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ASSOCIATION



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BOCC CONTINUES PROPOSALS TO REZONE AG PARCELS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With a full agenda and citizens in attendance, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 7. All commissioners were present; BOCC Chair Sue Hansen gavelled the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church delivered the invocation. Noting the importance of leadership and reminding those present of the words of Isaiah 43:18-19 ("Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!") Leuthauser said, "...How do you want to change, how do you want to grow...I pray that you would do a new thing in all of us..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Duane Redmond addressed commissioners, saying that he found their practice of entering Executive Session

Continued pg 42



The BOCC voted unanimously to approve the Board's signature on a proclamation recognizing Jan. 19, 2026 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, A Day of Service to the community. Image courtesy of Tonya Maddox

CONSTITUENTS THANK CITY FOR RESOLUTION TO CHURCH CAMP FOR UNHOUSED PEOPLE



Montrose Mayor Dave Frank honored Melanie Hall with a You Make A Difference Award. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose held the first regular meeting of 2026 on Tuesday, Jan. 6. All councilors were in attendance, with Councilor J. David Reed attending virtually.

Mayor Dave Frank led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance; Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files had no changes to the meeting agenda.

Mayor Frank said, "Now for the fun part of the meeting," and bestowed a "You Make A Difference Award" on Melanie Hall. Frank said that Hall was nominated as an exceptional and deserving candidate and a nationally recognized social entrepreneur, who has shown leadership in philanthropy, education, and health care, and who "supports local businesses, non-profit organizations, and public initiatives, creating a ripple effect of positive change."

Continued pg 31

Ring Out the False, Ring in the True:
The Barefoot Laureate with Wendy Videlock!

The Satisfied Self:
Column by Gia Pirelli!

Red Hawks Sports:
With Cliff Dodge!

Magic Circle Players:
My Funny Valentine-Our Song!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST BABY OF 2026



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH-We are excited to announce that the first baby of 2026 has arrived at Montrose Regional Health! Kiley Olson is excited to welcome Natalie Marie Olson, who was born at 3:28 AM on January 1, 2026. Natalie weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 18.5 inches long. Thank you to Kiley for sharing your precious New Year gift with us!

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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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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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FULL CLOSURE PLANNED FOR TONGUE CREEK ROAD JAN. 21–22

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County will conduct a full closure of Tongue Creek Road on January 21 and January 22 to allow for scheduled work. During the closure, alternate routes to the Delta County Landfill will be available:

From the north: North Road to Trap Club Road

From the south: Trap Club Road from Delta

Traffic traveling to and from the landfill will be the most impacted. Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, allow extra travel time, and use the designated detour routes.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Delta County Road and Bridge Department at 970-874-2101.

Delta County appreciates the public's patience and cooperation during this temporary closure.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE BUSINESSMAN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County businessman, farmer and rancher Scott Riba has announced his candidacy for Montrose County Commissioner District 3. Commissioner District 3 encompasses the western portion of Montrose County stretching from the west edge of the City of Montrose to the Utah border including the communities of Redvale, Bedrock, Nucla and Naturita. Commissioner District 3 is currently held by Sean Pond who has terminated his campaign for election to the office and has announced as a candidate for US Senate for Colorado.

In his announcement, Scott congratulated Sean Pond on his Senate announcement and pledged to work with and for all residents of Montrose County regardless of political affiliation, ethnic origin, economic

status or where they moved from to make Montrose County their home. "If you are a resident of the County, I will listen to you and work to make Montrose County government work for you, the residents. Government is created to serve the people, not rule over them." "Collaboration with other elected officials in Montrose and the Western Slope as well as State and Federal representatives and agencies is essential to keeping Montrose County a GREAT place to live and raise a family." Scott has extensive business and farming experience and has served Montrose County and the City as a member of several Committees and Boards including the County Fair Board, County Weed Commission and the Montrose Downtown Development Authority. Scott has also worked in the political field holding positions in

the Colorado Republican Party, Montrose County Republican Party, Colorado House District 58 Committee and US Congressional District 3 Committee. Scott and his wife of 48 years, Linda Riba have been residents of Montrose County for 25 years. Scott can be reached at 970-596-9998 or scott@scottformontrose.com.



Montrose County businessman, farmer and rancher Scott Riba Courtesy photo.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

A NEW APPROACH TO MEDICINE ON THE WESTERN SLOPE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—It's no secret that the medical industry is becoming increasingly corporate. Patients often feel like they're being reduced to a statistic, like their providers are just following a manual and not truly trying to connect with the people under their care. One Nurse Practitioner in Montrose has seen this unnerving trend, and has decided to strike out on her own in an attempt to remedy it.

[West Slope Family practice](#) opened in January of 2024, and it is owned and operated by Jackie Hardin. Jackie Hardin is an NP-C, a Nurse Practitioner. While Nurse Practitioners are not doctors, they are allowed to practice independently in 27 states, including Colorado. Jackie herself went through 11 years of schooling to earn her license, two of which involved clinical rotations after she earned her master's degree in nursing. Perhaps the most striking fact about her practice is that she is one of the few nurse practitioner owned clinics on the western slope that accepts medicaid and a variety of commercial insurances. Jackie says that the

ultimate mission of West Slope Family Practice is to form personal relationships with her patients to ensure that they have a safe, welcoming environment, where they know they are receiving the best care possible. She believes that this personal relationship is the key to positive health outcomes. She doesn't just prescribe the people under her care pills as a first resort, she works with them to find the best solution.

If a lifestyle change could have the same positive outcome as a prescription, she'll help a patient make those changes. She wants the people who see her to be healthy in sustainable ways.

Jackie is filling up fast. While she's accepting new patients, there's hardly a day where her schedule isn't full. Luckily, she's brought on a new provider.

Amee Waldvogel is another NP, and while she's new, Jackie trusts that the people under her care are in good hands. Amee actually did her clinical rotations under Jackie to earn her license, and spent much of her early career working in hospitals around the state. She's open to new pa-



West Slope Family practice opened in January of 2024, and it is owned and operated by Jackie Hardin. Courtesy photo.

tients, and eager to form genuine bonds with them.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE HEARING AND READING AND WHERE IT IS COMING FROM

Editor:

This week has had two tragic incidents and another situation with equally tragic events. We all watched as a young woman (yes, 37 is young to me) was radically killed during an ICE arrest. Then yesterday two people were shot by ICE during a traffic stop. Earlier this week a young man broke into Vice President Vance's home. I guess by some measure this is violence as usual. Let's look at the media bias surrounding these events. The first shooting occurred in Minneapolis during an ICE operation. The driver was asked to move away from the scene but refused. She was then requested to exit out of her vehicle. Preferring to ignore the officer she decided to "take matters into her own hands" and weaponized her vehicle and hit the ICE officer with her car and endangering other officers. Fortunately, the officer reacted using his training and shot the woman while attempting to harm other officers. The second shooting occurred in Portland, OR. During a routine traffic stop the occupants resisted any attempt to have the occupants removed. It's suspected that both occupants were members or had ties to the Venezuelan gang. Both are now in the hospital waiting to be released by hospital personnel and arrested by ICE. The third incident involved a young man who tried to break into Vice

President Vance's private home. Upon arrest the perpetrator said his intent was to kill the Vance family. Further investigation they discovered two additional circumstances, first he intended to kill President Trump with the explosives he had with him and his confession that he had killed his parents two weeks earlier to get some cash that was being sent to his parents' house. Sadly no one knew that he had killed his parents until his confession and were still at the house where they died. These are three different news stories that gained our attention this week. The network media has portrayed the ICE officers as guilty until proven innocent while the latter offender is perceived as innocent until proven guilty. What is wrong with these media groups anyway. We still live in America and our constitution guarantees that we are all innocent until proven guilty. Can we depend on these same reporters to tell us the true facts and leave the judgement to the courts. Think about what you are hearing and reading and where it is coming from.

John Brown, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS ARE MAKING IT ALL TOO OBVIOUS: THEY HATE AMERICA

Editor:

And just like that, all the “no kings” protesters rallied in support of a bloody Venezuelan dictator. The new year started off with more Democrat hypocrisy. The left is aghast that the Trump administration took Venezuela’s “president” Maduro into custody, but seem to forget they were the ones who tried to remove Trump from office and lock him up. When conservatives went crazy over Biden, it was over things he deserved to be raked over the coals with, like being half brain-dead, letting Afghanistan collapse, causing inflation to run amok, and inviting unvetted third-world migrants to invade and trash the country. You remember the narrative: “Trump wants to be like Maduro.” Democrats spent years accurately describing Maduro as a narco-terrorist dictator, claiming that removing him would benefit the United States. Now Trump has arrested Maduro on narcotics charges and Democrats are going nuts. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn, is just one example of the many leftist critics. Murphy’s anger was nonexistent in 2019 when he criticized Trump for not doing enough to get rid of Maduro. Kamala joined in, saying that Trump’s “action was both unlawful and unwise.” That’s a far cry from 2019 when Biden criticized Trump for “talking tough on Venezuela, but admires thugs and dictators like Maduro.” This is the same VP and President who put a \$25 million cash bounty on Maduro for his arrest. (The same people who released Maduro’s cocaine dealer nephews from prison.) Now that Trump has done exactly what they asked him to do, Democrats feign outrage.

NYC’s new communist mayor Mamdani joined in the criticism, feigning concern about Venezuela’s people. The Venezuelans in NYC are there because Maduro made their country unlivable. They are now celebrating in not only NYC, but in cities around the world. The Venezuelan people still in their country also overwhelming support Maduro’s ouster – as does the rest of Latin America. Imagine being in their country right now feeling the hope of freedom for the first time in 25 years and then turning on their TV to see liberals in NYC telling Americans to put

their oppressor back in power. The Venezuelan people are letting it be known how much they despise the leftist “Hands Off Venezuela” protesters in America. It is evident that the protesters immediately marching in the streets with their professionally printed signs and unified messaging were not spontaneous or grassroots by any stretch of the imagination. That required planning, coordination, and money. Those protests are being paid for and organized by The People’s Forum – the same group behind pro-Palestine campus protests. That group is funded by a billionaire who has documented ties to the Chinese Communist Party.

It is becoming more and more evident that Democrats / the media would be happier if: 1) Those drug boats had delivered their drugs to our shores, 2) Maduro was still in power and terrorizing his citizens, and 3) The mission had failed, and we lost a lot of soldiers. Their feigned outrage is because a good result would mean success for not only Trump, but for the United States, and they cannot have that. Democrats started the week excusing billion-dollar theft of taxpayer money by Somalis and ended it with being irate that we captured an indicted narcoterrorist communist who destroyed Venezuela’s democracy. It is clear that when America is in a dispute with another country, Democrats will always side with the other country. Yesterday it was Somali thieves. Today it is a Venezuelan dictator. When this country finally destroyed Iran’s capability to wage nuclear war, they hit the streets with Iranian flags. When Trump finally put the brakes on the invasion at our southern border, they hit the streets with Mexican flags. When Israel had to defend itself against Hamas mass murderers, they hit the streets with Palestinian flags. When Trump started being tough on Ukraine in an attempt to end the war there, out came the Ukraine flag to keep the bloodshed going. It doesn’t seem to matter who it is or what it’s about. Democrats are making it all too obvious: they hate America.

I am finding it interesting that only two days after New Yorkers celebrated the beginning of socialism in their city, Venezuelans are celebrating the possible end of it.

In Venezuela 25 years ago, Hugo Chavez promised the people that his socialism would be a really good socialism that would lead to a “sea of happiness.” Stalin stated: “The individual is nothing; the collective is everything.” Mao put it this way: “The interests of the individual must be subordinated to the interests of the collective.” Mussolini: “Everything in the State, nothing outside the State, nothing against the State.”

In Mamdani’s inaugural address he pledged to replace what he called “the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism.” Mamdani’s new “Tenant Director” says NYC will transition private property to being a “collective good.” She says, “it will mean that especially white families are gonna have a different relationship to property than the one we currently have.” Also: “Private property, including any kind of home ownership, is a weapon of white supremacy.” (Her white mother’s home is valued at \$1.6 million.) Collectivism is a failed governing philosophy with a long and bloody history. In the twentieth century, regimes organized around collectivist principles – whether socialist, communist, or their hybrids – were responsible for the deaths of at least one hundred million people. When Mamdani speaks of the “warmth” of collectivism, he is not offering a novel idea. He is recycling the oldest political fantasy: that concentration of power and force is good, and coercive systems can work if you just mean well.

Mao’s China, Stalin’s Russia, Pol Pot’s Cambodia, Castro’s Cuba, Kim’s North Korea, and Chavez and Maduro’s Venezuela are all ample evidence of “the warmth of collectivism.” Who knew that the Berlin Wall was actually built to keep all the warmth of collectivism inside? Viewing satellite photos at night of North Korea (completely dark) and South Korea (lit up like a Christmas tree) is vivid evidence that socialists promise the world, but only deliver ruin and darkness. Mamdani was put in place by the radical leftists in the Democrat party – more confirmation that the Democrat party totally despises this country and its citizens.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TRAFFIC STOP TURNS VIOLENT ON INTERSTATE 76

Special to the Mirror

COMMERCE CITY— On January 8, 2026, at about 9:09 a.m., two Colorado State Patrol Troopers were conducting a team operation on Interstate 76. One of the troopers initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 76, milepost 15, near Sable, when a motorist failed to yield to a stationary emergency vehicle. The vehicle contacted was a white 4-door BMW M235i with an adult male driver.

During the stop, the suspect refused to exit the vehicle and became combative with the troopers before fleeing the scene. As the troopers attempted to remove the driver, a window was broken on the BMW. The driver then struck one of the troopers at the scene with his BMW. The driver continued fleeing eastbound, taking the southbound exit onto Sable towards 104th Ave. The

trooper, who had been hit, returned to his patrol vehicle and attempted to pursue the suspect. Due to weather conditions and speed, the patrol vehicle skidded into the center concrete median, damaging the undercarriage and causing the patrol vehicle to become disabled.

The trooper who had been struck was transported to an area hospital for evaluation of injuries. A second trooper drove himself to the hospital as a precautionary measure. The driver of the BMW is still at large at this time. The Colorado State Patrol will update with additional information as the situation progresses.



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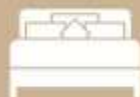
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As we welcome the new year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to my friends, family, clients, and the Montrose community for another year of trust and support.

Real estate is more than buying or selling a home. It's about relationships, experience, and having a knowledgeable professional by your side when it matters most.

Whether the year ahead includes a move, a new beginning, or simply staying informed about the market, I'm always here as a trusted resource.

*Warmest wishes for a healthy, happy,
and prosperous New Year. . Peg*

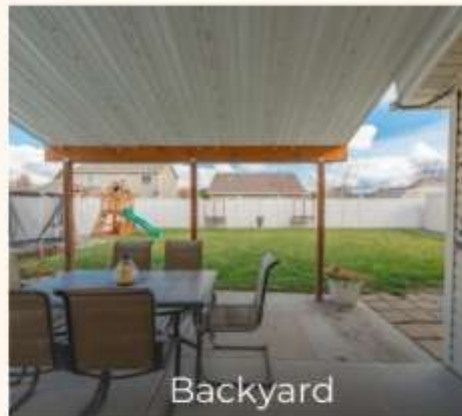
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REPUBLICAN WOMEN PRESENT LOCAL AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR AND SPEAKER LAURA PADGETT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Republican Women is starting 2026 with a program featuring the local award-winning author and speaker, Laura Padgett. She will speak and entertain with her brilliant storytelling of personal stories to encourage and inspire each of us. Books available for purchase. Join us Friday, January 16th at Hampton Inn Montrose. Noon-130p with doors opening at 1130a. Brown bag lunch. For more info contact Kerri - 970-209-5170.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IN DEFENSE OF FREE THINKERS

Editor,

In the January 5th, 2026 edition of the Montrose Mirror Mike Badagliacco writes about partisanship. He calls-out the unaffiliated voter. He says the unaffiliated voter is delusional and hides behind cowardice. His premise is the unaffiliated still make decisions based on partisan or ideological leanings. I say he is full of bovine manure.

I was once a registered democrat. My brothers and parents were republicans. Why the divide in affiliation, we just saw things differently. I always felt and still do today that there are those in society that need help and that the government should reach out and give those in need a helping hand. I'm not advocating life-long support, just a boost to get them started toward a "productive life." My family members were republican because of our military heritage.

I decided in 2008 the two-party system is a failure. That is the year party extremism entered the picture. Or as George Bush would say, you're with us or against us. That's the year I decided I wasn't playing that game any more. So, MJB, it is not a matter of being gutless as you say we are. It is in fact making choices about what is best for our country and not a political party. As an example, I chose to exercise the write-in option for President on the 2024 ballot. I chose a prominent republican because I thought she would be far better than either of the leading candidates. And no, it was not a wasted vote. A wasted vote is one not cast.

MJB, the unaffiliated is not delusional nor are we cowards. We are about change. We believe that we do not have to be bound to ideological doctrine. There is in fact a middle ground, Michael. It may take awhile to get there but we will get there.

Your signature line says you are passionate about the United States of America and the Constitution. So am I as well as all my fellow unaffiliates. I invite you to break the chains that bind you to your political doctrine. I encourage you to become a **Free Thinker**.
Dave Stockton, Montrose

IT'S TIME FOR EPIC CHANGE

Editor:

If you're expecting no tax on overtime pay and no tax on tips and more money in your pocket here in Colorado you're out of luck. Thanks to the corrupt Democrats who run our state government you will still be taxed here in Colorado. They want to keep even more of our money. Does that clarify who the Democrats really are? They are the enemy of the people of Colorado. It's time for epic change.

Carol McBride, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MY VOTE GOES TO SEAN POND

Dear Editor,

My letter to the editor is to thank Sean Pond for throwing his hat in the ring to run for U.S. Senate. Thank you Sean, for getting in the fight that day when the federal government decided to try to confiscate more land and water from Coloradans by trying to designate another monument here in the west called the Delores Monument. That day you became involved because you knew how government works. You knew it wasn't a protection of land and water but a taking of land and water. You and Danielle put the forces together and started Halt the Delores Monument. When I told you to look into the Wyss Foundation in Durango and follow the money, you didn't ignore me, you did what I asked. When I asked you to talk to Phil Lyman in San Juan County, Utah, our neighbor, to understand better what the federal government was doing to communities, you did.

Your Halt the Delores Monument

worked, Sean! Then what happened? Commissioners Sue Hansen and Cody Davis belly up to the table with the federal government again, and try to put the West End of Montrose County into an NCA!!

You showed the citizens how it worked. You videoed meetings that you were in attendance and showed the people just how the backroom deals worked.

You wrote to us via your FB page and told us everything. Finally, sunlight into the darkness of the forked tongued politicians. It played out just how most of us fighters figured it did. They would say one thing to our face and do another behind our backs.

Sean, I am excited to stand with you, campaign for you and stand for We the People of Colorado against those who have sailed our jobs, our economies, our visions down the proverbial river using environmentalism, who use foundations such as the Walton Family Foundation,

The Wyss Foundation, The Tides Foundation, to fund organizations such as Trout Unlimited, Save the Colorado River and pump money into the NGOs, such as Region 10, Club 20, Western Colorado Alliance, Americans for Prosperity, Colorado West Land Trust and the list goes on. These NGOs will start pouring money into a candidate who they know they can pay off or into PACs. You did it Sean, you picked up the baton and onward you go, one who will truly represent us, the People of the state of Colorado against Hick-enlooper and Bennett, too, I might add. Now it's our job, we, not you, but we the People, have to work to get you across the finish line. It will be tough!!!! However, we can do this!!!! We have two candidates that are going to create another divide, Mark Baisley who is good enough or we have the best, Sean Pond.

My vote goes to Sean Pond!

Respectfully,

Barbara Hulet, Olathe, Colorado

IMPEACH, CONVICT AND REMOVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Editor:

It's time for a "regime change" in the USA/Western Hemisphere. Impeach, convict and remove as soon as possible!

Jo Clugg, Montrose

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS BEING FUNDED BY DRUG MONEY?

Editor:

Have you ever noticed how many times Democrats throw a fit about President Trump taking action against drugs flowing into the United States. As we all noticed President Biden and almost every single Democrat encouraged a wide open border in order for drugs to flow freely in. And thousands of Americans died from those drugs. Including some right here on the western slope. And the minute President Trump took action to close the border, Democrats started standing up for illegal alien drug dealers like Kilmar Abrego. And many Democrats seem to be on the side of narco-terrorists, Maduro. The DNC is even fundraising off of rejecting the arrest and extradition of dictator, drug lord Maduro. Plus Democrats in general seem to try to block I.C.E. from carrying out deportation laws that they once supposedly voted for. The actions of Democrats are speaking loud and clear regarding whose side they are on, and it's not the side of protecting Americans. You sure have to ask the question. "Is the Democratic party being enriched by drug money?"

Kelly Ray, Montrose



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- MLK REFLECTIONS

Confirmed speakers:



Sue Hansen
Montrose County
Commissioner

Dave Frank
Mayor

Tonya Maddox
CEO, Our Town Matters

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WIN BIG, ASSIST CPW DURING 2026 BLUE MESA LAKE TROUT TOURNAMENT

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-CPW will again offer up \$10,000 in prize money for those who participate in this year's harvest-incentive tournament. This will be the fifth edition of the tournament and is being held Jan. 1 through April 30, 2026 at Blue Mesa Reservoir.

In 2025, anglers turned in 2,770 heads from lake trout that measured 24 inches or less, which was the most since the inaugural year of the



An ice fisherman pulls a lake trout out of a hole in the ice at Blue Mesa Reservoir during the 2025 Blue Mesa Lake Trout Tournament. Giulio Del Piccolo/CPW

tournament in 2020. In the fall of 2025, the Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery took in 3,183,462 eggs from fish running out of Blue Mesa up the East River. That was the highest total at that location since 2019.

However, surveys suggest there are still more than 20,000 lake trout less than 24 inches in Blue Mesa. Because of that, CPW will once again offer cash prizes to encourage participation in another tournament.

To participate in the tournament, anglers who harvest a lake trout 24 inches or smaller should cut the fish's head off behind the gills and turn the heads into a collection point. There are three collection points at Blue Mesa Reservoir at the Elk Creek, Iola and Lake Fork marinas. Heads can also be turned in at CPW's offices in Gunnison and Montrose.

Four top prizes will be given out in 2026. The angler who turns in the most fish heads will earn the first-place prize of \$3,000. The second-place award is \$1,500, third place will take home \$1,000 and fourth place will earn \$500.

Anglers that missed out on the top four prizes will be entered into a raffle for one of twenty \$200 prizes with one entry for every head submitted.

All winners from the tournament will be notified by May 31, 2026. Anglers participating in the tournament must possess a valid Colorado fishing license and follow all Colorado boating and fishing regulations.

Anglers are reminded to always be aware of ice conditions before setting out. Always follow [ice safety guidelines](#) and come prepared with proper safety and self-rescue equipment.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HELP NEEDED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST LOCAL AND GLOBAL HUNGER

Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Returns to Montrose Feb. 6–7

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Montrose community is once again coming together to fight hunger—both locally and globally—as Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) returns with its MobilePack food-packing event on Friday and Saturday, February 6–7, at Friendship Hall.

This event follows the success of Montrose’s first FMSC MobilePack in September 2024, when 250 volunteers packed over 93,000 meals, feeding 255 children for a year



Volunteers are again needed to help pack over

110,000 life-saving meals during this two-day event. Of those meals, 7,776 will remain in Montrose to expand local emergency food reserves in partnership with Montrose Prepared Response, while more than 100,000 meals will be shipped to areas around the world facing the greatest hunger crisis.

Community members of all ages and children 5 years and older are encouraged to sign up for one of the two-hour packing sessions, where volunteers work together to package nutritious meals for children in need.

Volunteer Packing Sessions:

-Friday, February 6: 3–5 PM and 6–8 PM

-Saturday, February 7: 9–11 AM and 1–3 PM

Each volunteer helps pack enough food to provide a child with a daily meal for an entire year—a powerful return on investment with tangible, life-saving results. “The hunger crisis can feel overwhelming,” organizers shared, “but events like this remind us that real change happens when communities take action together—one child, one family at a time.”

To register, participants can scan the QR code or visit:

<https://give.fmsc.org/montrose>

About Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC.org) is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to feeding children worldwide. Through a network of more than 300 trusted distribution partners, FMSC ensures that 99.8% of meals reach children who need them most. In the last year alone, FMSC distributed 375,454,128 meals, feeding over 1 million children for an entire year.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDS NEW OFFICER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose Police Department has welcomed a new officer to its ranks, filling a vacant position within the agency. Officer Eric Grestenberger was officially sworn in during a ceremony held prior to the City Council's regular meeting on Tuesday evening, January 6.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall, along with Deputy Chiefs Tim Cox and Larry Witte welcomed Grestenberger before an audience of friends, family, City Councilors, city staff, and fellow Police Department officers in the City Council Chambers.

Grestenberger is a lateral hire from the Grand Junction Police Department.

Hall said the swearing-in process for new police officers is one of his favorite responsibilities as chief of police. Before officially swearing Grestenberger in, Hall pointed out that he begins his tenure with the department with a high level of support from city administrators, staff, City Councilors, and Montrose residents.

To maintain this support, Hall said, requires each local police officer to hold themselves to the highest personal standards, both on and off duty, stating, "Respect for the profession and the community is paramount. Holding oneself accountable to professionalism, ethics, integrity, and doing what you say you will do is critical."

"It is an honor. This is special in that this does not happen in all communities, where we get to swear in a new officer in our City Council chambers and our city councilors get to be part of this," Hall said. "Police officers are leaders, and we have to show leadership, accountability, and transparency in the service to our community; as the excellence in service you provide others is everything."

Grestenberger said in making the move to Montrose, he had visited with many different people within the community and the police department before deciding that the Montrose community — and the City of Montrose organization — was a good fit for him.

"I've really enjoyed my time here," Grestenberger said. "And I am really looking forward to giving the city my time for the rest of my career."

Hall also thanked the community for their support of the Police Department and its mission to make Montrose a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

For more information about the Montrose Police Department, visit www.MontrosePD.org.

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

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CONSTITUENTS THANK CITY FOR RESOLUTION *From pg 1*

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Frank asked those who wished to speak to line up. Three individuals lined up and addressed Council.

Becky Pendergrass spoke about “the recent situation involving the Montrose United Methodist Church.” She and her husband have been members of the church since 1991.

Pendergrass said, “...for generations it has been supported by well-known local families and individuals whose commitment helped establish the church as a place of service and stability...over the years it has consistently given back through mission programs that many in this community have benefited from...”

Like many church members, she said, she was both disappointed and concerned by the publicity surrounding the recent situation involving the church and the unhoused situation. “...many members were unaware that violations had occurred until the issue became public. There was confusion about how the situation was allowed to continue once those violations were identified.”

The situation negatively impacted the church’s attendance, staffing, and financial support, she said.

“I want to sincerely thank the City for the thoughtful and the measured way that this matter was ultimately handled...I believe this outcome gives all involved the opportunity to move forward in a positive and constructive way,” Pendergrass said. “...challenges surrounding the unhoused population are complex, and they’re not unique to Montrose.”

“While the City plays an essential role in addressing these issues, lasting solutions cannot be achieved by government alone. They require cooperation, responsibility, and involvement by the entire community...”

Next to speak was Krista Drake, who serves on the Church Council of the Montrose United Methodist Church.

She expressed concern over the issues affecting unhoused people but noted that the decision to allow the unhoused population to live on church property was made outside the church council and was

unexpected and unplanned. The church was not of one mind and struggled with the situation, Drake said. “I was very pleased at the settlement that was offered to our church...there are some that weren’t pleased with that and some that were...I thought it was a very gracious act. Thank you.”

Beth McCorkle also spoke. She wished Council a Happy New Year and thanked them for their patience and professionalism over the past year.

“...I appreciate the City for stepping up with an offer to the church, so that the issues could be put to rest and the financial burden on both sides could be resolved...it showed a willingness to find a path forward rather than allowing the situation to continue to escalate. The unhoused situation is not something one church should have taken on alone. In doing so, it crossed into actions that violated multiple laws...this is a community wide responsibility. I believe it’s something the city, local businesses, and the broader community should be working together on. It should be part of the City’s budget, managed by the City, with support and involvement by the community...I would encourage you to continue taking into account the information gathered by the Montrose Unhoused Roundtable...I appreciate all of your efforts, and I know many others do as well...thank you for your time and service with the community.”

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments of [Jeremy Omvig](#) and [Kelly Dyer](#) to the City’s Historic Preservation Commission.

ORDINANCE 2702 - FIRST READING

[Ordinance 2702](#) on first reading was approved unanimously, authorizing the issuance of utility revenue bonds to finance Wastewater Treatment Plant [improvements](#), establishing covenants in connection with the financing, providing for the payment of the bonds from Sewer Fund revenues, and approving other matters in

connection with the financing.

RIO GRANDE/EAST OAK GROVE ROUNDABOUT AND PHASE I RIO GRANDE EXTENSION

EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION

Also approved was the [request for \\$3,927,970.59 in expenditures](#) for construction of the Rio Grande/East Oak Grove Roundabout and Phase I Rio Grande Extension Construction Project. This includes the award of a construction contract to Earthworx Excavation in the amount of \$3,696,370.59; a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$131,600; up to \$45,000 in direct expenditures for site revegetation; and up to \$55,000 in expenditures to Delta-Montrose Electric Association for the installation of street luminaires.

2026 ANNUAL ANNEXATION REPORT AND THREE-MILE PLAN

Council considered and approved the [2026 Annexation Report](#) and Three Mile Plan as presented by Senior Planner William Reis.

Two ordinances were then approved on Second Reading:

ORDINANCE 2700 - SECOND READING

Council approved [Ordinance 2700](#) on Second Reading, for the annexation of the Haynes Addition.

ORDINANCE 2701 - SECOND READING

[Ordinance 2701](#), zoning of the Haynes Addition as an R-6 Medium Density/Manufactured Housing District, was approved on Second Reading.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leanne Whittaker delivered the Sales, Use and Excise Tax Report for October 2025, by [Month](#) and by [Area](#).

VISITOR CENTER REPORT

Guest Services Assistant Gunnison Clamp said that the Montrose Visitor Center will be involved in the Celebratory Passport Program for Colorado’s “[America 250-Colorado 150 Celebration](#).”

YOUTH CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Council is working on a proclamation and will once again present their wildly popular Non-Profit Showcase.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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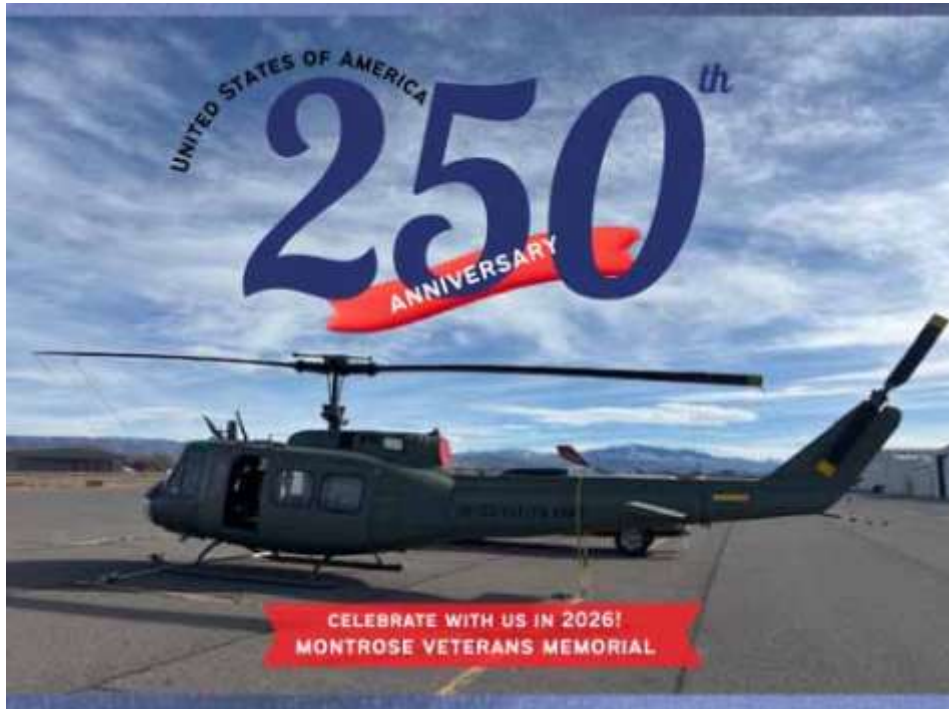
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THESE HISTORIC MOMENTS FOR MONTROSE, COLORADO!



or find upcoming events.

The Montrose Veterans Memorial
A permanent place of honor recognizing the service and sacrifice of veterans — past, present and future.

This Memorial will be:

- A gathering place for patriotic celebrations and memorial ceremonies
- A symbol of community gratitude and pride
- A peaceful space for reflection and remembrance
- A legacy gift to future generations

How the community can help:

- Attend campaign events and celebrations
- Volunteer time, skills or resources
- Share this mission with friends and neighbors
- Help recognize and honor local veterans

Together, we celebrate our nation's founding.

Together, we honor 150 years of Colorado.

Together, we build a memorial that will stand for generations.
Scan the QR Code or go to [Montrosevmc.org](https://www.montrosevmc.org) to learn more, sign up for updates, support the campaign, or find upcoming events.

*Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition
Montrose, Colorado*

Dear Editor:

1776–2026 | 250 Years of the United States of America

1876–2026 | 150 Years of the State of Colorado

A Community Celebration & Legacy Project

In 2026, our nation and our great state reach extraordinary milestones—and Montrose is coming together to mark this moment in a powerful, lasting way. The Montrose Veterans Memorial will be a place built by the community to honor the courage, sacrifice, and service of local veterans - past, present and future.

Why We're Coming Together

- Celebrate America at 250 – An anniversary of freedom and liberty
- Honor Colorado at 150 – A century and a half of perseverance, independence and community spirit
- Recognize Our Veterans – Neighbors, friends, and family members who answered the call to serve
- Create a Lasting Gathering Place – A

welcoming memorial for ceremonies, education and reflection

Our Shared Vision

The Montrose Veterans Memorial will be:

- A beautiful, accessible public space for all generations
- A center for community gatherings, patriotic celebrations and remembrance events
- A living classroom where future generations learn the value of service and sacrifice
- A lasting legacy reflecting Montrose's gratitude and pride

Join Us in Making History

Together, we celebrate our nation. Together, we honor our veterans. Together, we build something that will endure.
Montrose Veterans Memorial Park
Sponsored by the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition

Scan to Get Involved

Scan the QR Code or go to <https://www.montrosevmc.org> to learn more, sign up for updates, support the campaign

RED HAWK BOYS RE-DISCOVER WINNING WAYS



Red Hawks Rebound. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

The year-end holidays have come and gone. The Gymnasium is full of noise and frantic activity. The girls and boys basketball teams dusted off the holiday rust and have jumped back into action. Both the boys and the girls teams have each played and won three games as the Red Hawks look forward to the upcoming Southwestern League season.

RED HAWKS 62, BASALT LONGHORNS 26

The Red Hawk boys traveled east to kick off their second season by visiting the Basalt Longhorns. The Red Hawks wasted little time in jumping out quickly to a double digit lead and then never looked back. The Red Hawks offense was in high gear and their defense choked off what little offense the Longhorns were able to muster.

The Red Hawks were led in scoring by freshman Cache Oberg who cashed in 16 points, while teammates Josh Hawks and Bodhi Schafer each contributed 10 points to the party. Junior Ryan Pankey led the Red Hawks' defensive effort with 9 rebounds while Cache Oberg nabbed eight caroms. Seniors C. J. Rocco and Lane

Pressler each contributed 7 rebounds to the defensive effort.

The Red Hawks shot 40 percent from the floor and shot 63 percent from the charity stripe, while nailing 4 of 16 attempts from behind the 3-point arc. The team handed out 15 assists and managed 17 steals while turning the basketball over 18 times.

RED HAWKS 59, ALAMOSA MEAN MOOSE 41

Next up for the Red Hawks is a two game homestand featuring the Mean Moose of Alamosa. The Red Hawks continued to pressure the opposition from the opening tip to the final whistle. The Red Hawks jumped out to a 17-11 lead and saw nine Red Hawks dent the scoring column in the 59-41 victory. Freshman Cache Oberg led all scorers with 15 points while Sophomore Bodhi Schafer chipped in with 15 points. Senior Lane Pressler added 9 points to the win. The rebounding department was led by Chace Oberg with 10 caroms. The Red Hawks passed out 17 assists, had a dozen steals and turned the basketball over 5 times. The Red Hawks cashed in 7 of 19 attempts from behind

the 3-point line while shooting 46 percent from the charity stripe. The Red Hawks shot 50 percent from the floor.

RED HAWKS 50, CENTAURI FALCONS 30

The Saturday afternoon affair featured the Centauri Falcons who sported a 5-2 record in the early going. The Red Hawks continued their winning ways as the out-scored the Falcons in each of the four quarters to nail down a relatively easy win, 50-30. Eight Red Hawks added to the scoring column while nine Red Hawks contributed rebounds to the total.

Senior Lane Pressler led all scorers with 11 points, while junior Ryan Pankey chipped in 10 points and junior Josh Hawks added 9 points. Pressler led the rebounds statistics with half a dozen rebounds Ryan Pankey added 4 caroms to the defensive cause. The Red Hawks passed out a dozen assists, had five steals and only turned the ball over 8 times. The Red Hawks shot 52 percent from the floor and hit 83 percent of their free throws.

Next up for the Red Hawks, who are currently 9 wins and 3 losses, will be a trip to Grand Junction to take on the Central Warriors on Tuesday.

RED HAWK GIRLS REMAIN UNDEFEATED

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Red Hawk girls showed no signs of the holiday layoff as they traveled to Basalt and wiped out the Longhorns by the score of 63 to 10. The game was no contest for the Red Hawks who out shot, out defended and out rebounded the Longhorns in every aspect of the contest.

The Red Hawks had ten players enter their names in the scorebook. Four of the Red Hawks scored in the double figures. Senior Maggie Legg led all scorers with a dozen points while Senior Mayce Oberg added 11 points. Senior London Schafer and Freshman Landree Johnson added 10 points each to the Red Hawks total. Nine Red Hawks added their names to the rebounding total.

The Red Hawks made only 3 of 13 three-point shots, while they shot only 44 percent from the free throw line. The Red Hawks nailed half of their shots from the floor. The Red Hawks passed out 13 assists, had 21 steals and only turned the basketball over one time.

RED HAWKS 54, ALAMOSA MEAN MOOSE 18

The Montrose Red Hawks bandwagon kept right on rolling as the Alamosa Mean Moose came to the fieldhouse and were thrashed by the hometown team 54-18. The Red Hawks jumped out to a 16-4 advantage after one quarter of play and never slowed down throughout the contest.

The scoring parade was led by Freshman Landree Johnson who scored 21 points in the game. Johnson hit 3 of 5 from long distance, sank 4 of 4 from the free throw line and had 4 of 6 from 2-point range. Senior Maggie Legg added a dozen points to the Red Hawks total, as she made 2 of 5 shots from downtown and sank 2 of 3 from the charity stripe. Senior Lilly Nelson led all Red Hawk rebounders as she battled on the glass. The Red Hawks passed out 13 assists, had 10 steals, and turned the ball over only eight times.

RED HAWKS 52, CENTAURI FALCONS 35

The Centauri Falcons came and saw but could not conquer the stampeding Montrose Red Hawks as the home team racked up victory number 13 in the young season. The Red Hawks outscored the Falcons 12 to 8 in the initial quarter and dominated the rest of the way.

Freshman Landree Johnson led all scorers with an 18-point output while senior Mayce Oberg tallied 11 points and Senior Maggie Legg totaled 10 points. Lilly Nelson led all rebounders while scoring 8 points, mostly in the Fourth Quarter.

The undefeated Red Hawks will hit the road on Tuesday as they travel to Grand Junction to take on the Central Warriors.



Red Hawks Girls Rebound. Photo by Cliff Dodge.



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MAGGIE CROSS NAMED TO ELMHURST UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

Special to Art & Sol

ELMHURST, IL -Maggie Cross, of Montrose was among more than 1,000 students named to Elmhurst University's Fall 2025 Dean's List.

The Dean's List is composed of students who during the term concerned, attained a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher (out of a possible 4.00).

Elmhurst University is a leading four-year institution of higher education that seamlessly blends liberal learning and professional preparation to help students reach their full potential. Founded in 1871, Elmhurst now offers more than 70 undergraduate programs of study, more than 20 graduate and certificate programs in flexible formats, and the Elmhurst Learning and Success Academy for young adults with differing abilities. Elmhurst University is among the top-ranked colleges and universities in the Midwest, according to U.S. News & World Report.

ELIJAH WOMACK CHOSEN COLORADO BOYS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-Stop the presses! History has just been made. Elijah Womack of Montrose High School, a bruising 205-pound running back has been named by the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame as the Male High School Athlete of the Year. The balloting wasn't even close.

Womack, a two-sport athlete, excelled both on the football field and on the LaCrosse pitch. Womack will be honored along with Lucy Thompson of Legends High School at the Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on April 16 in Denver.

Womack led all of the Class 4A running backs with 2,157 yards from scrimmage and was second overall in all divisions in the state of Colorado. Womack was also a pass receiving threat and played virtually every snap as a defensive specialist.

Womack accomplished his rushing record in unusual fashion. Because the Red Hawks offense was so potent, Womack usually played only the first half of most games because the scores were so lopsided. Womack accomplished over 2,000 yards rushing by playing sparingly in the second half of most games and dealing with a running clock which shortened virtually every game. And yet, Elijah Womack persevered on offense, defense, and special teams.

Elijah gives credit to his teammates as a team sport such as football depends on all eleven working together to create a team, a culture and a winning attitude.

Elijah Womack. Photo by Cliff Dodge

The Red Hawks also have another finalist to honor, as Maggie Legg was named a finalist for the Female Athlete of the Year award. Legg made her mark as an outside hitter on the volleyball court and an all around player on the basketball team.

News, if unreported, has no impact.
It might as well have not happened at all.
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT IS A CAUCUS AND WHY YOU SHOULD BE PART OF IT

Editor:

Most people I have spoken with are excited about a certain candidate and plan to vote for him in November's election. The problem is that they do not realize there is a process that has to happen in order for their candidate to GET on the ballot. It is called a Caucus and State Assembly.

A caucus is where Republicans (or Democrats) discuss and determine which candidates will be on the ballot in their county. People are required to be registered as Republicans before attending their caucus (same for the Democrat Caucus).

In Montrose, on March 5 at the Precinct Caucus, we will be deciding who runs for Sheriff, County Commissioner, among other positions. At the Caucus, each precinct meets individually to select delegates for the State Assembly, and they get to vote there who goes on the state ballot.

What is critical is the number of people involved in this process. The more Montrose County people we have who are willing to help choose the local candidates AND be delegates to the State Assembly and choose our State candidates, the more likely we will have the candidates we want on the ballot. FYI, delegates at the State Assembly are chosen to represent our State at the party's national convention during a presidential election.

Let's say that you want Victor Marx to be on the ballot for Governor. At the State Assembly, he will need a minimum of 30% of the delegate vote. If two gubernatorial candidates get 30% or more, they both get on the ballot. We don't want that, because the vote will be split. Thus, the more delegates we muster from our county, the more likely we can get the person of our choice on the November ballot, whether or not it's Victor Marx.

The first step is to make sure you are a registered Republican.

Second, plan to attend a caucus training. Look for announcements in the paper or go to the websites. For example, the Montrose County Republican website is <https://www.montroserepublicans.org/>.

Third, attend the County Caucus on March 21.

Fourth, invite friends and neighbors to be part of this process. Remember, we need as many votes as possible to get good candidates elected.

Your involvement matters just as your vote matters. Many might not remember, but Colorado Rep. Larry Don Suckla won by THREE votes. So tear yourself away from social media and YouTube, and instead of complaining about our leadership (or lack thereof) in Colorado, be part of the political process and let's change the trajectory of our County and State.

Sincerely,

Leah Vandersluis

Montrose Citizen



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BOCC CONTINUES PROPOSALS TO REZONE AG PARCELS From pg 1

"almost immediately after comments" to be troubling. He asked the BOCC to hold Executive Sessions later in the meetings for the convenience of the public who attend. "Please consider that and be considerate of us," Redmond said.

Also addressing commissioners was Paul Jacobson.

Jacobson asked the BOCC to rescind [Resolution 35-2025](#), Special Use Permit - Ranger Ranchettes. The non-conforming use should have been rescinded after objections were raised by 19 homeowners, he said, adding that the airport had never gone through a public approval process. Jacobson asked for a proper public review of the private airport.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Item D-1, "Public Health, Mirza Ahmed, Public Health Director-Quarterly Update and Review," was moved to a later spot in the Agenda, just prior to Executive Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Tonya Maddox of Our Town Matters addressed the board concerning a planned Day of Service to pay tribute to the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19. "...Through service we are building stronger communities," Maddox said. "Thank you for everything you do for our community," BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said. The BOCC voted unanimously to approve the Board's signature on a proclamation recognizing January 19, 2026 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Don Varey and Michelle Haynes to the Montrose Housing Authority, both for a term of five years expiring January 7, 2030.

The BOCC voted to approve the appointments of the following to the Montrose County Planning Commission, for terms of three years ending on January 7, 2028: Regular Members: Dennis Murphy, Keith

Laube, Cindy Dozier; Alternate Members: George Papineau, James Haugsness. BOCC Chair Sue Hansen, noting that it is not possible to leave the BOCC chambers discreetly, invited those who wished to leave to do so "without reprisal."

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Planning and Development Director Tallmadge Richmond introduced the first Planning & Development item, the Bartol Rezone [RZ25-003] Proposal to rezone 3.2 acres from General Agricultural to General Business at Parcel 399335100001.

Information on the [proposed rezone](#) is included in the BOCC Regular Meeting Packet. Also included are a [map](#), [site plan](#), [comments from the public](#), and a [narrative](#) by Attorney Ryan Callahan.

The Applicant's Attorney as well as Fred Ballard of Del-Mont Consultants were present and given a chance to speak. Neighboring landowners spoke as well, showing overwhelming opposition to the zoning change.

The matter was continued until Feb. 4. Also continued was the second Planning and Development item, the Old School Lodge Rezone [RZ25-004] proposal to rezone 2.21 acres from General Agricultural to General Business at Parcel 399336201023.

The Old School Lodge Rezone proposal also generated comments from those opposed, including one who pointed out the result of attempts to grow the business community in Colona. "Colona is a failed business district...drive the five miles into Montrose." After a five-minute break, Commissioners reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Health to hear a quarterly update and review from Public Health Director Mirza Ahmed.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Ahmed discussed various programs run by the Montrose County Health Department. Upon request, he shared a copy of the Update Report with the *Mirror*. Some highlights are listed below:

-There are 1,100 families presently en-

rolled in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program;

- The Vital Records Division processed about 4,778 (1,857 customers) death and birth certificates in 2025;

- Montrose County now has 278 retail food establishments, 13 schools, 11 Child Care centers, and 13 septic trucks;

-Flu clinics were conducted in two locations in November;

- Ongoing in-person flu shots are available at the public health office;

- Two vaccination clinics (vaccine bus) visits were conducted with support of CDPHE;

- Around 2,000 N95 masks were distributed during the Black Canyon Fire;

- Two air quality monitors were installed;

- 500 dunks were distributed to control mosquitoes, along with 2,000 mosquito control wipes, 300 radon test kits, 200 digital thermometers, and 250 COVID test kits.

- The report also notes that collaboration with the West Central Public Health Partnership Coalition strengthened.

Health Department Goals for 2027 include:

-Development of a Montrose County strategic public health plan for three - five years;

- Begin vaccination program by the county public health including in Nucla;

- Communication with the CDPHE to assess introduction of family planning;

- Strengthen Environment Health program with addition of Environmental Health Specialist;

- Focus on substance use prevention, chronic disease prevention activities;

- Improve capacity of the staffs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met with the County Attorney in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for legal advice pertaining to the County's conditional water rights related to the Paradox Valley Pipeline, as decreed in cases 10CW165 and 18CW3049. Upon return to regular session the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

JEFF HURD REVEALS HIS TRUE COLOR ONCE MORE

Editor:

As 2026 begins, Congressman Jeff Hurd has wasted no time showing where his loyalties truly lie. Once again, he chooses to mingle with “unaffiliated” allies while snubbing the Republicans in Montrose County.

This pattern continues to raise eyebrows among genuine conservatives.

Repeated Snubs to the Local GOP

Jeff Hurd has slighted the Montrose County Republican Party since his election. He prefers to skip meetings with the official Republican Central Committee. Instead, he attends events that include unaffiliated organizations. This approach leaves many grassroots Republicans feeling ignored and frustrated. It appears Hurd shares the same affinity for a “*lighter shade of red*” as Sue Hansen, sarcastically dubbed “*Saint Sue Hansen*” due to a certain publication’s false assertion that she can “do no wrong”.

Aligning with Unaffiliated Commissioners

Hurd has held meetings with Hansen, who left the Republican Party in late March 2025 without as much as a peep or heads up to party officials to become “unaffiliated” after years of benefiting from GOP support. He also engages with newly installed Commissioner Kirstin Copeland, another “unaffiliated” official who filled the seat after the recall. Yet avoiding the only Republican at the BOCC, Commissioner Sean Pond, who is now running for U.S. Senate for the seat currently occupied by radically left-wing John Hickenlooper, former Colorado Governor and current U.S. Senator.

These choices suggest Hurd prioritizes “unaffiliated” alliances over strengthening

ties with core party members, again highlighting his desire for a “*lighter shade of red*” amongst the people of CD-3. Such interactions highlight his comfort with officials who do not align with Republican principles, people with no deeply held convictions and opportunists who stand for nothing and are driven by the wind rather than by principle.

Ties to RINO Groups

Hurd maintains connections with groups like the Montrose County Republican Women’s Club, which Hansen, censured former State Representative/State Senator Don Coram, and disgraced former Executive Chair of the Montrose County Republican Party Ray Langston frequently attend.

Many Montrose Republicans view this organization more akin to something that claims the name without the commitment to Republican principles. I have said before, “*They are about as Republican as Federal Express is federal*”. The group has a history of taking positions contrary to conservative values. This affiliation fits Hurd’s pattern of aligning more often with the left than with the energized and principled conservative base.

Growing Discontent Among True Republicans

Many Republicans have grown increasingly dissatisfied with Hurd’s agenda and affiliations. *He faces a primary challenge in 2026 from Hope Scheppelman*, a former Colorado GOP vice chair who promises a stronger America First stance. Reminiscent of what happened to Congressman Tipton when Lauren Boebert primaried him and went on to represent CD-3. While Boebert has had her own per-

sonal struggles, Hope Scheppelman is a Navy Veteran and Nurse Practitioner with strong conservative values that include and go far beyond support for the 2nd Amendment.

Hurd has co-sponsored bills with some of the most radical far-left Democrats, such as the GORP Act, which locks up more than 730,000 acres surrounding Montrose County and harms the local economy.

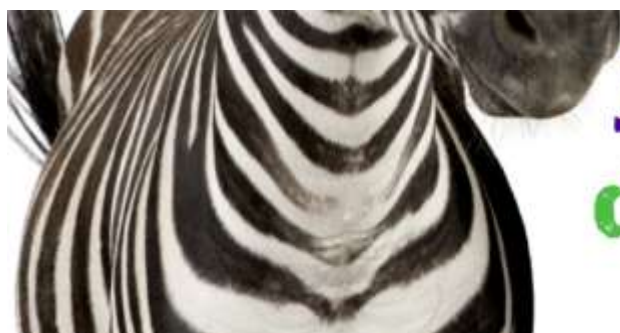
He claims that by co-sponsoring the GORP Act that he will “have a seat at the table,” he is gaslighting the people of CD-3 to make him appear caring or having his finger on the pulse. The reality: Hurd already sits on the committee for this type of legislation, *he already “had a seat at the table”*.

Conservatives on social media are eviscerating Hurd, highlighting his reluctance to embrace conservative and America First positions. This backlash shows his approach does not resonate with the party’s faithful. *Hurd has turned his back on those who elected him*, so it is no surprise that he aligns with Hansen, another who has done the same.

In the end, Congressman Hurd’s actions speak louder than his party label. By consistently choosing to align with the “unaffiliated” over the local GOP, he reveals his true color: **BLUE!**

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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One of the original homes in Montrose, has been lovingly cared for, carefully updated and maintained. The main floor business was a styling salon for many years that evolved into a cottage retail store with room for classes and workshops. The original use of the home is noticeable in the front parlor, living, dining, bedroom, bath and kitchen.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE DISINGENUOUS NARRATIVE SURROUNDING THE ICE INCIDENT IN MINNEAPOLIS

Editor:

The fatal shooting of Renee Good by an ICE officer in Minneapolis on January 7, 2026, remains a deeply tragic event. While the loss of life demands careful scrutiny, much of the criticism from left-leaning media and commentators focuses on selective interpretations of video footage and hindsight proposals, often downplaying actions that escalated the encounter.

Overview of the Incident

Good, a U.S. citizen, was shot during an ongoing ICE immigration enforcement operation in south Minneapolis. Her vehicle was positioned in a way that impeded the operation, with reports indicating she and her wife were at the scene using whistles to support neighbors. Federal officials maintain the shooting occurred in self-defense after Good's vehicle struck an agent.

Sequence of Events

Videos from multiple angles, including bystander footage and the officer's own cellphone recording, show the critical moments. Officers approached Good's SUV and ordered her to exit. She refused and began maneuvering the vehicle. As one agent attempted to intervene, the SUV accelerated forward, causing the camera to jerk violently, consistent with physical impact on the filming officer. The officer then fired the shots that killed Good.

Video Evidence and Expert Analysis

Newly released footage from the officer's perspective reveals the SUV making contact, throwing the agent back a good 3-5 feet before he fired. Pollster and analyst Mark Halperin reviewed all available angles and concluded *the vehicle clearly*

struck the officer, making the use of force a reasonable response to an imminent threat. Halperin highlighted how *some media outlets selectively edited or omitted this impact*, distorting the narrative. Additional footage included Ms. Good's wife taunting ICE officers. While inflammatory, not relevant just like the reaction of the officer with his disparaging comment and slur. Only about five seconds of the incident that unfolded is relevant.

From the video evidence, analysis and background information concerning the reasoning of Ms. Good's "visit" to Minneapolis, I personally feel confident that *the officer's actions* in this incident, while they unfortunately ended in tragedy, *were justified, IMHO*.

Criticisms of Hindsight Suggestions

Many critics have proposed alternatives, such as shooting at tires or firing warning shots into the air. These ideas overlook the *split-second nature of the decision*, where an officer faced a moving vehicle perceived as a deadly threat. No commentator advocating such options has experienced similar high-stress scenarios involving vehicular assault.

The Role of Compliance and Escalation

Compliance with lawful orders could have prevented the tragedy entirely. Good had multiple opportunities to exit the vehicle and de-escalate. Blocking traffic or impeding law enforcement, even if intended as support or observation, creates dangerous situations and constitutes obstruction. Peaceful protest does not extend to hindering federal operations or endangering agents.

Broader Media and Political Context

The rush to portray ICE as aggressors fits a pattern of framing immigration enforcement as authoritarian, regardless of context. Enforcing existing laws is a core government function, not overreach. Selective outrage ignores the risks officers face and excuses *non-compliance that led to escalation*. I am no fan of authoritarianism. I have had my encounters with law enforcement overstepping their authority and government trying to usurp the rights of individuals.

Having said that, everyone needs to understand that *freedom comes ONLY with responsibility*. We must be responsible stewards of our freedoms, and we need to understand that government has the right to enforce laws, which is what was happening here. And while we have the right to peacefully protest, we do not have the right to obstruct law enforcement's ability to faithfully do their job. *Freedom requires vigilance on the part of law enforcement AND Citizens to understand and have a civil society*.

A thorough review of all footage supports primary responsibility lying with actions that turned a tense encounter deadly. True accountability requires examining complete evidence, not curated clips advancing a political agenda.

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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT ABOUT ME- THE PROPERTY TAX PAYER?

Welcome to 2026, y'all!

It appears that the Western Slope politics is very similar to North Florida, with respect to local politics, specifically school boards and school board candidates.

School Board candidates should not have to identify which political ideology they identify with since the political infrastructure is so toxic.

I really don't want to hear whining candidates, clutching their pearls and lamenting the "horrible" conditions the students must endure. Really? That's all you have is "the children"?

What about me- the property tax payer? Without me, you can whine and clutch pearls but NOTHING can get accom-

plished.

Who is going to represent me, who is my advocate? It seems that school boards take the property tax payers and bend us over without so much as a kiss or thank you.

Florida is on a path to eliminate local property taxes and I am in favor of such an initiative. No one on school boards, represents the best interest of the taxpayer, school boards view us as a blank check. The sheer lack of consideration, of the tax payer, amounts to taxation without representation. Couple the elimination of property taxes with a school voucher and all of a sudden, the local school boards are learning how to be effi-

cient.

It is difficult for any school board to justify why the public school district is in the food service business and in the transportation business.

The taxpayers are nothing more than a revenue stream to the local boards. If you show up and question the Boards, they'll scream "the children" while never justifying their position(s).

If you're a school board candidate and you want to be interesting, then represent the taxpayer and not some special interest.

*Robert Franco
Montrose County
Wakulla County*

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EDITOR:

U WILL FIND I TYPE IN CAPS,BECAUSE IF IT IS OK FOR TRUMP TO DO SO....THEN I WILL FOLLOW HIS LEAD.

NOW THAT I HAVE EXPLAINED THIS CYBER FAUX PAU ...LET US TALK ABOUT CHOICES.

I AM ALMOST 79 Y.O. (IN MAY)....FOR DECADES NOW, I HAVE WATCHED BOTH THE R' AND THE D'S MAKE CHOICES THAT WERE DUBIOUS AND FROM MY POV NOT FORWARD THINKING.....THE MICRO MINDSET IS PREVALENT IN BOTH PARTIES. ADD ONTO THAT A SELF-SERVING ATTITUDE (INSIDE TRADING THAT ENRICHED THE IN THE KNOW SECTOR, WHICH IS A MAJORITY OF OUR GOV. LEADERS) AND WHAT U HAVE IS A GOV. THAT IS NOT FOR THE PEOPLE,BUT RATHER FOR THEMSELVES.

AM I DISILLUSIONED? THAT WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

THE ICEING ON THE CAKE IS SCOTUS....OUR HIGHEST LEVEL OF TRUE INTEGRITY, TASKED WITH FINDING THE TRUTH AND RENDERING JUST AND CONSTITUTIONAL BASED DECISIONS.

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, A DECISION IS PENDING THAT WILL EITHER UPHOLD THAT INTEGRITY OR REVEAL THAT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE IGNORED AND 'LOYALTY' HAS BECOME THE GUIDING EDICT.

I AM AN 'INDY'..HAVE BEEN FOREVER BECAUSE I WITNESS THE CORRUPTION AND LACK OF MACRO THINKING AND THAT NOT ONLY DISMAYS ME, I AM DISGUSTED BEYOND DESCRIPTION. WHEN THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION PLAN IS THE GUIDING RULE, WE HAVE OVERSTEPPED THE INTENT OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH A JUST GOVERNMENT.....BREAKING THE BACK OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A THIRD PARTY SYSTEM IS REQUIRED TO BREAK THIS FUBARRED FRAMEWORK.

SO, IN CLOSING, THIS IS A CLEAR AND CONCISE REASON FOR ELECTING 'UNAFFILLATED' AS A CHOICE OF EXPRESSING MY DISGUST. JUST ANOTHER UNHAPPY MIDDLE CLASS AMERICAN,

LYNN STOCKTON, MONTROSE

CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Live better in 2025

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LOUELLA JEAN GOLDEN ***November 6, 1952 — January 4, 2026***

LOUELLA (Lou-Lou as she was affectionately known by family) GOLDEN passed away in her sleep at Hope Springs Care Center in Montrose, Co. She was born in Chama, New Mexico to Elizabeth Russom (Ulibarri) and Dan Russom. The family moved to Montrose, Co in 1969 and Louella graduated from Montrose High School. Lou-Lou was kind and friendly to everyone. Her faith in God was incredibly strong. She enjoyed reading the bible and attended bible study whenever she could. "Aunt Lou-Lou" loved her nieces and nephews beyond measure and was always happy when she could spend time with them. She was very thoughtful, always noting everyone's birthday and always thinking of others. She sent out birthday and Christmas cards religiously and loved talking on the phone with family members.

Louella was preceded in death by her parents, including her stepfather Miguel Ulibarri; her brother Donny Russom, nephew Ernesto Robles Jr. and her beloved feline companion, Gracie. She is survived by a son, Danny Ross, brothers Richard Russom (Chama) and Roger Russom (Montrose); sisters Edna Ulibarri (Las Vegas, NM), Norma Garcia (Twin Falls, ID), Patricia Lemus and Donna Russom (Montrose, CO), and Kathy Robles (Grand Junction, CO). She is also survived by many nieces and grand-nieces, nephews and grand-nephews, as well as cousins.

Louella was loved by family and friends and will be missed dearly. We will cherish her memory in our hearts forevermore.

Information on services is pending



Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BEN DONALD SELLERS ***October 26, 1930 — January 2, 2026***



BEN DONALD SELLERS, age 95, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2026, at HopeWest Hospice surrounded by his loving family.

Ben was born on October 26, 1930, in Hayden, Colorado to Ben and Mary Sellers. He attended Mesa College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. Mesa College also introduced him to Patricia (Patti) Pinkerton and they married September 2, 1951. They moved to Boulder in 1952 attending CU and moved to Ohio in 1953 where he served honorably in the United States Army. They returned to Colorado in 1955 and settled in Montrose. In 1970, the family moved to Grand Junction where he continued a long and dedicated career with Mountain Bell and was admired for his steadfast work ethic and commitment.

Ben found great joy in hunting, fishing, camping trips, and exploring backcountry jeep trails in the San Juans with his family. He and Patti spent many miles on the road exploring America in their RV including a trip to Alaska. Another highlight of their travels included a trip to Russia.

He was involved in many community organizations including the Elks, U.S West Telephone Pioneers of America (President) and Mesa College Alumni (President).

He is lovingly remembered by his daughter Diane (Dale) Loucks of Gold Canyon, Arizona; sons Rex (Jamine) Sellers of Fruita, Colorado; and Danny (Robin) Sellers of Grand Junction, Colorado. His legacy lives on through eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Ben was preceded in death by his beloved wife Patricia Sellers. He is survived by his sisters Viola Koets and JoAnn Grenemyer.

A memorial service will be held on January 13, 2026, at 10 AM at Brown's Funeral Home, 904 N 7th Street. Burial will follow that afternoon in Delta, Colorado.

Donations can be sent to HopeWest Hospice.

BRADLEY WADE FURNESS ***October 13, 1964 — January 6, 2026***

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Bradley Wade Furness, who departed this world on January 6, 2026 in Montrose Colorado at Valley Manor care center after a long battle with adult-onset Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy. Brad was born on October 13 1964 in Watertown South Dakota. He was a cherished member of the community, known for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering love for his friends and family. He leaves behind a legacy of love and friendship that will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Brad enjoyed the tranquility of nature and often hiked or drove in the mountains near Montrose Colorado. He graduated from Washington High School in 1983, received an Associate of Arts degree from Kilian Community College in 1996, and received an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Turf Management Technology in 1999. Brad was a US Army veteran and served in Desert Storm on the front lines as a combat engineer. He served from 1988 – 1992. Brad worked as a golf course superintendent in Beaver Creek Minnesota, and Huron South Dakota.

Brad is survived by Dan Furness (son), Mathew Furness (son), Sharon Struck (sister), Doug Furness (Brother), Renae Bartosiewicz (sister) and 9 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by Palmer Furness (father), Marion Furness (mother), Michael Furness (brother), Kimberly Furness (sister). A celebration of life will be held on a date to be announced in Montrose Colorado where loved ones will gather to pay tribute and share cherished memories. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CATHERINE "CATHY" T. COOMBS *April 30, 1945 – December 11, 2025*

Cathy passed away on December 11, 2025, with her love in everyone's heart. She lived a wonderful 80 years. Her passing marks the end of a life lived with love, compassion, caring, laughter, and support. Cathy was preceded in death by her mother and father, Albert and Rita Pfifer of Delta, Colorado. Also, by her sister, Rosemary of Tennessee.

She was the oldest sister of six siblings – Al, Marilyn, Rosemary, Jeannette, and Carl. She was an amazing mother and cheerleader to her three children – Randy (Elaine), Scott (Heather), and Traci (Dan). Cathy was also a loving grandmother of eight – Kelsie, Sydney, Ryon, Aidan, Ayla, Nathan, Tanner, and Brady.

Cathy enjoyed caring for people, often putting others' needs ahead of her own. She enjoyed working in the yard and garden, especially her roses. There was never an event missed or a voice louder than hers in support of her children as they grew up. So many wonderful memories of her cooking, family events, games, laughter, and hugs so tightly you could hardly breathe.

Cathy will be laid to rest in the Spring of 2026

The LOVE of a Mother

The LOVE of a Mother

Undeniable, pure, and never-ending

The LOVE of a Mother

Support through intense quietness at every piano recital

The LOVE of a Mother

That one voice heard above all others in the middle of a wrestling match

The LOVE of a Mother

Breakfast hot and ready each day before school,
cupboards and belly's always full

The LOVE of a Mother

Tears of joy when you came and went upon every visit

The LOVE of a Mother

Allowing us to follow our dreams,
supporting us at every turn

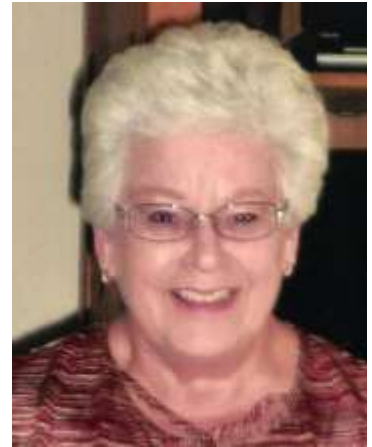
The LOVE of a Mother

Instilling kindness, direction, fortitude, and pride

The LOVE of a Mother

Equaled only by the LOVE we feel for you

Mom, you will be missed each and every day. Spread your wings and show all who you are, for you live on in our hearts. Go now, soar upon those eagles' wings among the clouds, reach out and touch the hand of God. Rest now, Mom, job well done.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MICHAEL THOMAS MURPHY

December 19, 1987 – December 27, 2025

MICHAEL THOMAS MURPHY was born in La Junta, Colorado on December 19, 1987 to Shane and Jessica Murphy. He passed away in Montrose, Colorado on December 27, 2025. He is survived by his mother Jessica Murphy of Leesburg, Florida, sister Emalyn Heckmaster, and brother-in-law Tommy Heckmaster of Montrose. Beyond his immediate family, Michael is survived by many friends near and far, that he made along his life journey. Friends in Rosamond California, Tulsa, Baton Rouge, Montrose, and no doubt many other places.

Michael was a one-of-a-kind wild spirit and had a smile that could light up a room. Michael had a deep passion for rap music and rapping. Music wasn't just something he listened to, it was how he expressed himself, told stories, and connected with the world around him. Whether he was writing lyrics, freestyling, or sharing his favorite songs; his love for music was unmistakable and unforgettable. To those closest to him, Michael was laughter, as some of the most cherished memories of Michael will be the jokes shared, the non-stop laughter, and the experience of just being together. Michael's humor, quick wit, and infectious smile will be missed beyond words.

Michael leaves behind family who loves him deeply, and friends who will carry his memory forward. Though Michael's time with us was far too short, the impact he made upon us will last forever. He will be remembered for his spirit, his creativity, his laughter, and for the love he gave freely. Michael's voice, both spoken and his freestyle rap; will echo in our hearts always. We have comfort in knowing that Michael is in heaven; strong, healthy, and happy that he is reunited with his father, Shane Michael Murphy and his grandmother Stella Stanlick.

At a later date the family will announce via Facebook, plans for a candle-light vigil in Michael's honor. Additionally, family will be traveling to Michael's mother's home in Florida, where they plan to host a celebration of life and plant a tree in her yard in honor of Michael.

Until we meet again, you are forever in our hearts Michael Thomas Murphy.



GLENN FREDRICK CADDY

May 4, 1928 — January 3, 2026

GLENN FREDRICK CADDY, age 97, passed away on January 3, 2026. He was born on May 4, 1928. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Stanley Caddy and Jessie Ellen Smith, his brother William Caddy, and his daughter Gilberdean. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 76 years, Geraldine Miller Linscott, as well as his children: Glenna Vigil, Keith Caddy, and Keith's wife Tawna. He is also survived by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Christine Vigil, Danielle Wyatt and her husband Kiel, James Caddy and partner Kristopher Trabue, Keith Caddy Jr. and his wife Faith, their sons Jack and Tobias, Ben Caddy and his wife Lily, and David Caddy.

Glenn was born near Colona at Billy Creek (Eldridge Switch), Colorado, and attended schools in Colona, Mayfield in Ridgway, Oak Grove in Montrose, and Montrose High School.

He began ranch work in Colorado and Utah at age 12, renting his first ranch from his uncle at 16. Glenn met Geraldine while working on her family ranch near Uncompahgre. After marrying, he worked at the Idarado Mine on Red Mountain. Because he really enjoyed working with horses and cattle, he returned to ranching in the Uncompahgre Valley—a life he cherished. Eventually Glenn and Geraldine acquired a ranch of their own and established a lucrative backhoe business. Glenn was a respected man who will be missed by all who knew him.

ISSUE 556 Jan. 12, 2026

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE WITH WENDY VIDELOCK

Ring Out the False, Ring in the True



By Wendy Vidlock.
Courtesy photo.

PALISADE—This morning, a light rain is falling, fog is lifting, coffee is brewing and the year 2025 is gradually slipping away into the feathery realms of memory.

From there, 2025 will make its way

into the wobbly books of history and eventually will fly headlong into the halls of antiquity.

Scientifically speaking, unlike equinoxes and solstices, nothing actually happens at the stroke of midnight on January 1st. Earth does not stutter or still, but continues her path around the sun just as she did the day before. The New Year is not a cosmic phenomenon but an entirely human invention, a miracle in its own rite — a social point of synchronization.

In our human world of clocks and calendars a particular digit flips and across the world, grand rituals are underway, culture is made visible and nostalgia for what has passed is linked with our hopes for the future.

If you think about it, New Year's Eve is a brilliantly constructed yearly circadian event for civilization. And what's more magical than the stroke of midnight? The clock strikes and suddenly a collective acknowledgment of Time is underway, is

wildly celebrated by millions of people. Somewhere a ball drops. Somewhere else a riverboat sings out tunes. Elsewhere, countless young lovers kiss for the first time. Here in the sticks outside Palisade this year, as with most years, a few stalwart neighbors set off a couple fireworks to mark the event. The thumps in the near distance rouse those of us who've fallen asleep, reminding us that time is afoot.

*The new year appears to have arrived
right on time
and strangely, poignantly,
familarly*

*seems to be
reminding me
of our drunken revelry
and our melodic
and melancholic shared humanity.*

There is perhaps nothing more beautiful about New Year traditions than singing that old stand-by, Auld Lang Sang, written by the Scottish poet, Robert Burns. Leave it to the poets to remind us that all celebrations must include a grace note, a memento mori, a bit of duende, a reminder of sorrow and loss.

Yet another tradition of the New Year is the New Year's Resolution, a concept which persists because it is beautiful and hopeful and not because it is necessarily true to our experience. We humans are of course capable of change but personal change is rarely instant and tends to be slow and incremental, gathering meaning and healing as it goes.

Still, hope matters. Hopeful rituals matter. Trying to improve ourselves matters. And paying attention to the passage of time matters, in large part because it offers us all opportunities for reflection.

What are holidays, after all, but magnifiers of consciousness?

On New Year's Day I was curled up on the couch reading a book and looked up just in time to see a magnificent bald eagle gliding past just outside the window. Rushing to the window I watched the great raptor circle back and around several times before disappearing in the valley to the north below.

It's always thrilling to see an eagle but it felt especially noteworthy to see one on New Year's morning. It was good to be reminded that the eagle is an eagle— and not just a symbol. I was reminded of an old eagle poem by Tennyson:

*He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands.
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls.
And like a thunderbolt he falls.*

And this is one of the great joys of poetry — I suddenly found myself remembering that my son, at the age of eight, had chosen this particular poem to learn by heart. That would have been more than twenty years ago now,—twenty new years ago. Still standing at the window my heart swelled with the memory of

Continued next pg

Ring Out the False, Ring in the True From previous pg

my little boy learning and reciting those words.

As I returned to the couch I found myself remembering another Tennyson poem — a New Year's poem, actually — which contains the famous line: *Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

Those words stayed with me for the rest of the day. What better words could have come to me on New Year's Day to accompany me into this new year? What better daily practice than to *ring out the false, ring in the true*? What better reminder to stay true and honest with myself and with others?

And so it was I adopted, not so much a resolution for the new year, but a practice of more mindfully seeking truth and ringing out the false.

In most cultures the passage of time has long been imagined as a straight line moving forward: clear, sharp, and unwavering. Yet we humans live in stories and metaphors and are always circling back through our own memories and traveling through our own emotional and spiritual ecosystems.

So it makes sense that the singular moment of the New Year which held my imagination and held all the magic and mystery of the passage of time and the New Year came to me this year on the outstretched wings of an eagle.

—
Wendy Vidlock lives at the foot of a mesa in Western Colorado. Her books are available wherever books are sold. Reach her at westernslopeword@gmail.com

**MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYER
 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 5
 Increase participation and
 attendance from children,
 youth, and families**



YOUTH PROGRAMMING community listening session

Are you a participant or parent of a participant in Drama Camp or a Youth Production? Have you or your child been interested in youth theatre but never participated in our program?

Share your voice and help us improve our offerings for young people at our upcoming Community Listening Session on January 22. We will gather in dedicated sessions for each age group and parents to ***eat pizza, play games, give facilitated feedback and help shape the future of our youth theatre offerings. SIGN UP AT***

JANUARY 22, 2026

www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544AEA82EA0F9C25-59488375-community

ENJOY A MAGICAL NIGHT OF THEATRE and INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY

By Jonathan Heath & Lisa Rediger

MONTROSE-Magic Circle Players' My Funny Valentine is an original show and our annual benefit production that allows us the opportunity to raise funds for special projects. This year all proceeds from tickets sales and the live auction will be applied to purchase our land and a forever home for Magic Circle Players. THIS IS EXCITING NEWS AND A MUCH HOPED-FOR OPPORTUNITY! When we constructed the theatre in 1974, we were offered a ninety-nine year lease on the land, and through an agreement with Volunteers of America and the City of Montrose, we are positioned to have the opportunity to purchase the land. Come ENJOY a night of FABULOUS live theatre AND make a lasting difference in your community by helping secure the future of Magic Circle Players!



My Funny Valentine: Our Song is a joyful, genre-hopping musical comedy about a girl on a mission to find the perfect love song — and maybe true love along the way. With the help of a reluctant fairy godmother's assistant, she travels through decades of iconic hits, diva ballads, and dance-floor anthems. But the more songs they try, the more she wonders: does the perfect love song even exist... or is love a little more offbeat.

"I've been thinking about this show for nearly two years so it feels incredible to see it finally coming to stage," said Rachelle Rediger, who wrote this year's script and is co-directing the production with Lisa Rediger. "I just wanted to honor the great love songs that make us all feel special, and I wanted to do it while showcasing the power of female friendship. We have so many incredible female actors in our community, and I really wanted to shine light on the girls! And what better way than through an unexpected friendship."

My Funny Valentine: Our Song features a cast of 29 actors, the famous Valentine Band, and as always our very own Bob Allyn will host the entertaining live auction. This show isn't just for sweethearts; it is perfect for families, best friends, cousins, and grand-kids!

"The show is full of humor, songs that everyone knows, and heart," said Rachelle Rediger, "not to mention the original song we wrote that you won't get to hear anywhere else. I'm so honored that Magic Circle Players trusted me to write this show and I hope it's not my last!"

Purchase your tickets today at magiccircleplayers.com or call the box office at 970-249-7838.

To be part of this OPPORTUNITY to ensure that Magic Circle Players is around for our kids, all you have to do is purchase a ticket to *My Funny Valentine: Our Song*.

WE HAVE TWO EVENT OPTIONS

- **VIP Wine Pairing Dinner at The Stone House**, followed by the show on Thursday, February 5th only for **\$125**. You may choose your dining and sit with just your sweetheart, at a table with your friends, or at a large table to make new friends.

Show Only option for February 5, 6, 7 & 8 for **\$45**.

There are only four performances, or less than 1,000 seats for this high anticipated original show, SO GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Thank you for helping secure the future of Magic Circle Players. We can't do it without you!

COME PLAY WITH US!

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The Satisfied Self

26 FOR 26, WEEK 8: THE FINAL SPRINT — DIRECTION, DISCERNMENT & DESIGN



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

As this challenge comes to a close, it's worth pausing to acknowledge what has quietly occurred over the past eight weeks. You didn't overhaul your life. You didn't chase perfection. You didn't wait for January to arrive so you could begin again.

Instead, you practiced alignment — one deliberate shift at a time. The final week of the *26 for 26 Challenge* is not about intensity. It's about **direction**. These last three shifts — earning leverage, values-based decision-making, and a personal review — ensure that what you've built doesn't dissolve when the calendar turns. They help you carry this work forward with clarity and agency.

Shift 19: Identify Your "Earn More" Lever (Pillar: Money & Work)

By now, your energy is more stable, your time better protected, and your focus clearer. This is the moment to ask a practical, empowering question:

Where could one strategic adjustment meaningfully increase my income?

Instead of grinding harder, identify **three leverage opportunities**:

- asking for a raise or renegotiating compensation
- taking on a new client or role aligned with your skills
- pre-selling a product, service, or offering you already know how to deliver

✦ *The mindset shift*: money grows most sustainably when it follows clarity, not

effort.

Choose leverage, not exhaustion.

Shift 23: The Values Filter

(Pillar: Meaning & Focus)

Write down your **top five values** — the principles that guide your decisions when life is working well. These are not aspirational words, but lived ones. Then, use them as a filter.

Before saying yes, ask: *Does this align?*

Before committing, ask: *Does this serve who I'm becoming?*

✦ *The practice*: say no — calmly and cleanly — to invitations, obligations, and opportunities that don't match your values.

Alignment is not about doing less. It's about doing what matters.

Shift 26: The Quarterly Personal Review (Pillar: Integration & Growth)

This final shift ensures continuity.

Once per quarter, schedule a personal review. Score each of the eight pillars of your life — identity, presence, body, systems, time, money, relationships, and meaning — on a scale of 1 to 10.

From there:

- identify what's working
- note what feels strained or neglected
- choose **three priorities** for the next quarter

✦ *The intention*: gentle course correction, not self-criticism.

Progress thrives when reflection is regular.

This review transforms personal growth from a resolution into a rhythm.

The Close: You Didn't Start Over — You Built Forward

The cultural narrative tells us that the year ends in excess and begins in repair. That

we unravel in December and redeem ourselves in January.

You chose something different.

You ended the year with systems, boundaries, energy, and clarity intact. You practiced presence. You honored your body. You refined your environment. You strengthened your voice. You made space for joy.

You didn't wait for a "new you."

You showed up as yourself — consistently.

As the calendar turns, let your goals build you instead of break you. Let growth feel grounded. Let ambition be supported by rest. Let success be sustainable.

This is not the end of the challenge.

It's the beginning of a way of living.

Finish strong.

Begin stronger.

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 Bodhi, her Pitbull PIC, is almost always along for the ride.

Follow her on socials: https://www.instagram.com/gia_pirelli/, <https://www.youtube.com/@GiaPirelli>, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582789143474>, <https://giapirellisteamwork->

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FEATURING THE MY FUNNY VALENTINE BAND

My *♥* FUNNY Valentine

Our Song

BY
RACHELLE
REDIGER

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ANNABELLE HAWKINS OF MONTROSE RECEIVES DEAN'S LIST HONORS FOR UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2025 SEMESTER

Special to the Mirror

ST. GEORGE, UT-Students at Utah Tech University showcased exceptional academic performance during the fall 2025 semester, with 1,071 students earning Dean's List honors.

To qualify, students had to achieve a GPA of 3.5 to 3.89 and complete at least 15 credits.

"Congratulations to our outstanding students whose dedication and sustained effort have earned them a place on the honor roll," said Dr. Chris Guymon, interim provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at Utah Tech University. "Their achievements reflect Utah Tech's commitment to 'active learning, active life.' -- where students learn by doing, apply knowledge in real-world contexts and prepare for meaningful careers and lives of purpose. We are proud of the perseverance, adaptability and resilience our students demonstrate as members of our polytechnic community."

Over the past ten years, Utah Tech University has experienced tremendous growth and now offers nearly 300 academic programs. Known for its affordability, it ranks among the most cost-effective universities in the Western U.S. and emphasizes hands-on education that encourages students to thrive both professionally and personally. Outside of the classroom, students have the opportunity to enjoy the unparalleled opportunities for an active life that accompany UT's location in beautiful Southern Utah.

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS OF WESTERN COLORADO TO MEET JAN. 22 AT FRIENDSHIP HALL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Come celebrate the new year with Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado at their Thursday meeting, Jan. 22, at Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fairgrounds, 1001 N Second Street in Montrose. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. We will be honoring those who joined our group last year with a New Member Tea. New members will share their quilt journey and show some of their work. You are encouraged to bring a tea cup to make the gathering a festive tea party. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

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1624 ELECTION WAY, MONTROSE,
COLORADO 81401

MLS #826599

ABOUT THIS PROPERTY:

Dream Home in American Village – 3 Bed, 2 Bath with Spa-Like Primary Suite Located in the desirable American Village Subdivision, this beautifully upgraded 3-bedroom, 2-bath home offers the perfect blend of style, comfort, and functionality.

FEATURES:

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

worship Service: September-May at 10:15am **Discipleship Hour** at 9am

Worship Service: June-August at 9:30am
 Nursery available for 0-4 during worship service

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

Cedar Creek Church is a welcoming and friendly group of people that takes God seriously, but not ourselves.

We enjoy gathering for encouragement, meals, prayer and having fun!

Our mission is to exalt Jesus Christ by being a Word-centered community of believers who are equipped for a life of worship, prayer and service, and to reach our neighbors for Christ.

Please make plans to come check us out soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the Valley

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

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Montrose, CO 81401

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,

office@ccfmontrose.net,

www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9 am - Noon and by Appointment

Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Interim Pastor Ian Hyde

Services Sunday: Worship 10:30

AM, Discipleship Hour: 9:30

AM. Discipleship Hour has classes across all age groups. Nursery for children UNDER 3 is available during Worship.

Mission Statement: Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose

CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM - 12PM

Contact: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com,

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM, *We strive to encourage, challenge and*

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with

us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

9:15 AM to 10:15 AM: Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.

10:30 AM: Sanctuary & Virtual Worship
Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.

Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.

Children's services: *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*

We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available.
Worship service times: From November 9-December 14, the regular Sunday gatherings will meet from 9:30-11 am for a six-week SAC/Meditation program with Sang-drol Blanchard of Meditation Spaces. Meditation time and guest speakers are planned. Virtual services are temporarily cancelled. Chai Chats will continue to

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.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: [ststephensmont-](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.com)

rose@yahoo.com
www.ststephensmontrose.com
Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

Mirror:

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

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR



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Paint with Kate in January



"Paint a Vacation!"

Acrylic on Canvas

Thr., Jan 15th, 5:30 pm Mosaic Montrose

Fri. Jan 16th, 1:00 pm Senior Center



Paint a chapel gate on canvas

Thur., Jan 22nd. 5:30 pm Endless Pastabilities



Abstract Alcohol Ink on Yupo

Sat., Jan 24th, 1 pm. LaNoue Winery



**Paint a Winter Scene
with Watercolor Pencils**

Thr., Jan 29th, 5:30 pm Mosaic Montrose

Fri. Jan 30th, 1:00 pm Senior Center



Class Details and Registrations

kathrynrburke.com/https://education

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

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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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

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

Tuesday - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays-Black Canyon Audubon Society hosts monthly birdwatching field trips in the Montrose area on 1st Tuesdays of the month and in the Delta area on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Check out the website for field trip details at blackcanyonaudubon.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

Jan. 16-MRW is starting 2026 with a program featuring the local award-winning author and speaker, Laura Padgett. She will speak and entertain with her brilliant storytelling of personal stories to encourage and inspire each of us. Books available for purchase. Join us Friday, January 16th at Hampton Inn Montrose. Noon-130p with doors opening at 1130a. Brown bag lunch. For more info contact Kerri - 970-209-5170.

Jan. 21-Come hear Zebulon Miracle present "Voyage into geology, archaeology, history and a touch of legend" at our meeting Wednesday 1/21/26 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Free.

Jan. 22-Come celebrate the new year with Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado at their Thursday meeting, Jan. 22, at Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fairgrounds, 1001 N Second Street in Montrose. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and tell. We will be honoring those who joined our group last year with a New Member Tea. New members will share their quilt journey and show some of their work. You are encouraged to bring a tea cup to make the gathering a festive tea party. Call 360.448.0153 for questions.

Feb. 3-April 10-The Montrose AARP Tax-aide site will be in operation from February 3rd through April 10th at the Senior Center in the Montrose Pavilion, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 2pm. **Reservations required** – Make reservations at 970-252-4889 Monday – Thursday 9am – 2pm.

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT

NORTH CAMPUS RISES



Mirror Staff Photo
MONTROSE-Montrose County's North Campus takes shape near the Montrose County Justice Center. The North Campus is a facility that is intended to provide additional space for the County's Health and Human Services team. The North Campus Project is being built by Stryker and Company.



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442



Premier Sponsor:
Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

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

Fiesta Guadalajara
Re-opening 2025
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074