and certain local measures. With a turnout of **48.84%** (16,698 ballots cast out of 34,187 registered voters), **a strong showing for an off-year election**, these outcomes signal a community eager for change in education but demanding accountability from its leaders. The Montrose County School Board races delivered a clean sweep for candidates championing traditional principles, while the recall of County Commissioner Scott Mijares highlights the influence of "**dark money**" in elections. Additionally, voters rejected the Montrose City Charter Amendment and soundly defeated Library District Measures 6A and 6B, reflecting broader fiscal conservatism.

### School Board Results: A Mandate for Conservative Reforms

The school board races resulted in a strong mandate against perceived progressive overreach in public education. Here's a breakdown of the districts:

**-District A: Neisha Balleck** triumphed with 8,077 votes (57.2%) over Darren Sofka's 6,039 votes (42.8%), with 1,588 undervotes. Balleck, endorsed by local Republican groups and conservative advocates like the Rocky Mountain Voice, campaigned on restoring focus to core academics, parental rights, and fiscal discipline, hallmarks of the "no more woke agendas" push.

**-District C: Scott Scarborough** edged out Alice Murphy with 7,727 votes (53.8%) to 6,612 votes (46.2%). Scarborough emphasized transparency and opposition to policies seen as ideologically driven.

**-District E: Tiffany Vincent** dominated with 7,629 votes (54.5%), far outpacing Kris Besler's 4,871 votes (34.8%) and Hallee Mundell's 1,498 votes (10.7%). Vincent's platform focused on school safety, merit-based education, and resistance to divisive social curricula, aligning with a broader conservative wave to "turn around the failing Montrose County

School District."

**-District G: Shane Daly** secured 7,844 votes (55.8%) against Jessica Corrigan's 6,193 votes (44.2%). Daly pledged to prioritize student achievement over bureaucratic experiments. Across these districts, voter participation was around 48.9% (15,704 out of 32,117 eligible voters). The results reflect a preference for depoliticizing education in favor of practical, family-centered reforms. In a county where Republican values run deep, these non-partisan races have become battlegrounds for national issues like curriculum transparency and gender policies. Endorsements from groups opposing "woke" influences mobilized voters frustrated with declining test scores and administrative bloat. If the new board members deliver, Montrose could become a model for rural Colorado communities focused on excellence rather than social engineering.

### The Commissioner Recall: A Caution on Leadership Style

The recall of Commissioner Scott Mijares added nuance, showing that conservatism isn't a blank check. Voters approved the recall by 8,439 "Yes" votes (52.05%) to 7,773 "No" votes (47.95%), ousting Mijares by a margin of **666 votes**.

**-Successor Election:** Unaffiliated candidate Kirstin Copeland won with 7,963 votes, **but with 8,687 undervotes, indicating some recall supporters abstained or had reservations**. Copeland, a former park manager with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, promised steady, professional leadership and collaboration.

This outcome, influenced by thousands of dollars in "**dark money**," was portrayed not as a grassroots effort but a systematic operation driven by personality conflicts rather than policy disagreements. While Mijares could have benefited from better interpersonal skills (as this author has noted previously), recalls are typically reserved for serious misconduct like illegal activities, not mere clashes. Nonetheless, the results are final, and the county must move forward. Copeland's victory suggests a desire for stability in red-leaning Montrose, reminding leaders to balance boldness with bipartisanship.

### Montrose City Charter Amendment and

### Library District Measures: Fiscal Conservatism Prevails

Voters also weighed in on local ballot measures, rejecting proposals that could have expanded government spending or authority.

**-Montrose City Charter Amendment:** The measure, which aimed to amend the city charter (specific details on the amendment's content were not detailed in results but focused on governance changes), failed with **3,912 votes against (52.2%)** to 3,576 votes for (47.8%). This narrow defeat underscores voter caution toward charter revisions.

**-Library District Measure 6A:** This measure was defeated soundly, **9,933 No/Against** and **5,585 Yes/For** to , reflecting opposition to potential tax increases or expansions for library services.

**-Library District Measure 6B:** Similarly, Measure 6B faced strong rejection by wide margins, **10,050 No/Against** and **5,694 Yes/For** indicating a community prioritizing fiscal restraint over additional library funding. These results, available from the official election summary at the Montrose County election results page, align with the conservative tide, as voters resisted measures perceived as unnecessary burdens.

**Looking Ahead: Unity and Accountability Taken together, these results reflect a sophisticated electorate that embraces conservative education reforms to protect the next generation, insists on ethical governance, and applies fiscal scrutiny to local measures.** Montrose County's future looks brighter with a school board poised to prioritize students over ideology. The recall serves as a caution that **out-of-state dark money is lurking in the shadows**. But, let's hope these outcomes foster unity rather than division. The voters have spoken; now it's time for the winners to deliver.

**Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"**  
*Michael is a father of five, grandfather of three, United States Air Force veteran, international recording artist, and Editor-in-Chief of the [Colorado DOGE Report](#). He is passionate about the United States of America and the founders' genius in crafting the Constitution.*

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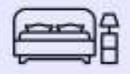
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# Colorado-ology

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## REGION 10 ADDS MOBILE FOOD TRAILER TO BUSINESS CULTIVATOR SERVICES *Clients of Business Cultivator can lease for commercial kitchen and off-site use*

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning is adding a new service, leasing of a mobile food trailer, at its Business Cultivator in Olathe. The mobile food trailer was created by Homestead Hut, a Gunnison-based business, and features a fully equipped kitchen for commercial food preparation.

Located between Delta and Montrose, the Business Cultivator opened in April 2023 expressly for entrepreneurship and kitchen incubation. From a commissary kitchen to startup programming and coworking, it's an incubator that facilitates the fast flow of information and resources to help new and existing businesses navigate each stage of growth. The Business Cultivator provides additional Region 10 business resources, including the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and regional business loan fund to provide easy access to a comprehensive suite of resources.

The trailer will be stationed at the Business Cultivator from November 2025 to

April 2026 and have three primary uses. First, the trailer is an extension of the commissary kitchen that is already available at the Business Cultivator. Second, the trailer will be utilized by Region 10 for educational and demonstration purposes so that food businesses and people who are thinking about starting a food truck can see how a mobile kitchen operates. Finally, food businesses can lease it for off-site use at community events, weddings, business gatherings and more.

Business owners located in the Delta, Montrose, and Olathe areas are eligible to use the mobile food trailer and must be clients of the Business Cultivator kitchen. There is an hourly fee to use the trailer as a commissary kitchen and a daily fee to lease it for retail sales at community and private events.

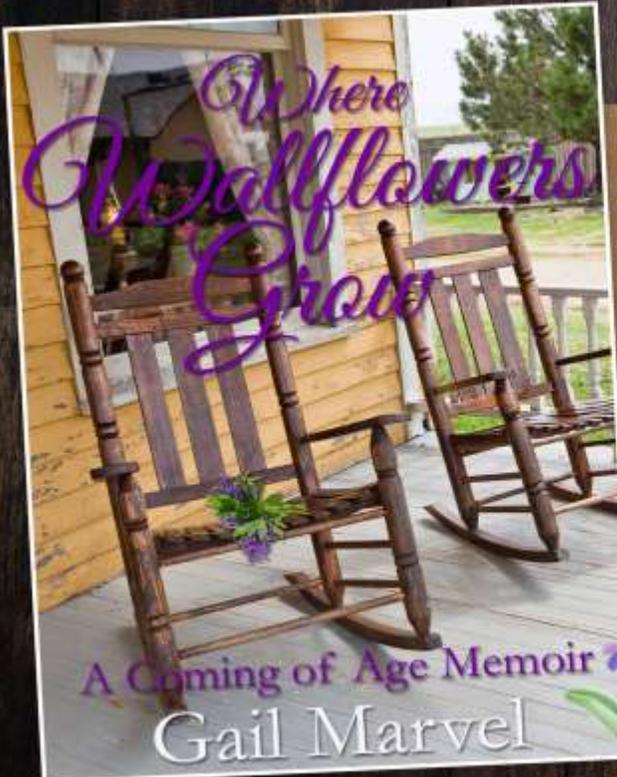
"The goal of the project is to expand our current kitchen capacity, while giving clients the opportunity to test their mobile food idea and to give them hands-on experience in a truck before taking the leap and purchasing a truck of their own," says

Adriana Chavira, Business Cultivator program manager.

In early 2026, Callie Koch, program manager for Region 10's SBDC office serving west central Colorado, and Joseph Kean, owner of Homestead Hut, are teaming up to present a "How to Start a Mobile Food Business in Colorado" workshop. "We will be using the mobile unit to help business owners understand what is required to operate a mobile food business, as well as how to create a sustainable food business," Koch says.

In addition to the kitchen/trailer space and Business Cultivator, Region 10 and West Central SBDC offer a myriad of business resources to support new and existing businesses, including access to capital; no-cost, one-on-one advising; a comprehensive offering of low-cost trainings; coworking; and connections to a wide variety of additional resources.

For more information, reach out to Adriana Chavira at 970.765.3136 or [achavira@region10.net](mailto:achavira@region10.net) or Callie Koch at 970.765.3139 or [callie@region10.net](mailto:callie@region10.net).



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**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## POWERING PROGRESS: GARNET MESA SOLAR BRINGS LOCAL ENERGY TO LIFE

by Jack Johnston, DMEA CEO

REGIONAL-In late September, we were honored to celebrate a milestone that had been years in the making—the grand opening of Garnet Mesa Solar in Delta County. Spanning over 380 acres, this project is one of Colorado’s largest agri-voltaic installations. It combines locally generated, renewable energy with agricultural production to benefit our members and honor the region’s heritage.

Garnet Mesa will generate over 200,000 MWh per year, of which DMEA will receive over 35 percent as part of our wholesale power purchase agreement. Even more im-

pressive, the site will provide grazing pasture for 1,300 sheep this winter, showing how renewable energy and traditional ranching can work together for a more sustainable future.

Projects like Garnet Mesa take more than innovation — they take partnership and the smart use of available resources. DMEA worked with Alluvial Power, Guzman Energy, Delta County, and other local collaborators to bring this vision to life. Thanks to this teamwork, DMEA has increased its local renewable energy offtake percent, meaning more of the power that keeps our lights on will now come from the hills of our service territory.

Garnet Mesa Solar proves what’s possible when communities invest in local power. It reminds us that our cooperative model — owned by members and driven by the community — continues to deliver tangible benefits, providing safe, affordable power. As we look toward the winter ahead, Garnet Mesa reminds us that the future of energy is bright—and it’s being built right here in our backyard.



Garnet Mesa Solar in Delta County. Courtesy photo.



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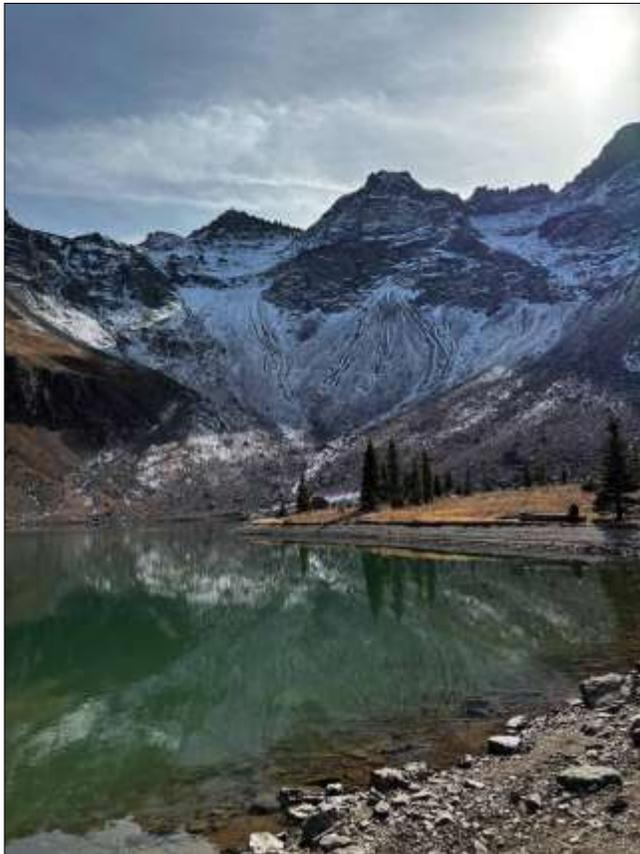
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# MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



*Mirror team members hiked the Blue Lakes Trail on Saturday and shared photos with us. Photo at left is by Harry Switzer. Selfie below is by B. Switzer.*



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# THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Gathering for an evening service of worship and fellowship. Let's thank the Lord together!

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## NOV. 19: MONTROSE, COLORADO GEOTHERMAL ENERGY LISTENING SESSION

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Do you think geothermal energy could work for western Colorado? How could geothermal heating/cooling or electrical power help reach the area's energy goals? NREL is leading a state-level engagement

effort focused on hearing perspectives associated with geothermal energy. Through this effort, NREL works with the Colorado Geothermal Council (CGC) to develop their engagement methodology including virtual and in-person education events in Colorado.

Join NREL researchers on Nov. 19 at the Montrose County Events Center for a Geothermal Energy Listening Session to learn more about this resource. Share your experiences with geothermal, learn geothermal basics, or gather for a social hour:

- Public Listening Session (Montrose County Events Center)—4:30-6 p.m.
- Public Geothermal Education Session (Montrose County Events Center)—6-7 p.m.
- Networking Event (Colorado Boy Brewery)—7:30-9 p.m.

Coordinated in partnership with the Colorado Geothermal Council, state agencies, industry, and nonprofits, the goal of the event is to connect with Coloradans about geothermal energy and how it could support community energy goals.

We look forward to seeing you at this FREE Community Event. Thank you for helping us to get the word out!

RSVP Montrose:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=fp3yoM0oVE-EQniFruFagOJ-Wfl272ZOIXjr6N-vvv9UMFRKNUhSSENOUEIyRIUwSUp-BMkNBTVVkMi4u&route=shorturl>



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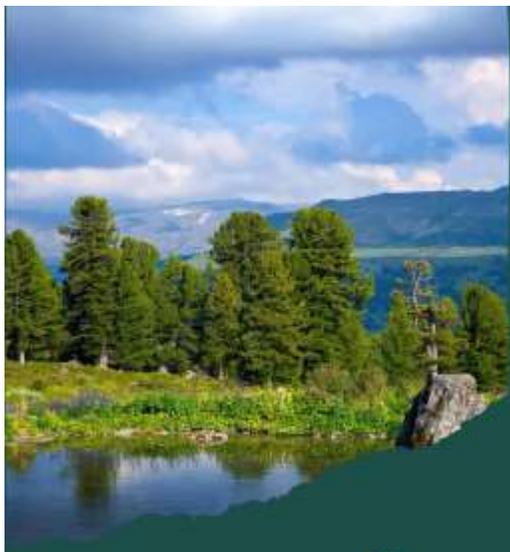
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WEEKLY CARTOON

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

# This home has **POTENTIAL**

This home is in need of some TLC, but you will have a detached shop with a new metal roof, additional out buildings, irrigated acre and room to make your world. There is space to park toys, vehicles, room for animals, garden (irrigation water available). Owner has replaced the sewer line to main. Main bedroom has new laminate flooring and a bathroom has been updated. This may be the "diamond in the rough" you were looking for.



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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## CLYDE LESLIE RENFROW JR.

**August 11, 1948 — October 27, 2025**



LES RENFROW of Delta entered into his eternal rest on Monday, October 27, 2025. He had been a patient at Colorow Care Center in Olathe since July and died from complications of Parkinson's Plus Disease. Family members were at his bedside at his passing.

Les Renfrow was born Clyde Leslie Renfrow, Jr. to Clyde Leslie and Mildred Arlene (Winters) Renfrow on August 11, 1948 in Grand Junction, CO. He attended Delta schools and graduated from Delta High School in 1966. He was honored to serve as the school's Student Body President his senior year. He then graduated from the University of Colorado in 1970 with a B.S. in Accounting.

On May 29, 1971 he married Ann Pritchard of Austin, CO, and in 2025 they celebrated 54 years of marriage. To their union three sons were born: Brian Leslie (1973); Christopher Andrew (1976); and Daniel Patrick (1982). In addition they have three granddaughters.

Les put much of his focus on the operation of Renfrow's Furniture which he operated for 26 years. A second Renfrow's location was opened on Cascade Avenue in Montrose in 1972. It eventually moved to the corner of Main and South Townsend Avenue but was destroyed by fire in 1986. A new furniture building on South

Townsend was opened in 1993. Renfrow's, Inc. operated for 51 years until 1996 when it was purchased by Heilig-Meyers Furniture of Virginia.

Les then had an opportunity to go down a different path and became the Executive Director of Delta Area Development, Inc. He worked to strengthen economic development by bringing officials from all the county's towns together for planning. In 1999 he was elected to the Delta Montrose Electric Assn. (DMEA) Board of Directors, serving for 12 years and seven of those as Board President, where his organizational skills were helpful. Through hard work, DMEA was proud to enter into an agreement with the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Assn. to begin generating hydroelectric power from the water on the South Canal near Montrose. This effort was good for the DMEA operating area but also opened new frontiers for rural electric coops across the nation.

Les enjoyed attending all of his sons' sporting events and music concerts, watching college football, especially the CU Buffaloes. He hunted big game, pheasants and grouse, loved fishing on the Surface Creek and from a boat on Blue Mesa. He enjoyed downhill snow skiing at Powderhorn. He sang tenor in the church choir throughout most of his life and played a bit on his trombone when he could. You could find him with an outdoor project at home working on his lawn tractor or stacking and splitting new fruit wood for the fireplace. He was an avid newspaper reader, and he didn't ever go to bed at night until all the day's papers and his Christian devotionals were read. He loved continuing the Renfrow tradition of big family dinners.

Les was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church of Delta where he had served as an Elder, and he was a Paul Harris Fellow with the Delta Rotary Club. In recent years he was a member of the Uncompahgre Development Co. His civic contributions included promoting Hospice in its startup in Delta County and using his truck to pick up foods from local grocers

for the Delta Food Pantry. He promoted education by offering scholarships to graduating Delta seniors, and he helped to provide a monthly home-cooked meal for the guests at the Abraham Connection. He was grateful for the friendship and support of fellow Parkinson's Disease sufferers who exercised every week at the Rock Steady Boxing Class. He was a generous and caring man who sought to help others when a need presented itself. In every respect he was a fine family man.

He and wife Ann enjoyed short trips to Denver to see friends and go to CU games in Boulder. His radar was always tuned to try to locate the best seafood restaurant in the area. Les is survived by his wife Ann, sons Brian of Delta, Chris (Courtney) of Denver and Granddaughter Addison Mae of Texas, Daniel (Tiffany) and Granddaughters Emerson Ann and Noah Grace of Delta. Other survivors are his brother Jim (Sandy) Renfrow of Montrose and nephews John (Sarah) Renfrow and Adam (MaryBeth) Renfrow, all of Montrose, and their children Eliana, Abigail (Trey), Olivia, Isaac, Jonah and Jeremiah; his brother-in-law Joseph Pritchard of California, a step-sister Kay (Bob) Daugherty of Longmont, CO and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister-in-law Carol Renfrow, and his step-mother Carolyn Renfrow. The family would like to acknowledge all of the excellent care givers who helped with Les' care during his long illness. Special thanks and all of our admiration go to an outstanding team from Hopewest and to the excellent nurses and staff at Colorow Care Center in Olathe. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at the Delta United Methodist Church (5th and Meeker Streets) in Delta. There will be a private family inurnment of the remains at a future date. Les' family suggests the following worthy community organizations for memorial contributions: Abraham Connection Homeless Shelter P.O. Bo 910 Delta 81416; Delta Food Pantry P.O. Box 903 Delta 81416; or Hopewest Hospice P.O. Box 24 Delta 81416.

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### LORNA JEAN LUPTON

***April 22, 1940 — October 31, 2025***

LORNA JEAN LUPTON passed peacefully on October 31, 2025 from complications following surgery at the age of 85. She will be missed and forever be in our hearts. Lorna was born April 22, 1940 in Limon, CO to William Banks and Marjorie (Hill) Banks. She moved to Norwood as a small child and never left. Lorna met the love of her life, Dale C Lupton Sr. and they wed on April 6, 1958 in Norwood.

Lorna loved working. It gave her purpose in life. She worked at the local bank, San Miguel Basin State Bank, for many years and took pride in taking care of her local customers. Later in life Lorna was employed at the local gravel pit, United Sand and Gravel. Again, taking care of her local customers was of the utmost importance to her. Lorna worked up to her passing, which is what she wanted. It kept her mind sharp.

Lorna loved and was very devoted to her family which included her parents, children, siblings, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was always there to help if help was needed.

She helped behind the scenes and never desired recognition of her good deeds.

Outside of work and family, Lorna volunteered with many organizations, usually taking the position of secretary/treasurer. Her favorite organization was the Boy Scouts of American. Lorna was very devoted to her community and helped where she could.

Lorna enjoyed camping, fishing (all fish were keepers), hunting, rock hunting and going on drives in the area. Lorna and Dale put thousands of miles on their truck just driving around but never venturing too far from home.

Lorna is survived by her two children: Dale C Lupton Jr. of Fairbanks, Alaska and Carol Ann Lupton-McKeever of Durango CO; sister: Dorothy Fern Mason; grandchildren: Aspen Jimenez, Erica Ritter & Holly Dobiash; and eight great grandchildren.

Lorna lived a full life and was able to live at home and worked up to the end, which was her desire. The community is welcome to celebrate her life along with her family at a graveside service on Wednesday



day November 12, 2025, 2pm, Norwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Lorna's name to either the Norwood Fire Department, Norwood Cemetery Association, or Second Chance Humane Society (Ridgway, CO).

### GILBERT JOSEPH MARTINEZ

***June 20, 1930- November 05, 2025***



GILBERT JOSEPH MARTINEZ came into this world on June 20, 1930, and left this world on November 05, 2025. Gilbert was 95 years of

age. He was born in the little town of McPhee, Colorado. Later the family moved to San Acacio, Colorado, a very small town in the San Luis Valley. Gilbert spent most of his early childhood in San Acacio. When Gilbert was 16, he arrived in

Ouray; the year was 1946.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Jose D. Martinez and Natividad (Nuanez) Martinez, his wife Viola (Dominguez) Martinez and three of their infant children as well as Ten brothers and sisters.

G-Bert, as he was affectionately known by many family members and close friends, is survived by his brother Alfred of Great Falls, Montana and his seven children, Bombie (Penny), Tina (Bob), Steve, Veronica (Michael), Joseph, Lorena and Mario (Jamie). Gilbert is also survived by 14 Grandchildren, 15 Great Grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends. Gilbert served his community for approximately 35 years as a Law Enforcement Officer for both the city and county of Ouray. He worked in vari-

ous area mines for 50 years; the Construction Industry and he was also the Custodian of Ouray Schools.

When he wasn't working, Gilbert enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing baseball, playing softball and spending time with all his family.

Gilbert will be greatly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him. At Gilbert's request, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Daniel Catholic Church, Ouray, Colorado.

Celebration of Life-Mass will be held Thursday November 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., St Daniel Catholic Church Ouray, Colorado.

Interment will take place at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Ouray County, Colorado.

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### FLORENCE "JO" AMELIA MOUSNER *January 7, 1940 — October 26, 2025*



FLORENCE AMELIA MOUSNER, lovingly known as "Jo," was born on January 7, 1940, in Olney, Oklahoma. She grew up on her family's farm, where she learned the values of hard work, responsibility, and gratitude for life's simple joys—principles that guided her throughout her life.

Jo attended Olney High School, where she was among the few young women to play half-court basketball—a sport she cher-

ished and remembered fondly for the rest of her life. After graduating, she continued her education at Murray State Junior College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, where she met the love of her life, Stan Mousner. The two married in 1959 and, soon after, moved to Olathe, Colorado, where they built a beautiful life and raised their family together. (Stan preceded her in death in 2022.)

Jo began her career as a teacher's aide at Olathe Elementary and later became the librarian at Oak Grove Elementary. Her kindness, patience, and passion for learning touched the lives of countless students and colleagues. She had a special gift for making everyone feel valued, encouraged and loved.

In 1964, Jo and Stan welcomed their first child, Stacey, followed by their daughter, Ginnie. Family was always Jo's greatest joy. Many weekends were spent camping, hunting, fishing, or exploring the Western Slope in their Jeep—creating memories that her family will treasure forever.

She is survived by her son Stacey (Kathy) Mousner and daughter Ginnie (Bruce) Schlagel; grandchildren Tyler (Deanna)

Mousner, Tori (Brett) Queen, Ryan, and Holly; and three beloved great-granddaughters—Riley, Harley, and Bryn.

While raising her family, Jo also dedicated time to coaching youth sports, including softball and volleyball. In later years, she discovered new hobbies, enjoying garage sales, crafting projects, and lively board or card games with friends and loved ones. She had a remarkable ability to form deep and meaningful connections, always making those around her feel cared for and appreciated.

Jo was deeply grateful for the compassionate caregivers from PACE who supported her in her later years, forming strong and heartfelt relationships with them as well. She will be remembered for her strength, compassion, and unwavering spirit. Jo leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and learning that will live on in all who were fortunate to know her.

Services will be held on Monday November 24th at 1 pm at the Crippin Funeral home at 802 E Main St Montrose Colorado with a meet and greet to follow at the Montrose Events Center at 648 S 1st St in Montrose.

### EMMA ILENE HEWITT (DEVOLVE) *May 20, 1942- October 6, 2025*

EMMA ILENE HEWITT (DEVOLVE) passed away peacefully on October 6, 2025. She was born on May 20, 1942, in Plainfield, Connecticut.

Emma married the love of her life, Richard Arlen Hewitt, Sr., on October 11, 1958. Together, they built a beautiful family and shared nearly 60 years of marriage before his passing in 2018.

She is survived by her four children, Richard Arlen Hewitt, Jr., Lynnita Mae Davis, Patricia Ann Scheulen, and William Barber Hewitt; her sisters, Joyce and Marion; fifteen grandchildren; thirty-two great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, two brothers, and one sister.

Emma lived a full and curious life. She loved music, valued education, and was always eager to learn something new. Over the years, she worked in many fulfilling professions, including serving as a municipal judge and later as a travel agent, roles that reflected her love for people and her adventurous spirit.

In 1999, Emma made her home in Olathe, Colorado, where she became an active member of the community and a devoted participant in the Olathe United Methodist Church. A lifelong Christian, she was also a dedicated member of the PTA and PTO, always advocating for the importance of family and education.

A memorial service celebrating Emma's life will be held at Olathe United Method-

ist Church on Saturday, November 15th, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., with a small reception to follow.

Her legacy of faith, kindness, and love of learning will continue to inspire all who knew her.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## THOMAS "TOM" JAMES MANUEL *November 30, 1976 — October 31, 2025*



Montrose CO.

Tom grew up in Kremling CO where he was very active in a variety of sports though basketball was his favorite. He left behind a trail of memories in that small town — just as he did everywhere he went.

Tom is now free of his earthly court to freely play basketball with "Newberry" the man he admired, loved and dearly missed; his grandfather, who passed away in 2022. We imagine them both now, back on the court together, sharing laughs and shooting free throws.

Tom was a dedicated friend who would do anything for you and was always uplifting with a joke on hand. Whether it was on the back porch sharing stories, out on the golf course, or during long road trips to referee games, Tom built friendships that lasted a lifetime. He had a unique gift for making people feel seen and appreciated, and his circle of friends — which only grew wider with time — felt more like family.

A basketball referee for more than 25 years, working games up and down the Western Slope as well as countless regional finals and several state tournaments. He loved the close, nail-bitter game with roaring crowds and strived to be fair and consistent. He was the ideal officiating partner - not just for his skill and profes-

sionalism, but for his easy-going nature, steady presence and great sense of humor that made the long drives fun.

In addition to officiating, he coached and mentored many athletes over the years sharing his love for sports and his belief in teamwork, respect and perseverance. Many of those he coached and worked alongside credit Tom for shaping not just their skills, but their character. His patience, humor, and wisdom made him a trusted guide and role model to many — and his legacy will continue through the people he inspired.

A celebration of life will be held at Grace Community Church on Friday November 14, 2025, at 4:30 pm.

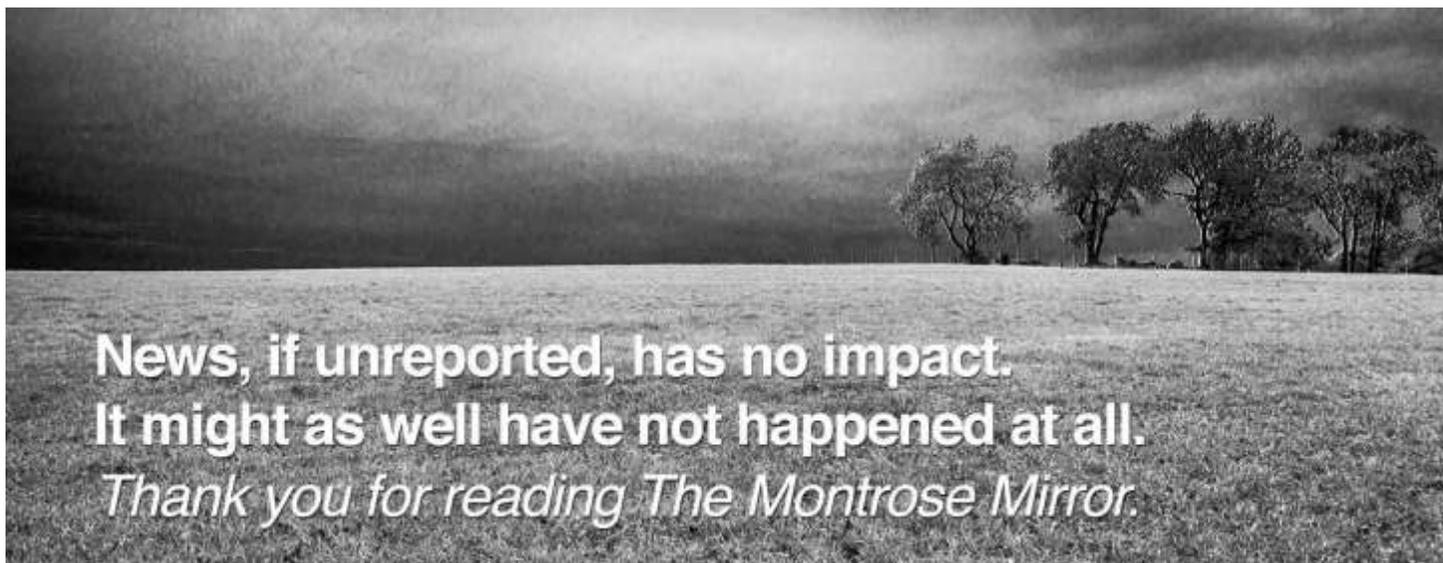
In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to the Montrose Basketball Officials Association (MBOA), supporting the next generation of referees. Checks can be mailed to 1597 Stellar Place Montrose CO 81401.

The family wishes to express their sincerest thank you to the Montrose Fire Department, EMT's and ER staff at Montrose Regional hospital for their outstanding care and compassion.

Tom will be remembered for his humor, integrity and unwavering love for friends and family - a man who made every court, golf course, and room he entered brighter.

Loving husband of 26 years to Renae, the proud and supportive father of Ashlyn and Rocco. Tom was the very definition of a family man. A true example of what it means to be a devoted husband and father.

Tom, the son of Stan and Debra Manuel, brother of Jeff Manuel and son in law of Roxy and Debra Carleo, passed away unexpectedly on Friday October 31, 2025, in



News, if unreported, has no impact.  
It might as well have not happened at all.  
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.*

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## **JAMES "JIMMY" ARTHUR STELLJES** *April 23, 1971 — October 31, 2025*



JIMMY ARTHUR STELLJES peacefully passed away surrounded by family on October 31, 2025, at the age of 54.

He was preceded in death by his dad Phillip Arthur Stelljes. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Tammy; their children The Big 3, Sami Jordan (Manley), Bailey Hill (Cody) and Tyler Stelljes; four grandchildren, Paxton, Abbi, Aspen and Baby J (Soon to be); his mom Paulette Stelljes and his sister Stephanie Stelljes.

Jimmy served our country in the United States Air Force for 9 years. Jimmy dedicated years to many professions but primarily in car sales. Jimmy was well-known for being a mentor and big brother to many.

He had many adventures and passions in his life including skateboarding, snowboarding, hunting, fishing, gaming, and most of all golf. He was known by all for his words of wisdom, sarcasm, wittiness, go-getter spirit, helping hand and biggest of all love for his family.

In lieu of flowers and gifts the family has requested any desired contributions be sent in honor of Cancer Research. Our teddy bear, we love you 3,000!

## **WOOD BUELL EPELSHEIMER** *April 19, 1945 — October 31, 2025*

WOOD BUELL EPELSHEIMER, 80, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully at home on October 31, 2025.

Born on April 19, 1945, in Mexico, Missouri, to Merrill and Vesper Buell Eppelsheimer, Wood spent his early years in Missouri, a place that always remained close to his heart.

After attending the University of Missouri, he immediately became a pilot for United Airlines. For 36 years, he loved flying both commercially and recreationally with his several private planes. His passion for wide-open skies and speed extended to auto racing, where he found fun racing vintage Porsches.

In retirement, he and Barbara motor-homed through the Southwest, enjoying both adventures and the occasional misadventures, as well as spending winters in Arizona.

Wood is survived by his wife, Barbara Ennis Eppelsheimer of 56 years and son Kirk. He was preceded in death by his beloved son, Keith.

Arrangements were handled by Crippin Funeral Home, Montrose, CO. A private family service will be held in Missouri.



**CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.**



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## EDWARD RANDAL WEATHERFORD July 20, 1958 — October 26, 2025



EDWARD RANDAL WEATHERFORD, 67, of Montrose, Colorado, peacefully passed away at HopeWest Ferris Hospice Care Center in Grand Junction, Colorado, with

his wife by his side on October 26, 2025. Ed was a beloved husband, father, "camping grandpa" and devoted friend. Born in Downey, California, to Ralph Weatherford and Eleanor Vanderhoeven Weatherford, he graduated from San Diego State University. Ed and Susan married in Breckenridge, Colorado, followed by photos taken in the rain at the base of Mount Quandary. The devoted couple relocated to Montrose in 2025 to pursue their dream of a slower-paced life filled with outdoor adventures, dispersed camping in their RV "Shadow," and fly fishing with flies Ed tied himself. Ed originally moved from California to Colorado Springs with his first wife, Julia (Coventry), where they raised their two children, Kristen and Bryce. He later lived in Highlands Ranch for many years, where he worked in sales and eventually retired as owner of a successful window cover-

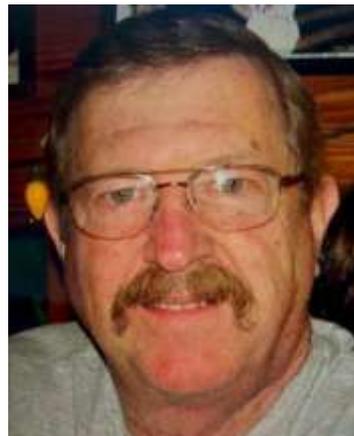
ings business. Ed is survived by his wife, Susan, of Montrose; children Kristen Weatherford of Albany, Oregon, and Bryce Weatherford with his wife Hannah, and three grandchildren, Finn, Bode, and Annie Weatherford of Centennial, Colorado; a brother, James (Pam) Weatherford of Carlsbad, California; a sister, Linda McDonald (Brian) of Castle Rock, Colorado; nieces Julie (Robert) Parent of Larkspur, Colorado, and Katie Gomez of Carlsbad, California; nephew Geoff (Debbie) Anderson of Castle Rock, Colorado. Ed was preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Eleanor Weatherford, and spouse, Laura French Weatherford. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to HopeWest Ferris Hospice Care Center, Grand Junction, Colorado (970) 683-4914. Details regarding a celebration of life will be shared at a later date.

## JOHN "JACK" JEROME MULVANEY January 23, 1953 — October 28, 2025

JOHN 'JACK' JEROME MULVANEY a resident of Montrose for 33 years passed away peacefully October 28, 2025 at Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose. Born January 23, 1953 in Artesia, California the son of Charles David Mulvaney and Marie Susan (Hare) Mulvaney. He was one of eight siblings. 'Jack' graduated from Mayfair High School 1971 in Bellflower, California. He met and married the love of his life, Sherry Ann McClemons 1985 in Westminster, California. They met while working for Grace Restaurant Services, he was a Delivery Driver, Sherry was a restaurant Manager. They had one daughter, Madison 'Maddi' Ann Mulvaney born in 1987 in Anaheim, California. They moved to Laguna Hills, California in 1987 where Jack became an apprentice with Ironworks, Local 433 where he did ornamental ironworking in the Southern California region. 1992 he

moved his family to Montrose, Colorado and worked as a Security officer until his retirement. The artist in him enjoyed working with wood and iron. Jack and his father-in-law welded a large iron star for DMEA, (Delta-Montrose Electric Association) which they placed above the office where it was lit up at night. Jack loved boating, fishing, going to the gun range, and family trips to Lake Powell, as well as going on hunting adventures with his brothers. Family was important to him and he enjoyed spending time with them. He was always ready to lend a helping hand and could fix just about anything earning him the nickname, 'MacGyver'. He was loved by all and will truly be missed. Preceding him in death are his parents and stepmother, Dorothy Davies. He is survived by his wife, Sherry, daughter 'Maddi' Forsberg (Luke), three sisters,

Pam Mulvaney, Carla Howell, and Bonnie Cox, four brothers, Jerry, David (Carol), Harry, and Patrick Mulvaney, one stepbrother, Chuck Davies, many nieces and nephews. A 'Special' Thank you to Valley Manner Care Center, Hope West, and Crippin Funeral Home for their compassionate and professional services. Celebration of Life, November 22, 2025 at 11 am, Crippin Funeral Home, Montrose, Colorado.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## SUSAN S. HANSEN

**October 22, 1942 — October 21, 2025**

SUSAN S. HANSEN passed away on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at her home in Crawford, Colorado. She was 82 years old.

Susan was born in Portland, Maine to Eleanor and Wallace Soule. She grew up swimming and sailing on the Falmouth Foreside and attended Waynflete School in Portland. She completed her undergraduate education at Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She later received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado at Denver.

After graduating from Chatham College Susan married her first husband Butler (Larry) Cox. They began their family in the mountains of Maine, where Susan served as a social worker. Their love of the mountains led to a move to Aspen, Colorado after the birth of their sons Sam and Chris Cox. In Aspen, Susan worked as the secretary at Aspen Middle School and Town Administrator for Snowmass Village.

Susan met the love of her life, Richard Hansen, in 1979 while living in Aspen. The marriage blended two families, as Susan became the stepmother of Emily and Marne Hansen. The family enjoyed many adventurous years in Aspen skiing, backpacking, and white water rafting.

In 1983 Susan and Dick moved to Crawford, Colorado to fulfill a dream of operating a ranch. To support ranch life Susan

began working as the Crawford Town Clerk. After a few years in Crawford, she became the Delta County Administrator and served in that role for over 20 years. After retirement from county service, Susan continued her role as a facilitator and community leader through her work with the U.S. Forest Service, Crawford Town Hall renovation group, Friends of the Crawford Library, and the Maher/Onion Valley Community Club.

Susan was a dedicated mother, community advocate, rancher, hiker, and skier. She loved ranch life and applying her New England values of hard work, resilience, and integrity to every endeavor. In recent years Susan could be found at yoga, on the pickleball court, at book club, skiing in Snowmass with her family, traveling with friends, or working on her beloved ranch.

Susan was a remarkable woman who influenced the lives of many. Her influence will continue to be felt through the projects she facilitated across Delta County and the Western Slope, the community members whom she mentored, and the family she loved so fiercely.

Preceded in death by Wallace and Eleanor Soule, her brother Wallace, Jr. and her husband Richard, Susan is survived by two sons Sam (Tara) Cox of Paonia, CO; Christopher Cox of Montrose, CO; Emily Hansen (Chris Cole) of Parker, CO; Marne



(Kenny Gallup) Hansen of Castle Rock, CO; brother Charlie (Barbara) Soule of Falmouth, ME; brother Ben (Betsy) Soule of Yarmouth, ME; and sister Martha Boyd of Montpelier, VT. Susan is further survived by seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

A community tribute will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at 1pm at Crawford Town Hall. A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Friends of Crawford Library at 545 Highway 92, Crawford, CO 81415.





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### FEATURES:

- ✓ 3 bedrooms
- ✓ 2 full baths
- ✓ 1,855 sq. ft.

ISSUE 547 Nov. 10, 2025

# ART & SOL

## FRIENDS OF YOUTH AND NATURE LEADS THE WAY IN CONNECTING KIDS TO NATURE

*By Anita Evans, Friends of Youth and Nature*

REGIONAL-Connecting kids to nature is more than just a walk in the woods! It can be a life changing experience that builds confidence, resilience, and a lifelong love of the outdoors — all while inspiring stewardship of Colorado’s natural landscapes. Creating these experiences is the aim of Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) and over the past few years, this nonprofit has become pretty good at it — changing young lives across Western Colorado by providing mentored outdoor skill-building experiences, field trips, and nature-based learning.

If you love Colorado’s landscapes and outdoor endeavors, share your passion for it by helping FOYAN connect kids to our States’ amazing places and inspiring experiences. This Colorado Gives Day, you can be part of something truly powerful — connecting a kid to the great outdoors!

Every donation fuels opportunities for exploration and growth — from fishing and hiking to water festivals and outdoor classrooms. FOYAN’s mission is to remove barriers that prevent youth from connecting with nature. By partnering with schools, community organizations, and recreation districts, the group ensures all children — especially those facing economic or social challenges — can benefit from the healing and empowering experiences of time outdoors. In 2024 alone, FOYAN reached more than 8,800 youth

and families in Montrose, Ouray, Delta, and Mesa counties with outdoor experiences.

Through its signature Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) program, FOYAN focuses on underserved and at-risk youth. Working with local partners such as Families Plus, Haven House for the Homeless, Partners Mentoring, the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club, CASA7JD, Hilltop, Mexican American Development Association, and Voyager Youth Services, FOYAN connects youth with mentors, outdoor educators, and hands-on nature programs. These collaborations give kids more than just an activity — they give them hope, belonging, and new perspectives on what’s possible. Time outside isn’t just fun — it’s transformative.

Research shows that even 20 minutes outdoors can lower stress, reduce anxiety, boost mood, and improve academic performance. For youth living in communities where suicide and mental health challenges are on the rise, that connection to nature can truly save lives. The outdoors offers a sense of calm and purpose that every child deserves to experience. Your donations directly support:

- Outdoor skill programs like hiking, archery, mountain biking and fishing.
- Farm to School programs in four counties, teaching garden and food security skills.
- Watershed Education, including local water festivals, river trips and hands-on science learning.



*At one of FOYAN's TRY (Together for Resilient Youth) outdoor gatherings at Ridgway State park, this little guy was just as enamored with the worm as with the fish he caught with it! Courtesy photo.*

-Gear for Kids — backpacks, ponchos, and water bottles for youth in need, plus a free community gear lending library supporting the TRY program.

Each dollar you give brings these experiences to more children who might otherwise never have the chance to step outside and explore. FOYAN’s programs are designed to foster lifelong connections to nature that promote stewardship and

**Continued next pg**

# FRIENDS OF YOUTH AND NATURE LEADS THE WAY IN CONNECTING KIDS TO NATURE

*From previous pg*



es, the larger its share of the Incentive Fund. Recurring (monthly) support helps sustain programs year-round, providing steady opportunities for kids to learn, play, and grow outdoors. Last year, Coloradans came together to raise more than \$54 million statewide for nonprofits.

Together, we can ensure that every child has access to the powerful lessons and peace that nature provides. As one participant in a FOYAN moun-

healthy living.

Colorado Gives Day begins Nov. 1 and continues through Dec. 9. Through the Colorado Gives Foundation and First Bank, every donation made through ColoradoGives.org will be boosted by a \$1 million Incentive Fund. The more FOYAN rais-

tain biking program exclaimed, "Finally, somebody gets me!" That moment of connection captures exactly what FOYAN strives to achieve — giving kids a sense of belonging in the outdoors and the confidence to take on life's challenges with strength and curiosity. Your support makes

those moments possible. Whether it's helping a child plant their first seed, reel in their first fish, or hike their first trail, your generosity builds a foundation for healthier, happier, and more connected communities. Join us in building a generation of resilient, confident, and nature-connected youth.

Give where you live — and help us get more kids outside.

**Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) is a non-profit organization that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experience outdoor activities and explore nature. For outdoor safety tips, trail game ideas, hiking trails, and other ways to get young people involved in the outdoors, visit the FOYAN website at [www.friendsofyouthandnature.org](http://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org). Donate through our donation page or through [ColoradoGives.org/organization/Friendsofyouthandnature](http://ColoradoGives.org/organization/Friendsofyouthandnature).**



**SAN JUAN**  
CANCER CENTER  
A DEPARTMENT OF MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH

## OPEN HOUSE

Please join us as we celebrate the new San Juan Cancer Center (Medical Oncology) and the Francie Smiles Infusion Center!

Tour the new building and learn about MRHs latest progress with the CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment).

**Tuesday, November 11**

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

San Juan Cancer Center and the Francie Smiles Infusion Center  
816 S. 5th Street

Hot chocolate & cookies provided.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## NATE HANCE TO PLAY AT DELTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER NOV. 13

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is excited to bring Nate Hance, a dynamic pops pianist to the Delta Performing Arts Center at 822 Grand Avenue in Delta Colorado on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025 at 7 PM.

Nate Hance possesses a unique blend of skill, emotional depth, and engaging showmanship. His repertoire includes timeless classics and original compositions, and offers something for everyone, making his concerts a delightful journey through music.

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

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



*Pianist Nate Hance. Courtesy photo.*

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## 7TH ANNUAL FREE MRS. CLAUS FOR A CAUSE EVENT

### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Mrs. Claus for a Cause is a non-profit organization that wholeheartedly embraces the spirit of giving during the holiday season. This organization is committed to supporting underprivileged youth and special needs individuals by gifting toys and warm clothing options around Christmas time. Our efforts stem from a deep sense of compassion and a desire to make a positive impact in the lives of those who need it the most.

Click here to see how we started- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ5zc29gfUY&feature=youtu.be>

Mrs. Claus for a Cause puts on a free three-day event for the community that includes meeting Santa, toys, food, clothes, photos, games, meeting Disney characters, toy building, cookie decorating, face painting, games, and fun. The first two days are for everyone (December 19th & 20th) and the third day is for special needs families only (December 21st). The event is being held at Friendship Hall in Montrose, CO. Families that wish to attend on Sunday will need to register. More info will be available closer to the event. Your funds will go towards making this event happen by helping us pay for the venue, food, toys, and many other expenses. We can't put on this amazing event without your help. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity and kindness.



We have teamed up with Foster Connections. Your donations will not only go towards this year's free event in December,

but they will also go towards making sure that the families that are part of Foster Connections program have what they need for the holidays. Please check out [www.mrsclausforacause.org](http://www.mrsclausforacause.org) for more details.

### **Mrs. Claus for a Cause Schedule** **Friday, Dec 19th**

Doors open at 10 am. Attendees will register and wait in line while watching movies outside on a big screen TV. They will then enter the building and they can choose one of three lines, (haircuts/Santa/toys/main area, Santa/toys/main area, main area). After photos are taken a Disney princess will escort each child into the toy area where they will get to pick out a new coloring option (crayons, markers, etc), a new activity book, any donated used book, a new toy in their age group or a new stuffed animal, and a new warm clothing item (coat, beanie, gloves, scarves, blankets). After they receive their gifts they will join their parents in the main area where they can enjoy a variety of activities. Every attendee gets grilled cheese sandwiches and soup. Once attendees are done enjoying the festivities they will make their way to the exit where they can sign a frame that will later have a picture of this years event put in the middle. Doors close at 5 pm.

### **Saturday, Dec 20th**

Doors open at 10 am. Attendees will enter the building and they can choose one of three lines, (haircuts/Santa/toys/main area, Santa/toys/main area, main area). After photos are taken a Disney princess will escort each child into the toy area where they will get to pick out a new coloring option (crayons, markers, etc), a

new activity book, any donated used book, a new toy in their age group or a new stuffed animal, and a new warm clothing item (coat, beanie, gloves, scarves, blankets). After they receive their gifts they will join their parents in the main area where they can enjoy a variety of activities. Every attendee gets grilled cheese sandwiches and soup.

Once attendees are done enjoying the festivities they will make their way to the exit where they can sign a frame that will later have a picture of this year's event put in the middle. Doors close at 5pm.

### **Sunday, Dec 21st**

Doors open at 10 am. This day is for families with special needs, so we take down the different lines and only have one. Attendees will enter the building, and they can choose to get free haircuts and tinsel in their hair or they can go straight to Santa. After photos are taken a Disney princess will escort each child into the toy area where they will get to pick out a new coloring option (crayons, markers, etc), a new activity book, any donated used book, a new toy in their age group or a new stuffed animal, and a new warm clothing item (coat, beanie, gloves, scarves, blankets). After they receive their gifts they will join their parents (unless their parents went through the toys with them) in the main area where they can enjoy a variety of activities. Every attendee gets grilled cheese sandwiches and soup. Once attendees are done enjoying the festivities they will make their way to the exit where they can sign a frame that will later have a picture of this year's event put in the middle. Doors close at 3pm.



# HOME FOR SALE

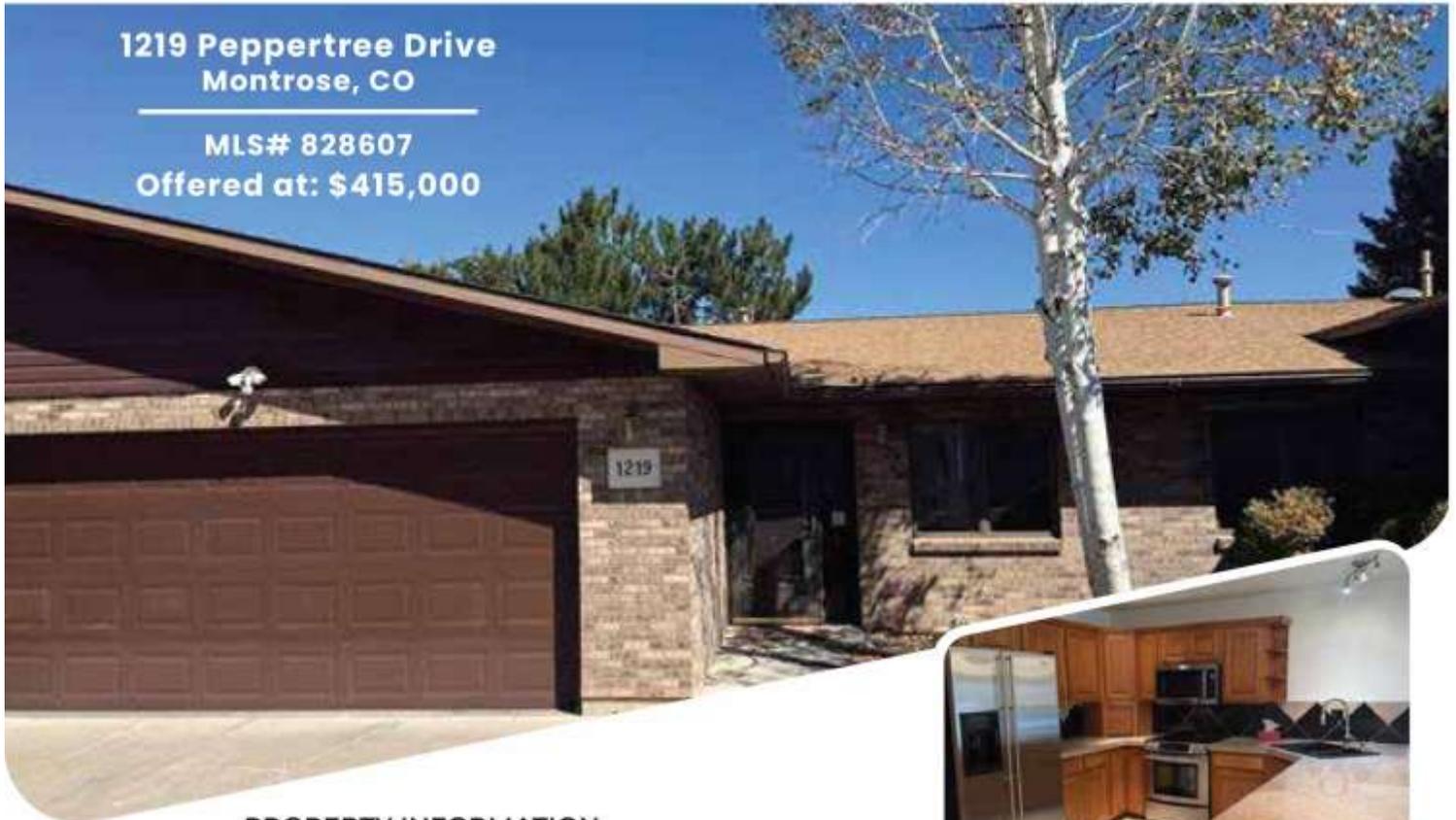
VIEW THIS LISTING ONLINE:



1219 Peppertree Drive  
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MLS# 828607

Offered at: \$415,000



## PROPERTY INFORMATION

Great townhome located in the desirable Peppertree subdivision! This solidly built home features a classic brick exterior and quality finishes throughout, including beautiful solid wood doors. Step inside to a spacious tiled entryway leading to a large living room with a cozy gas fireplace. The kitchen is well-appointed with a new stainless dishwasher, Jenn Air stove/oven, refrigerator, and plenty of storage. This home offers 2 oversized bedrooms with huge closets and 2 bathrooms, providing comfort and convenience. Large hallways and zero clearance for entry that eliminates steps. Additional features include newer carpet, a newer roof, a newer forced-air heating unit, and central air conditioning for year-round comfort. Washer and dryer are also included. Enjoy the private covered patio—perfect for relaxing or entertaining. The location is ideal, close to a public golf course and centrally located near all the amenities Montrose has to offer. Another perk of this townhome is the

HOA takes care of grounds and snow removal!

## FEATURES

- 2 Bedrooms
- Dining Room
- 2 Baths
- Great Room
- 1610 Square Feet
- Patio



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# The Satisfied Self

## 26 FOR 26: A HOLIDAY CHALLENGE TO FINISH THE YEAR STRONG & START THE NEXT EVEN STRONGER



By Gia Pirelli.  
Courtesy photo.

Every year around this time, we repeat a collective ritual: we over-extend, overconsume, overindulge, and then over-promise ourselves that come January, *we'll fix it all*. We'll detox, declutter, re-commit, lose weight, and become better versions of ourselves—

once the holidays are over. This time it'll stick! We will join that gym—because they always have a sign up special: New Year, new you! Except we only go a few times. So many reasons not to. We lost the little key card. We don't have the right pants. The walls are too beige. It's crowded and you have to park too far away. On and on. Truth is, you just don't want to go. And who could blame you? It's not very inspiring to squeeze yourself into "activewear" after two months of bingeing like you're pretraining for fat camp.

But what if the problem isn't our lack of willpower in January? What if it's the quiet permission we give ourselves to *self-abandon* in November and December? To detach from our usual sense of personal responsibility in favor of culturally accepted toxic norms? We've stacked the deck heavily against ourselves. Did you know it only takes physical repetition of an action, thought or behavior anywhere from 18-254 days to create a "habit?" With the average being 66. Yikes. If you have essentially two months—plus Halloween, you've got the perfect recipe to build a whole new shitty version of yourself. Change is inevitable. We do it daily. We just get to choose which direction—growth or decline.

We've been taught to see the end of the year as a time to unwind—even if that means unraveling everything we've built. We eat and spend and scroll in excess, telling ourselves it's only temporary. But

then January arrives, and we're left trying to rebuild our bodies, our routines, and our self-trust from a place of depletion, doubt, and self-deprecation.

The cycle ends here.

**The 26 for 26 Challenge** is a holistic, eight-week journey built around **26 simple behavioral shifts**—small, intentional changes designed to help you stay aligned through the holiday season and enter the new year with strength, clarity and self-respect intact.

This isn't another "fitness challenge" that demands discipline or deprivation. It's an experiment in alignment—a chance to upgrade the way you move through your days without overhauling your life.

Every shift is doable. Every win is attainable. The goal is not to suffer; it's to feel good—in your body, your space, your relationships, and your mind.

### **The Pillars of the Challenge:**

Each of the 26 shifts falls under one of eight core pillars of integrated personal development:

1. Identity & Mindset – how you see yourself and what you believe is possible.
2. Appearance & Presence – how you show up, inside and out.
3. Body & Energy – movement, sleep, hydration, and nutrition.
4. Environment & Systems – your home, digital life, and daily workflows.
5. Time & Focus – routines, priorities, and boundaries that create freedom.
6. Money & Work – financial clarity, purpose, and aligned productivity.
7. Relationships & Communication – connecting authentically and setting healthy dynamics.
8. Meaning & Recovery – your value, rest, reflection, and joy.

Each week in this column, we'll explore three or four of these shifts in depth—why they matter, how to implement them, and how they ripple through every part of your life.

On social media, you'll find daily micro-shifts—bite sized actions and reflections

that meet you where you are. And for hands-on guidance, [my YouTube channel](#) will offer short Pilates, yoga, breathwork, and meditation sessions to support your journey physically and emotionally. (I am certified in all of these modalities and teach them regularly in person at [Yoga House Rx](#) downtown. You're safe and in good hands)

But, Gia, why start now? Why not just wait until January? (Um. Have you not read any of the above?) Because the end of the year shouldn't be a season of self-neglect disguised as celebration. It can be a season of strength, and subtle transformation preparing you to level up, instead of crawling out.

By making small, conscious shifts now, you'll close 2025 not from a place of exhaustion, but of expansion—just not of your waistline.

You'll begin 2026 on a high note, instead of buried under a mountain of bad decisions and regret. You start the year in alignment with your higher self—ready for growth. No more empty resolutions, no more guilt-driven "reinventions," no more bullshit. Just consistent, conscious evolution. We start today.

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

Follow her on social media:

[https://www.instagram.com/gia\\_pirelli/](https://www.instagram.com/gia_pirelli/)

<https://www.facebook.com/qiapirelli>

<https://www.youtube.com/@GiaPirelli>

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# Friday Afternoon Art with Kate

## 1-3 pm at Montrose Senior Center

### Paint a Thanksgiving Cornucopia

Experienced artists, you are welcome to bring your own project to paint. We supply materials.



Paint with acrylic on a 14" x 11" canvas. No experience necessary. Hands-on help. Easy, line-drawing template if you need it. Everything provided plus seasonal snack, and cider or soft drink. \$40 pp. Montrose Rec Adult 50+ Program. With Kate Burke.

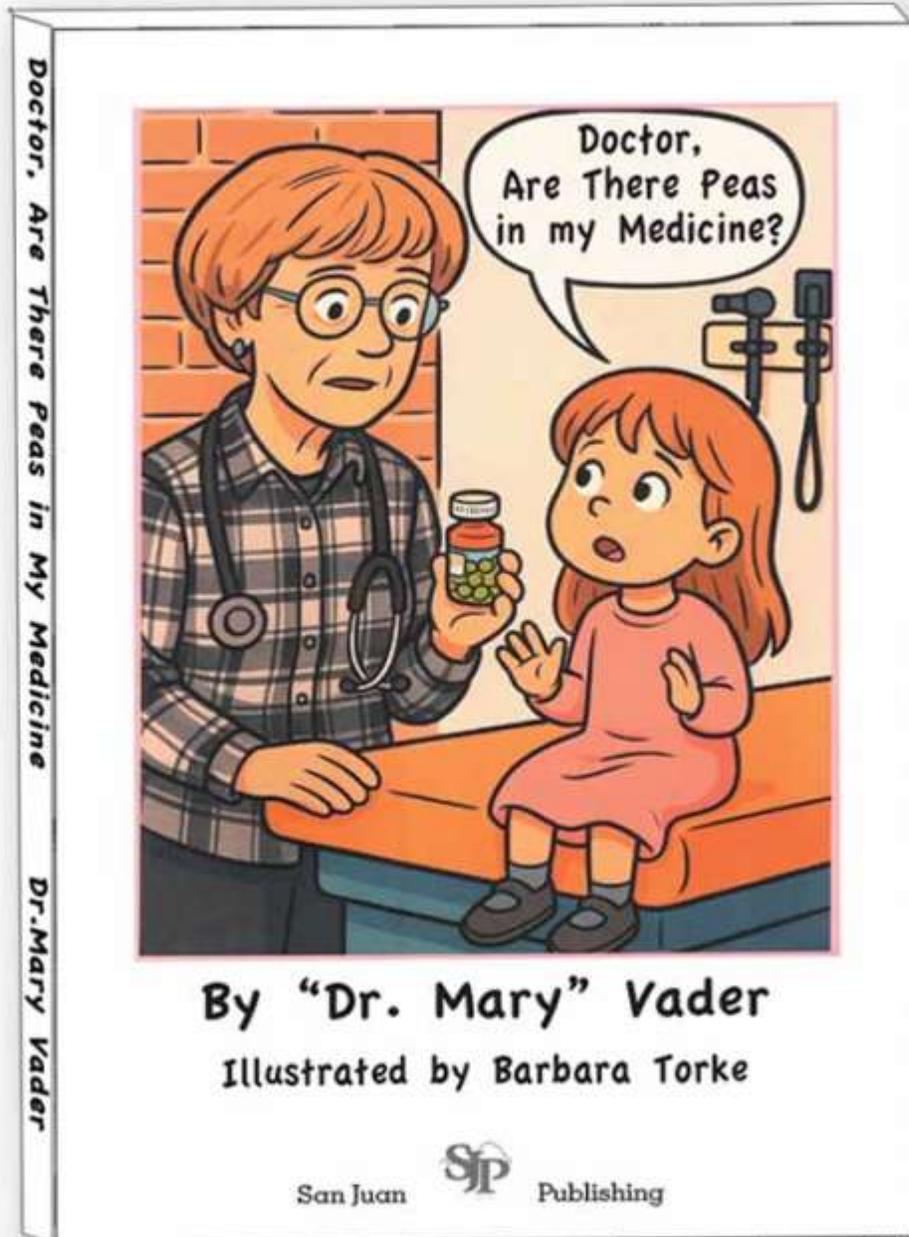


**1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colo.**  
<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/111425mrd>



# New book by Montrose beloved pediatrician, Dr. Mary

A collection of hilarious kids' quotes. Illustrated by Barbara Torke.



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# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** (970) 497-4925

**Email:** [celebrationmontrose@gmail.com](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
 programs offered both services.

**Student** (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

## CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

**Name of Church:** Christ's Church of the  
 Valley

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

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

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

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: [CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com](mailto:CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com)

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

**Name of current Senior Pastor:** Ken 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](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

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

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

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

find friendly people gathered in a 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](mailto:spirit@communityspiritucc.org)

**Website:** [communityspiritucc.org](http://communityspiritucc.org)

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service:** Sundays at 11am

**Mission:** Our commitment to a more 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](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),

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

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

**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](mailto:in-form@fpcmontrose.com), [www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo  
**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM, We strive to encourage, challenge and

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

[roseumc.org](http://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:** From November 9 -December 14, the regular Sunday gatherings will meet from 9:30-11 am for a six-week SAC/Meditation program with Sangdrol Blanchard of Meditation Spaces. Meditation time and guest speakers are planned. Virtual services are temporarily cancelled. Chai Chats will continue to

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.*

meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, 710 N. Townsend, Montrose.

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, meditation, and family and community projects.

People of all ages are welcome.

# 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](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://www.ststephensmontrose.com)  
**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian  
St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

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

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

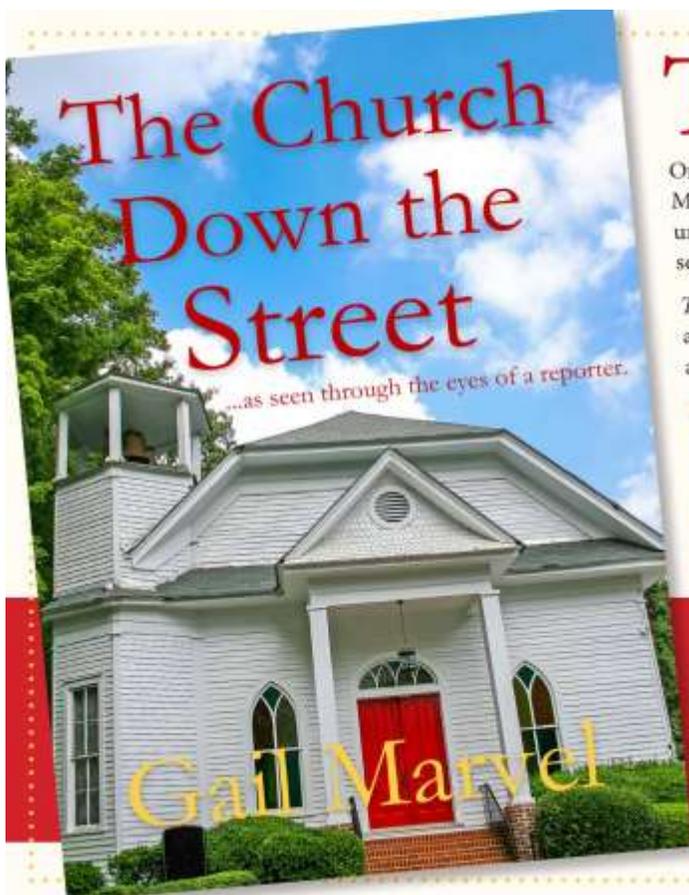
6874; email at [info@vbcmontrose.org](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales  
**Worship Service Times:** Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm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

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

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

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

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.  
Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).  
Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



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

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

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

**Readers will:**

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

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter





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# GROW

## COMMUNITY CENTER

# Christmas Fest 2025 sponsorship *opportunity*

GROW COMMUNITY CENTER IS LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND BUSINESSES WHO WANT TO SPONSOR OUR CHRISTMAS FEST- AN EVENT THAT GLORIFIES CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS AND SHOWS HIS LOVE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

### **BENEFITS:**

#### **Glorifying Christ**

your donation will ensure that the gospel is shared, gifts are given, and people are fed all in the name of Jesus.

#### **Marketing**

we will post a thank you and highlight you and your business on our Facebook page twice a month until the event, and email the attendees the list of sponsors

#### **Helping families this Christmas**

**JOIN US IN SHOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS**

#### **CONTACT US:**

email us

growcommunitycentermontrose@gmail.com

**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US**

*1 John 4:19*

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Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

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## SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING-

**ALTRUSA INT'L** believes in "Leading to a Better Community" and is always looking for new members. We meet in Montrose on the first three Tuesdays a month at the Field House: 25 Colorado Ave, 12-Noon. Pick a day that works for you & please join us! Through our local Altrusa Club, members unite their varied talents in service to others, achieving as a group what individuals cannot do alone." <https://www.altrusamontrose.org/> P: 970-765-7666 E: [Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com](mailto:Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com)

**BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY** provides a monthly program on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Montrose Field House, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. [blackcanyonaudubon.org](http://blackcanyonaudubon.org)

**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](http://blackcanyonaudubon.org).

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

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

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

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET** (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401 [www.valleyfoodpartnership.org](http://www.valleyfoodpartnership.org). Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MONTHLY

**Nov. 11**-Tuesday, Nov. 11 7 pm. Let Ignite Montrose Spark Your Interest! Enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced, five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, passions and curiosities. The Association (39 W Main, Montrose). Beverage/food service will be available. Check [ignitemontrose.org](http://ignitemontrose.org) for a list of topics.

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

**Nov. 13** -7 p.m. Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Jackie Corday, co-chair of the Colorado Healthy Headwaters Working Group. She will present about Beavers, nature's most ingenious architects. The presentation will cover the history of beavers, their naturally engineered wetlands, how their building feats create habitats for native species and can improve watershed resiliency to wildfire and drought. The Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at [blackcanyonaudubonsociety.org](http://blackcanyonaudubonsociety.org).

**Nov. 14**-Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club Crab Crack will be Friday, Nov. 14 at 6pm at the Montrose Pavilion.

**Nov. 19**-It's Potpourri Night at the Chipeta Archaeology Society meeting. Topics include

The Great Gallery pictographs, Nebra Sky Disc and Ireland's famous Neolithic and Bronze Age sites. These 20 minute presentations will enlighten and intrigue. Nov. 19 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose Free.

**Nov. 20**-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, Nov. 20, 9am to Noon at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N 7th Street, on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. Fall is our theme for the month. Wear brown and bring autumn projects or your current work to show. Program will be a parade of quilts and toys for Dolphin House. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

**Nov. 22**-The San Juan Weavers Guild 47<sup>th</sup> annual Show & Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Rd., Montrose. The event is free to the public and will feature educational exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on activities. A vast selection of handwoven, handspun, and related fiber items made by guild members will be for sale. The facility is wheelchair accessible and provides on-site parking.

# PREPARING A SPACE TO HONOR U.S. VETERANS



By *CB Williams*

MONTROSE-Team Depot, The Home Depot's associate volunteer force, once again helped improve the lives of veterans last Tuesday as they cleaned up the future site of the Montrose Veterans Memorial. Local store assistant manager Tamara Hutts led the effort along with City of Montrose city forester Michael Arat and the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition board of directors.

Employees from departments ranging from cashier, flooring, plumbing, lumber, deliveries and more jumped in and cleared slash after Arat cut down several noxious Russian olive trees and other debris in the area. The memorial will be lined with native Colorado blue spruce along the northern fence shared with the Montrose Botanic Gardens.

MVMC BOD members said they would like to thank Team Depot and the City of Montrose for this in-kind effort—one of the first steps in preparing the site for the future Montrose Veterans Memorial. <https://www.montrosevmc.us>.

