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ASSOCIATION



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'We're getting death threats' PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY PROJECT GRINDS ON DESPITE PUBLIC CONCERNS



The Project 7 Water Authority held a work session and regular monthly meeting on Jan. 22. (Standing, L to R) Front Range Water Consultant Facilitator Amy Housh and Program Manager Engineer Rick Huggins opened the two-hour work session. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On Jan. 22, the Project 7 Water Authority Board held a 3pm work session, followed by the regular meeting at 5 pm.

Background:

The Resiliency Project, which was first presented in 2023, is to build a second water treatment plant south of Montrose with direct access to Ridgway Reservoir. The Project 7 Board turned the project over to a contracted management team — Program Manager Engineer Rick Huggins, D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz (financial); Deputy Project Manager Miles Graham, and Jessica Johnson, a Garver employee.

Excerpts from the Montrose Mirror December 11, 2025 board meeting report:

Matt Miles said, "The Risk Assessment was for \$30 million for the plant and \$30 million for the pipe. When did it turn into a \$185

Continued pg 30

GREENFIELD URGES BOCC TO APPROVE FPPA FOR MCSO

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In what BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said "Might have been the fastest meeting ever," the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) gathered [for a regular meeting](#) on Jan. 21. All commissioners were present as Hansen opened the meeting and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Delivering the Invocation was Pastor Garrett Agajanian of St. Stephens Anglican Church.

"Heavenly Father, I thank you for the freedoms that we have as American citizens, and the blessings and privileges we enjoy in Western Colorado. And I pray this morning that those blessings would be sustained in our community, those freedoms that have made our nation and our state great. In your scripture you state that citizens ought to obey the governing authority since you have established those very authorities to



Continued pg 6

Zachariah Greenfield at the BOCC meeting. Screenshot.

[Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.](#)
[Your Brain on Nature!](#)

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

[Steve Metheny Honored with](#)
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[Column by Gia Pirelli:](#)
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY TO HOST DON MARSH

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Thursday, Feb. 12 7 p.m. Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Don Marsh, who will continue to share his African adventures Part 2: Birding the Kenyan Coast and Nairobi National Park. Don is a gifted photographer and even more gifted birder and we are lucky to have him present his excellent images of the wildlife in this part of Africa. The Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubonsociety.org.

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Dear Readers:

We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines:

In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers.

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

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

RULE 3. Please limit repetitive mud-slinging to avoid bumping up against Rule 1. Also, in the case of those writing to intentionally discredit a public official or candidate for public office, please provide a link to the source of your allegation if possible. Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths. Finally, opinions expressed in letters and commentary are those of the authors themselves, and do not reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or editorial staff.

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,

the Montrose Mirror



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Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of more than 35,000 across the region and around the world

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

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GREENFIELD URGES BOCC TO APPROVE FPPA FOR MCSO From pg 1

promote peace in our society. Therefore, I lift up and pray for this assembled council this morning, and I am asking that you graciously grant them wisdom and sound judgment as they make decisions. I pray for the agenda set before them today, that the decisions that would be made will be conformable to your will and your word, and to your law. Please give an assurance of what would please you and what would benefit those who live and work in our beautiful county of Montrose..."

Regular BOCC meetings will continue to take place at 9am, Hansen said. "...We had some discussion and actually voted on that we would have a later start time, but we're going to go ahead and keep them at nine o'clock..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Zacharia Greenfield spoke about the possibility of adopting the Fire & Police Pension Association of Colorado ([FPPA](#)) for the Sheriff's Department. FPPA is a retirement system that has been discussed since March of 2023, he said, noting that the most that it would cost the County is about \$240,000 per year in addition to benefits, and it would not be an unfunded obligation for the county as it would restart if unfunded and whatever is invested would stay with the investees. Since 2000, turnover at the Sheriff's Department is about 11.2 people per year, Greenfield said, and turnover costs the department about \$1.2 million annually.

Greenfield asked commissioners to consider funding FPPA or putting a question on the ballot for voters to decide. He said that he spoke with BOCC Chair Sue Hansen about Funding FPPA for the Montrose County Sheriff's Office in 2024. "I would ask for that conversation to continue."

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as written.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted to extend the Granicus Service Agreement with Granicus, LLC and Montrose County to provide agenda and live meeting solutions for the amount of \$27,702.55.

Following a public hearing, Commissioners voted to approve the 2025 Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Users Tax Funds (HUTF) report and to adopt [Resolution Number 2-2026](#) for annual changes, additions, and deletions of roads to the County's road maintenance system. Information is included in the meeting packet including [mileage](#), [street inventory report](#), and [changes](#).

With no Executive Session, the meeting was then adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MUSEUM OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED



Rich Fike. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE—The Museum of the Mountain West's Founder and Executive Director Richard E. Fike was selected by True West Magazine as "Best Western History Collector" for 2026. Recognition by the magazine was revealed in its January/February "Best of the West 2026" special collector's edition available on national

newsstands in January. Museum Founder and Executive Director Richard E. Fike commented, "I very much appreciate being honored again with this True West award because it affirms my lifelong goal of educating the public on the true historical stories and artifacts of the Western US. Since my first days of collecting in Skagway, Alaska, I continue to treasure the West and share it with the Museum of the Mountain West visitors from around the world to help save the past." The Museum of the Mountain West, Inc., was also selected by True West in September/October 2025 as one of the Top Western Museums of the West 2025. Information on truewestmagazine.com notes that the magazine has been pub-

lished since 1953; it has a vast monthly print and online readership of fascinated history enthusiasts and heritage travelers with articles about the myths, legends, and lore of the American West. The Museum received grant funds in 2025 from Collette Travel and Delta-Montrose Electric Association for restoration efforts and facility improvements, enabling the Museum to pursue renovation of its 2nd Empire-style house as well as other property enhancements.

Step back in time at the Museum of the Mountain West "Where History Comes Alive" at 68169 Miami Road, Montrose, Colorado. For additional details, visit www.museumofthemountainwest.org or call 970-240-3400.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE IN WESTERN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION — The Business Incubator Center (BIC), in partnership with Colorado Mesa University (CMU) has released the Economic Impact of Agriculture in Western Colorado study, an in-depth report examining agriculture across Mesa, Delta, Montrose, Garfield, and Rio Blanco counties. The study was commissioned by the Business Incubator Center as part of its AgriWest Initiative to better understand agriculture's economic role and long-term needs across the Western Slope. The study was led by Dr. Nathan Perry of Colorado Mesa University and provides a region-wide snapshot of agriculture through time-series Census trends, producer survey results and economic contribution modeling.

The study was formally launched at the Business Incubator Center during a presentation attended by agricultural producers, partners, stakeholders, and local leaders. The report brings together data and producer feedback to help strengthen regional understanding of agriculture's economic footprint and the conditions shaping the industry today.

Presentation #3: Delta & Montrose Counties

Date: Friday, Jan. 30, 5:30 PM - 7 PM

Location: Montrose County Event Center
1036 N 7th St, Montrose, CO 81401

Meal Sponsored by Montrose County

About the Study

1. The report includes three core sections:
2. Time-series agricultural Census data trends;
3. Producer survey insights from across the region, and;
4. Economic contribution model measuring the role of agriculture in jobs, wages, GDP, and tax revenue.

Read the Full Report HERE: <https://gjincubator.org/economic-impact-of-ag-on-western-co/>

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED JAZZ ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM AT 2026 COLORADO MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION STATE CONFERENCE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County School District is pleased to announce the Montrose High School Advanced Jazz Ensemble has been selected to perform at the 2026 Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) State Conference, a prestigious honor reserved for the state's top school music programs.

Each year only two high school jazz ensembles statewide are selected through a competitive audition process to perform at the conference, and ensembles may apply only once every three years. The MHS Advanced Jazz Ensemble last appeared at the conference in 2023, making this selection a significant achievement.

The Ensemble will perform at 1pm on Friday, Jan. 30 at the International Center at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. Students have been preparing their conference program since August, dedicating months to refining their performance.

"This selection speaks to the dedication and musicianship of our students," Montrose High School Principal Heidi Voehringer said. "It's exciting to see their hard work recognized at the state level."

During the conference trip, students will also perform with the Ascent Big Band at 5:30pm on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at Lulu's Downtown in Colorado Springs, providing a professional-level performance experi-

ence.

The Montrose High School Advanced Jazz Ensemble includes 22 students in grade 9-12 and has a long record of excellence. The group was named top performing ensemble at the Colorado West Jazz Festival in 2023 and at the Fort Lewis Jazz Festival in 2022, 2024, and 2025. The ensemble has also opened festival concerts for Grammy Award Winners Terence Blanchard and Christian McBride as well as Vibraphonist Stefon Harris.

Montrose County School District congratulates the students and staff of the Advanced Jazz Ensemble and looks forward to their representation of Montrose at the 2026 CMEA State Conference.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

KILLING OF PRAIRIE DOGS AND TOP OF THE PINES MANAGEMENT

Editor:

The following letter was sent to the Ouray Board of County Commissioners:

Dear Commissioners Jake Niece, Lynn Padgett, and Michelle Nauer,

On January 4, 2020, the Girl Scout property was transferred to Ouray County, and Top of the Pines (TOP) was granted a Special Use Permit. As part of that permit, a Resolution was accepted stating:

"(E) The proposed use of the property will not unduly affect wildlife."

Additionally, the TOP Management Agreement dated September 2, 2014, states in Section 17:

"TOP must work with and seek guidance from the Ouray County Vegetation Manager for authorized methods and use of pesticides, herbicides, poisons, and other chemical treatments on the County-owned TOP property. The Ouray County Vegetation Manager must approve all treatments. For applications of rodenticides, TOP must consult with the Vegetation Manager and an appropriate wildlife biologist and adhere to signage requirements listed below, as well as posting on social media. The County Vegetation Manager may seek any necessary approvals and/or BOCC, on a case-by-case basis."

Since that time, TOP has consistently failed to comply with both the Resolution and the Management Agreement. There has been a clear lack of transparency regarding activities on this public land. Numerous community members I have spoken with have neither seen public notices nor received any information regarding

prairie dog management or poisoning activities.

On October 13, 2025, I spoke directly with Commissioner Niece and asked about future plans for the prairie dogs. I was told the County was waiting on contractor bids and that once a contractor was selected, it would determine whether extermination would occur in the fall or late spring. I was further told this information would be publicly posted online, with proper notice given through the County website, local newspapers, community message boards, and on-site signage.

However, at the BOCC meeting on January 13, it was stated that poisoning had already been completed in the fall. This directly contradicts what was previously communicated and indicates that TOP is not complying with Management Agreement requirements related to rodenticide use, public notification, and transparency.

I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

-When were bids sent out to contractors, and which contractor was awarded the contract? There appears to be no public record.

-Why was no notification made via social media, the TOP website, or the County website prior to poisoning on public land?

-The only signage observed was a temporary sandwich board placed on County Road 5 this summer referencing a wedding and discouraging public access—no signage regarding rodenticide use was present.

-Was the required survey protocol con-

ducted for Burrowing Owls, and was re-seeding with native seed completed per CDW biologist David Klute's recommendations? If so, when?

Did TOP notify and consult with the Ouray County Vegetation Manager as required? -Is there documentation verifying compliance with these requirements?

I am strongly opposed to the killing of prairie dogs at Top of the Pines. Prairie dogs are a keystone species, and their removal severely disrupts the ecosystem. Biologist Steve Boyle was hired to develop a management plan, and his first stated goal was to "allow the Gunnison prairie dogs to naturally occur."

Given this professional recommendation and significant public concern, why does TOP continue to pursue lethal control? Is this being done to accommodate events? This was not the intent of the Special Use Permit or the Management Agreement.

This raises a broader concern: is TOP the appropriate organization to be managing this public land?

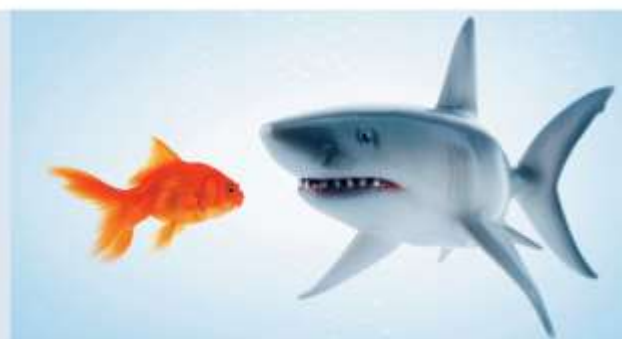
The BOCC set clear expectations. A management group should follow those expectations without requiring constant oversight by the BOCC or policing by the public.

I respectfully request a written response and any supporting documentation. I also ask that this letter be entered into the official BOCC record.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Goller, Ouray County

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A BYGONE ERA OR NAIVETY?

Editor:

In 1989 George Bush Senior called for “a kinder, gentler nation.” He was seeking two things, 1) a more compassionate society, 2) he wanted to present the Republican Party in a different light, one that was a bit softer and more inclusive. He was looking for a Norman Rockwell portrayal of the good America. He was naive.

In my naivety, I too long for that Rockwell portrayal of America; small-town values, family, innocence, and community. Those sentimental images had a slow death. Rockwell soon started portraying images of the oppression we faced as a nation during the 50s and 60s. His themes started to focus on social injustices, racial segregation, poverty, and the fight for civil rights.

Bush and Rockwell both understood for us to be successful we must rid ourselves of the Jim Crow doctrine. The Crow doctrine embraced segregation in all aspects of life, schools, hospitals, restaurants, and even drinking fountains. It disenfranchised the black man by instituting literacy test and poll taxes. If one opposed these tenants of discrimination they faced terror tactics, unlawful arrests, fines, and even death. Fast forward to the year 2026. What does America look like? It is certainly not the idealized community Rockwell portrayed. The Republican Party or its offshoot MAGA has embraced the notion that America is a White-Christian nation. They are without doubt reviving the Crow era. Throughout America people are being ripped off the streets because of the color of their skin or because they choose to practice a religion other than Christianity. They are thrown into internment camps without due process. People are being shot and killed because they reject the authoritarian views of the federal government lead by a hyper-sensitive narcissist. That same government is attempting to disenfranchise a large segment of the population through redistricting and challenging a person’s right to vote, again because of their ethnicity.

Trump called for two elected officials in Colorado to burn in Hell. I can only hope the same for the movement he spawned.

Contrary to the previous sentence, I long for the Bush “kinder gentler nation.” I long for the bygone era portrayed by Rockwell’s nostalgic America.

Dave Stockton, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS CAMPAIGN AS MODERATES, TURN INTO RADICAL MARXISTS

Editor:

As you know by now, Democrats totally crack me up. Democrats running for office: "I don't know why you're afraid to vote for us. We just want to make your life more affordable." Democrats when they take power: "We are raising your taxes, crime is now legal, illegals have more rights than you, men will be in your daughter's bathroom, and all future elections will be manipulated in our favor."

"Affordability" has been the Democrats' favorite narrative for months now. During the 2025 Virginia gubernatorial race, Abigail Spanberger was sold to voters as a moderate Democrat, but within days of her inauguration it became obvious that voters just elected a radical hardcore leftist. Virginia Democrats have made it clear that "affordability" was never more than a campaign slogan. They are raising taxes on virtually everything. They are expanding Virginia's sales and use tax to cover a ton of everyday services, as well as increasing income taxes. They are banning gas-powered leaf blowers but simultaneously raising taxes on electric landscaping equipment. Spanberger already rejoined a greenhouse gas initiative that will raise electricity rates.

In addition to taxing just about everything under the sun, legislation is already streaming in to expand abortion, guarantee free education for illegals, make sure felons can vote, ban guns, rig elections, and make the lives of rapists and murderers easier. They want to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for rape, manslaughter, assaulting law enforcement, the distribution of child pornography, and repeat violent felonies. They want to implement lots of election stuff, like voting by internet and making it a crime to hand-count ballots. They also want to get rid of recording devices in courtrooms, which would give far-left judges, who love to let violent criminals off the hook, the ability to do so without public scrutiny. Remember these are the same Democrats that also just elected an attorney general – the state's chief law enforcement officer -- who fantasized about murdering his Republican opponents and their children. Of course, none of these "improvements" were mentioned before the election. Even Democrats can't trust other Democrats to say what they really plan to do when elected.

More evidence that Democrats have never met a criminal they wouldn't go to bat for was revealed in Illinois this week. Governor Pritz-

ker just signed the "Clean Slate Act" which will automatically seal criminal records every six months. That way, we will never know how many dozens of prior arrests criminals in Chicago have when they eventually maim or murder an innocent citizen. Remember this is the same Democrat controlled city that stopped accurately reporting on crime so they could say crime went down. Chicago Mayor Johnson doesn't hide his position on crime and jailing criminals. He thinks jailing criminals is "unholy" and ineffective – while women get set on fire while traveling Chicago's public transit. Instead of blaming crime in his city on criminals, Mayor Johnson wants us to believe Trump's strikes against narco-terrorists in the Caribbean are somehow responsible. Per the Mayor, those actions "sow division in our communities." Never mind the fact that those actions have drastically slashed citizen deaths from Fentanyl. The Democrat Party is no more concerned about protecting innocent citizens from violent criminals than it is about making life more affordable. It's that simple. Democrats are now treating criminals as constituents and constituents as criminals.

It's no secret that Democrats will say and do anything to stay in power. Worse yet are their actions when they are out of power. Whenever Republicans win elections, Democrat leftist radicals find any excuse to riot and cause mayhem. The cause really doesn't matter. Democrats love democracy, except when they lose. It isn't about immigrants, ICE, or Renee Good any more than it was about George Floyd. Whenever Republicans win elections, Democrats intentionally create as much chaos as possible. Their message is clear: "Want to stop the violence and chaos? Put us back in power so we can 'fundamentally change' this country." They add insult to injury by claiming they are "defending democracy," when the reality is they are doing just the opposite. The country overwhelmingly voted for Trump to stop the insanity at the borders and rid the country of millions of illegal criminals. They can scream "defense of democracy" all they want, but their actions reveal a wholesale rejection of representative government.

History verifies that the side that has to lie, cheat, and use force to stay in power is always wrong and will eventually fail. Democrats' fierce opposition to ICE has nothing to do with compassion. It's about preserving the wide-open invasion of illegals that is critical to

their winning future elections. Their national election plans fall apart completely if the invasion ceases and a sizable share of those illegals are forced to leave. Democrats prioritize their political survival over the safety of American citizens tired of unchecked illegal immigration. When leftists are honest about their goals, no one wants what they intend to force on society, so they have to resort to mob rule and violence. Fortunately, most Americans are not as dumb as liberals think they are. Sane people clearly see who is causing the violence and chaos, and understand their reasons for doing so. They recognize that the insanity in Minnesota simply stems from an attempt to distract from the massive fraud there, and from Democrats' obsession with ending all immigration enforcement regardless of the cost to this country.

When normal people see a mob of leftist activists invade a church screaming with bullhorns like lunatics at peaceful churchgoers -- including terrified small children and elderly people -- it becomes even more obvious that Trump's actions, and his successes, are completely in line with the wishes of the vast majority of the American people. They are thankful that Trump has restored control over immigration for the first time in a generation. They appreciate him delivering the largest one-year drop in homicides on record and his attracting over \$10 trillion in reshored investments. They are thankful of Trump having brokered peace deals ending multiple wars -- Gaza/Israel conflicts, Israel-Iran tensions, India-Pakistan war, Armenia-Azerbaijan, and much more. They know Trump's record energy production and dominance, along with the largest middle-class tax cut in history, made their lives more affordable. Likewise with cutting Bidenflation to the core. After a lifetime of paying exorbitant taxes, the American people were totally shocked but also greatly appreciated DOGE revealing the federal bureaucracy as little more than a giant Democrat slush fund, and initiating the dismantling of that administrative theft ring. The contrast is startling. Democrats campaign as moderates who actually care about the American people, and then turn into radical Marxists as soon as elected. Promises made, promises broken. Trump aligned his priorities with what the American people said they wanted when they elected him -- and delivered. Promises made, promises kept.

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'Celebrating 60 years of serving our community'

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY RIVER FEST RETURNS JUNE 27

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-The Ridgway RiverFest is a family-friendly celebration of the Uncompahgre River, our watershed and river recreation with all-age river races, live music, local food and drink, kids' activities, watershed educational and cultural programs, taking place June 27 from 11-am-12pm, 3-7pm; Rollans Park, Ridgway, CO

This year's Riverfest will kick off with river races from 11am-12pm. The festivities, live music, and "Junk of the Unc" race will be from 3pm-7pm.

RiverFest is produced by the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, a Ouray County nonprofit watershed group dedicated to helping protect the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper

Uncompahgre River Watershed.

The highlight of the day is the infamous "Junk of the Unc" race in which boaters maneuver their craft, constructed from scrap materials not intended for river travel, through whitewater rapids and others' junk, trying to keep it all intact until the finish line.

ridgwayriverfest.org

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Ute/Navajo Artist Oreland C. Joe Sr.

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STEVE METHENY HONORED WITH YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD



Mayor Dave Frank welcomed all to the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Jan. 20. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—"Good evening, everyone," Mayor Dave Frank said, as he welcomed all to the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Jan. 20. Councilor Doug Glaspell was absent; all other councilors were in attendance, with Councilor J. David Reed attending virtually.

Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files had no changes to the meeting agenda.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Frank presented the "You Make a Difference Award" to Steve Metheny, who was nominated for the award by Mayor Frank.

Metheny thanked Council for the honor and spoke about his work with Colorado Mesa University (CMU). "Montrose is now a college town...CMU is the only university in Colorado that has both a trade school and the academic school..."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Frank read the rules for public comment.

John Brown addressed Council. As a city resident, he said that he has been coming before the council for the past two years. Council never acknowledges those who speak, Brown said. "...I guess I haven't had an idea or suggestion that shares your purview," he said. "As always, I am here to encourage the Council to make Montrose a non-sanctuary city. I am not against immigration—far from it. And I am sure that a lot of us can trace our ancestry back to some other country where our families began."

"I am referring to those who have violated our laws and constitution, the illegals. Those who broke the law, not those who came here for a better life, not those who came here for asylum. Not those who came to America to become citizens, to assimilate, and to become a viable part of this country."

"I am referring to those illegals who have come to this country to undermine our way of life and become parasites, taking rights from our citizens and abusing our goodwill...I told this body in the past that there will come a time when our leaders will wake up and take action...I even suggested to you that the federal government would hold funds from states and communities across the country. Well, that time has finally come, February 1st. If your state, which is Colorado, isn't, and your town which is Montrose and isn't, will lose federal funding. And all it would take is for this body to make a declaration that Montrose is non-sanctuary."

"Mr. Mayor, you make declarations all the time, and they have all been in writing, so that isn't the reason. It has been said that Montrose is already non-sanctuary, but it has yet to be published. If it isn't in writing, it isn't so. Surprise the citizens of Montrose and make it non-sanctuary. It will make your constituents happy and is the best thing to benefit our community. Thank you very much."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With four votes and one absence, Council voted to approve to approve [minutes](#) of

the January 6, 2026, regular City Council meeting.

Mayor Frank noted garbled noise coming from speakers in the room, "If that Mr. Reed's microphone?" The noise quickly ceased.

ORDINANCE 2702 - SECOND READING

Also in a vote of four with one absent, Council approved [Ordinance 2702](#) on Second Reading, authorizing the issuance of utility revenue bonds to finance Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements; establishing covenants in connection with the financing and providing for the payment of the bonds from Sewer Fund revenues, and approving other matters in connection with the financing.

Industrial Revenue Bonds are tied to users and are not a tax, City Manager Bill Bell said, noting that wastewater treatment is necessary and that State and Federal requirements are beyond the City's control.

Bell also said that people have misinformed the public regarding the City's financial situation. "We still have much less debt than almost any city in Colorado."

Constituent and City Council Candidate Adam Woodden asked whether water and sewer rates were increased so as to issue bonds.

Mayor Frank said, "Rate increases are pretty much standard to make sure we're keeping up with cost and operating expenses. It's pretty much a standard procedure."

METHENY HONORED WITH YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD From previous pg

Manager Bell said, "For water, a lot of it was Project 7's passthrough to the City of Montrose, and not for a project at all."

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Council considered Contract Amendment No. 2 with Burns & McDonnell/Moltz in the amount of \$31,158,728, authorizing construction of improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Utilities staffer Hyrum Webb gave a presentation on what the project entails, noting, "...We're very excited for it, passionate about it, would love to have you take a tour of our facility."

Mayor Frank said that all candidates running for Council seats should take a tour of the facility as well.

Council voted (four votes with one absent) to approve Contract Amendment No. 2 with Burns & McDonnell/Moltz in the amount of \$31,158,728, authorizing construction of improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

SUNSET MESA TANK INTERIOR COATING REPAIR CONTRACT

Also approved was a contract award to WBS Coatings in the amount of \$500,000 to sandblast and recoat the interior of the Sunset Mesa water tank.

The original water tank contractor (Ridgway Valley Entreprises) volunteered to give \$25,000 toward the cost, although it was outside the parameters of their maintenance contract, Utilities Manager David Bries said.

Constituent Michael Badagliacco asked how long the original coating was supposed to last and said that the contractor should take responsibility for all of it.

Bries said that RVE did come in and fix areas that were faulty at the time of com-

pletion, but the coating failure now falls outside of the warranty period.

RESOLUTION 2026-01

Council voted to approve Resolution 2026-01, a Resolution of the City of Montrose approving a minor modification of the Urban Renewal Plan for the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Project.

Presented by City Manager Bill Bell, the proposed modification will change the Plan's land area by adding approximately 1.863 acres to the urban renewal area included in the Plan, which contained approximately 164.34 acres before the modification.

AMENDED RESOLUTION 2025-18

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented Resolution 2025-18, amending the landscape meter water rates and the fire system connection fee on the 2026 fee schedule; Amended Resolution 2025-18 was approved with four votes.

RESOLUTION 2026-02

Resolution 2026-02 authorizes the filing of a United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Cleanup Grant Application in the amount of up to \$4,000,000. If granted the funds will be used at the former Bullock Steam Electric Plant site at West South Fourth Street and Water Avenue.

Mayor Frank said that the City has "secured the sight with fencing." Substances to be remediated include asbestos, PCB's, and coal fly ash.

Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt said that the City has applied for funding twice in the past four years and has been denied both times.

Resolution 2026-02 was approved with four votes.

RESOLUTION 2026-03

Councilor Ed Ulibarri recused himself from consideration of Resolution 2026-03, as he currently serves on the MADA Board of Directors.

In a vote of three with one absence and one abstention, Council voted to approve Resolution 2026-03 authorizing the filing of a Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Rural Economic Development Initiative grant application in partnership with the Mexican American Development Association (MADA) in the amount of up to \$150,000.

THE BRIDGES AT BLACK CANYON FILING NO. 10 FINAL PLAT

Ulibarri returned to chambers; council voted to approve the Bridges at Black Canyon Filing No. 10 Final Plat to create 12 residential lots and associated easements and rights-of-way.

PAINTED WALL SUBDIVISION FILING NO. 1 FINAL PLAT

Also approved with four votes and one absence, the Painted Wall Subdivision Filing No. 1 Final Plat was the final action item for the regular meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg delivered the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report by Collections and by Area.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Councilor Graysen Vidmar said that Youth Council is working on a resolution and planning to once again present the non-profit showcase.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Frank said that he spoke at the Celebration for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in Montrose; it was well attended and is getting better every year, he said. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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RED HAWK GIRLS REMAIN UNDEFEATED

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Red Hawks Girls Basketball Team just keeps on rolling. The ladies traveled to Cortez and took the measure of the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers by the score of 45 to 34 on Tuesday evening.

This was not the Red Hawks usual script as the homestanding Panthers jumped out to a 5-point lead after the initial period and increased their lead to 6 points at the half time break. The Red Hawks then got their offense into gear in periods three and four as they outscored the Panthers 29 to 12 to win by 11 points going away. The 45-34 score moved the Red Hawks overall record to 15-0 with another game at Durango to cap the weekend.

Senior Mayce Oberg led all scorers with 24 points. Senior Lilly Nelson added 9 points to the total while Freshman Landree Johnson chipped in with 8 points. As usual, Lilly Nelson led the Red Hawk rebounders with 6 caroms, including 5 on the offensive glass. Mayce Oberg nabbed 5 while Landree Johnson grabbed 4. The Red Hawks passed out 10 assists, had 14 steals and blocked one shot.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 43, DURANGO DEMONS 29

The Montrose Red Hawks Girls Basketball Team completed a short, two game road trip and remained undefeated running their record to 16 wins and 0 losses. The Red Hawks jumped out to a comfortable lead and then nursed it to the final whistle to claim win number 16.

The Red Hawks will enjoy a week-long, three game home stand beginning with the Grand Junction Tigers. This homestand is a typical Tuesday, Thursday, Tuesday affair. The Palisade Bulldogs are the middle team while the Warriors of Grand Junction Central round out the home stand.



The Red Hawks fight for a rebound under their offensive basket. Photo by Cliff Dodge



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO BREWERIES' CELEBRATIONS AND LOSSES IN 2025

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — Colorado's brewers saw massive successes in 2025 as well as mourned the loss of yet more taprooms and brewpubs closing during major industry challenges.

"We are arguably the most important beer producing state in America and should be proud to be the State of Craft Beer. But Colorado's breweries are also facing major challenges," said Shawnee Adelson, executive director of the Colorado Brewers Guild.

"While we're always looking to celebrate our impressive wins, now more than ever Colorado breweries need your support, particularly in January and February, by far the slowest months in taprooms and brewpubs. Colorado's brewers strongly support moderate drinking, and even if you're participating in Dry January, your local brewery will still have options for you so please come out today so they'll be there tomorrow."

According to Colorado's Liquor Enforcement Division, 2025 beer sales in the state were down -6%, worse than the national average of -5%. The Brewers Association tracked 268 new brewery openings and 434 closings, including another 40 Colorado brewery, taproom and brewpub closures in 2025, mirroring 2024 — more than 150 since the pandemic as Americans' [reported](#) drinking dropped to its lowest level in 90 years.

Yet, despite these challenges, Colorado remains the most beer-job reliant state in the nation, accounting for 1 out of every 475 jobs in the state. According to [Beer Serves America's](#) economic report, Colorado's nearly 450 breweries help create 61,000 jobs, \$4 billion in wages and \$13.1 billion in economic activity for the state each year.

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PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY PROJECT GRINDS ON DESPITE PUBLIC CONCERNS *From pg 1*



The Project 7 Water Authority held a work session and the regular monthly meeting on Jan. 22. Project 7 employees and water entities employees (standing center) will be invited to join a newly established Technical Committee which will offer guidance to the board. Photo by Gail Marvel.

million project?"

David Bries said, "I don't want to be constrained by prior things in the previous [2013] Risk Assessment."

Huggins provided information on previous scenarios. He said, "The board directed us to move forward [with second plant option]."

Huggins said, "It started as a Tri-County initiative. To take pressure off their pump stations. We wanted to take the load off pumping in the valley."

Matt Miles said, "We should not exclude anyone from discussions. We're now looking at \$185 million, plus deferred maintenance at Project 7 [current facility]."

JAN. 22 WORK SESSION

Approximately 30 people were in attendance. The work session discussion was not limited to the board, but also included board alternates, board members of the seven entities, and employees of the entities.

Program Manager Engineer Rick Huggins introduced water consultant facilitator Amy Housh, who was assisted by Alisa (no

last name given). The board was supplied with colored Post-it notes and colored dots intended to encourage participation and identify top priorities.

In a PowerPoint presentation Huggins began with an overview of Project 7, the structure of the Water Authority, and where Project 7's water comes from.

One slide compared Project 7 to other water authorities that provide a combination of water supply, treatment, and conveyance at the wholesale level. The responsibility of such boards was described — *Board members of these Authorities oversee safe drinking water treatment and supply and are explicitly asked to maintain fiduciary duty to an Authority while considering the aims and objectives of a contracting party.*

Facilitator Housh asked the group to introduce themselves and state what they hoped to get out of the workshop. Without exception, participants wanted to see consensus; however, some gave more detailed responses.

Delta Representative Kevin Carlson said,

"Put the brakes on as a group. Where are we going? How do we get there? Not just completely bailing out [of the Resiliency Project]; use the work that we've done."

Montrose Representative David Bries said, "The project or the scope, make it more affordable so that we can take it back to our boards [entities]. Bries quipped, "We're getting death threats. [We need] consensus for the community, not just consensus on the [Project 7] board."

Chipeta Representative Matt Miles quipped, "I don't mind death threats at all. I thought we were hitting the pause button."

Menoken Representative Randy Meaker said, "Consensus is a good word, but consensus on the Resiliency Project."

John McMillan (Menoken) said, "See that things get back on track so we haven't wasted time and money."

A Project 7 employee said, "I'd like to see something happen for the valley. I'd like to see people step up to do something."

Huggins presented the 2013 Risk Study and compared it with his 2026 Risk Study Update.

Facilitator Housh asked participants to use Post-it notes to identify the risks for Project 7 and the valley. Responses included failure of the water system, loss of public trust, and source water contamination. Huggins said there are also financial and organizational risks.

Matt Miles said, "I thought we were going to have different solutions."

It was suggested that the board needed to decide which hat they were wearing; their Project 7 Board hat or the hat of the entity they represent.

The discussion was no longer directed by Huggins and Housh once Tri-County Representative Vicki Ripp said, "We're caught up on all the material you sent. In the last 13 years, all those risks are still there. Let's move forward and try to figure something out. We need to talk about resiliency. For the last 20 years, what are we going to do going forward?"

Meaker said, "The risk that we have against us is the financial risk. If a second plant is the right idea, how do we make it affordable?"

Continued next pg

PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY PROJECT GRINDS ON DESPITE CONCERNS *From previous pg*

Ripp said, "All the money we've already spent isn't going to waste. We have some design. It's not like we'd be starting from scratch."

It was suggested that the discussion should focus on solutions and getting to the "meat" of the problem. Huggins indicated some cost savings on the current Resiliency Project plan could be made and the board could also revisit solutions that were identified prior to settling on the second plant.

Option 1A – Highway 550 WTP P7 South
Option 1B – Improving Performance of Existing WTP

Option 2 – Alluvial Wellfield Development
Option 3 – Alternate Source Pipeline
Option 4 – Water Storage Reservoir
Option 5 – Regional Backbone with Local Backup

Financial Advisor D. A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz suggested he should price out the Identified Solutions.

Ripp said, "Some of the entities were all in at one point [with second plant], now they've changed their minds. Our responsibility is to look farther into the future. We need to look out to the future for the people who will be here 50 to 100 years from now."

Speaking from the City of Montrose perspective, Bries said, "We have not had water [usage] increase in the last few years. It's been flat."

A Project 7 employee noted that although the Water Authority is rated at 27 million gallons a day (MGD), that rate is only sustainable for a few days.

Matt Miles said, "We need to plan for the future, but what can we afford? I'm not trying to pick a fight. Frankly, we might need a second opinion. We are facing a huge amount of money. It doesn't feel right; it feels like we are adrift. The only thing that has come out of this meeting is we don't have 27 MGD [long-duration]."

Bries said, "I think we need to have a technical committee to work with Adam [manager]. As a board we don't have tech-

nical ability. I don't have that to give guidance. P7's role is to just treat water. We need a technical group."

It was agreed that a technical committee, to include employees of the entities, should be established.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Matt Miles quipped, "But I still have all my green dots."

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Jake Foreman. All board members were present in person and approved the minutes of the Dec. 11, 2025 meeting. There was no Public Comment.

Manager's Report – Adam Turner

Consumption Report

Turner said, "Consumption is 70 million (gallons) more than 2024."

Cash Flow Report

Turner said, "With the 50-cent increase, we're \$1.7M more than 2024. Interest income is slightly down. Admin is up a little. Over \$400,000 in capital improvements. \$3.6M on Resiliency Project. We didn't have a Process Control this month."

Updates:

Turner noted that an auditor has been selected and the search for a CFO is almost complete.

Matt Miles said, "What are their credentials?"

Swartz said, "We solicited 12 firms. We can do a remote interview."

Legal Update – Attorney James Silvestro (Zoom).

2026 Meeting Calendar and Open Meetings Law Resolution

Approved unanimously.

Wind Event Insurance Settlement

Settled last month.

Peer Rate Study

Swartz said, "We have 60 water systems across Colorado. We'll give you the summary at the February meeting."

Old Business

New Business

Turner said, "We've been pursuing some new easements. One, for \$3,000, has

come back. Since we've pushed pause, do we pursue easements on some parcels?"

Randy Meaker said, "We seem to be at a spot where we don't know where we're going."

Approved the \$3,000 easement.

Approved the establishment of a committee for technical support.

Adjourned

PROJECT 7 BACKGROUND:

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

The City of Montrose

The City of Delta

The Town of Olathe

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District

The Chipeta Water District

The Menoken Water District

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

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

Project 7 Contact Information:

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

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

The City of Delta Mayor Kevin Carlson 970 874-7566 kevin@cityofdelta.net

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

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

The Chipeta Water District Matt Miles

The Menoken Water District Randy Meaker 970 249-5118

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RED HAWKS WRESTLERS PIN GUNNISON

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks wrestling season is coming to an end as the calendar moves into February. The Red Hawks were scheduled to host both the Gunnison Cowboys and the Durango Demons on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Fieldhouse. Unfortunately, Mother Nature intervened and upset the Durango Demons travel plans.

The Gunnison Cowboys did manage to make their way to Montrose and were thoroughly handled by the Red Hawks, 49 to 12. Here is the tale of the tape:

106 Red Hawk Quintin Alegria – Pin -over Zayn Benson
 113 Gunnison Braedyn Anderson won by forfeit
 120 Red Hawk John Hughes – Dec. – over Nolan Witzel
 132 Red Hawks Aadin Gonzales – Dec.- over Cody Casebolt
 138 Red Hawks Hunter Hess – Pin – over Julian Patrick
 144 Red Hawks Chance Culver open
 150 Red Hawks Ricky Olmos – forfeit
 157 Red Hawks Trey Clarkson open
 165 Red Hawks Trevan Anstine – forfeit
 175 Red Hawks Jayce England – forfeit
 190 Red Hawks Russ Galvin forfeit
 215 Red Hawks Rush Galvan – forfeit
 285 Red Hawks Juan Herrera – forfeit

The next action for the Red Hawks wrestlers will be a road trip to Delta on Thursday and a trip to Canon City to wrestle in the Canon City tournament. The final home match will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4 when the Palisade Bulldogs come calling.



Neil Samples, Red Hawks Varsity Wrestling Coach. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

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RED HAWKS SPLIT TWO ROAD GAMES



Cache Oberg fires his patented jumper. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ 55, RED HAWKS 42

MONTROSE-The road is a difficult play to win basketball games. The Red Hawks embarked on a long bus ride to the Four Corners area and came up empty as the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers took the measure of the Red Hawks by the score of 55 to 42.

The Red Hawks found themselves down by the score of 13 to 5 after the first quarter came to a close. Things did not get better as the Panthers increased their lead to 29-18 at the halfway point. The second half saw the Panthers outscore the Red Hawks 26-24 to make the final score 55 for the Panthers and 42 points for the Red Hawks.

The Red Hawks were led in scoring by Freshman Cache Oberg with 12 points, Sophomore Bodhi Schafer with 11 points and Senior Lane Pressler with 10 points. Junior Josh Hawkins chipped in 7 points to basically round out the scoring. Cache Oberg led the Red Hawks with 7 rebounds which included 4 on the offensive glass.

The Red Hawks passed out 10 assists, had 8 steals and blocked 6 Panther shots. The Red Hawks sank 5 of 9 shots from long range and also hit five of nine attempts from the free throw line. The Red Hawks shot 46 percent from the two-point range.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 43, DURANGO DEMONS 39

The Montrose Red Hawks finished the short two game road trip with a visit to the home of the Durango Demons on Saturday afternoon. The Red Hawks and the Demons seem to play close games no matter what the sport is and Saturday's tilt was no exception.

The game was a close knit affair from the opening tip to the final whistle as 4 points separated the teams at the end. Freshman Cache Oberg led all Red Hawk scorers with 14 points; he was followed closely by Senior Josh Hawks with 9 points. Senior C.J. Rocco and Sophomore Bodhi Schafer each chipped in 8 points and Senior Lane Pressler added 4 points to the mix. Oberg and Pressler led the rebounding department with 6 and 5 respectively.

The Red Hawks passed out a dozen assists, had 8 steals and 3 blocked shots. The Offense turned the basketball over 10 times. The Red Hawks cashed 4 of 13 shots from Downtown and made 3 of 4 shots from the charity stripe. The team shot 58 percent from 2-point range.

The Red Hawks overall record stands at 11-5 as they head into a three game home stand. The Red Hawks will play the Grand Junction Tigers, the Palisade Bulldogs and the Warriors of Grand Junction high school. This will be the usual Tuesday, Friday Tuesday schedule.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CARYN WEBB GIBSON ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT 2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Saturday, Jan. 17, on the new steps of the Historic Montrose County Courthouse, Caryn Webb Gibson announced her candidacy for Montrose County Commissioner, District 2.

A lifelong resident of Montrose County, Caryn was born and raised in a proud fifth-generation farming family. Her family homesteaded in the Pea Green area west of Olathe, and in the mid-1960s, her parents, Robert and Charlotte Webb, relocated the family dairy farm just west of Olathe. Growing up on that dairy farm, Caryn learned the values of hard work, responsibility, stewardship of the land, and respect for the rural way of life that continues to define Montrose County.

Caryn is a 1982 graduate of Olathe High School and has deep roots in agriculture and the heritage of Montrose County. After high school, she earned degrees in Business Administration and Education from Western State College in Gunnison (now Western Colorado University). Her career in education began at Fruita Monument High School before she returned home to Olathe in 1986, where she taught business education at Delta High School.

Throughout her career, Caryn pursued advanced leadership training, earning a Master's degree in Vocational Education and a Career and Technical Director License from Colorado State University, along with Superintendent and Principal licensure from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

For more than 40 years, Caryn has served public education in a wide range of leadership roles, including teacher, assistant principal, financial aid director, executive director of the Technical College of the

Rockies, human resources director, and for the past 15 years, Superintendent of Delta County School District.

Caryn currently has responsibility and oversight of roughly a \$94M dollar budget, serving approximately 4,300 students pre-school through 12th grade, with approximately 740 staff, and 14 different school campuses, along with the Technical College of the Rockies. She is one of the longest-serving female superintendents in Colorado to lead the same district.

In recognition of her service and leadership, Caryn received the Olathe High School Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019 for exemplifying outstanding achievement and community service. She has also been active in numerous community organizations, including the Delta Health Foundation.

Caryn currently serves as Superintendent of Delta County School District and will retire on June 30, 2026.

In addition to her public service, she and her husband, John Gibson, own and operate Rocking W Cheese and Webb Dairy outside of Olathe, giving her firsthand experience with the challenges facing agriculture, small businesses, and rural economies.

Caryn's decision to run for County Commissioner is rooted in service and stewardship. Her priorities include protecting local control and rural values, ensuring transparent and responsible budgeting, supporting smart growth and thoughtful land-use planning, and being a strong advocate for agriculture. She is committed to bringing practical leadership, fiscal responsibility, transparency, and deep community understanding to Montrose County government.



Caryn Webb Gibson. Courtesy photo

"Montrose County is a great county in Colorado," Caryn said. "It deserves leadership that is transparent, accountable, and focused on practical solutions—from public safety and economic development to infrastructure, essential services, and quality of life for families, seniors, and businesses."

This announcement marks the beginning of a countywide effort to listen, learn, and engage with residents across Montrose County. Caryn looks forward to meeting community members, hearing their priorities, and working collaboratively to address the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Caryn Webb Gibson's campaign is guided by a clear and sincere platform: Rooted in Community and Focused on the Future! Smart Responsible Growth, Honest Leadership, and Real Results.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE WOMENS GIVING CLUB TO MEET FEB. 5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose Women's Giving Club scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 5 at 5:30pm, Bridges Golf and Country Club. ALL WOMEN WELCOME!!!!

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB" Candidate for City Council



- **Prioritize People Over Politics:** As someone who grew up in Montrose, I understand the intricacies of Montrose well. An experienced leader, that will listen to the Citizens of Montrose by hosting open town halls, workshops, and genuine public engagement, ensuring that our City Council serves *"We the People"*.

- **Restore Fiscal Responsibility:** In our campaign for a better Montrose, we will work to implement zero-based budgeting, forensic audits, and fee rollbacks to tackle Montrose's skyrocketing debt, while curbing soaring taxes and fees that burden retirees, veterans, and hardworking families. Our focus will be on investments in essential and meaningful infrastructure instead of wasteful pet projects.

- **Revitalize Our Economy and Community:** As an Air Force Veteran and Entrepreneur, our focus will look to help Montrose attract high-paying industries, breathe new life into our incredible Downtown, and work tirelessly to uphold traditional Colorado values. **Together**, we will build a thriving Montrose where families can afford to stay and prosper, all while maintaining a community-focused approach.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE LIES MUST STOP, THE EXCUSES NEED TO STOP

Editor:

There is no spinning on this, although the administration is trying to blame everyone but themselves. There was not even a reasonable suspicion that a young American citizen, an ICU nurse who administered to the medical needs of veterans, was any kind of a threat to Border Patrol or ICE agents on Saturday in Minneapolis.

After watching six different videos of the shooting death of Alex Pretti, it is hard to see anything that justified the killing of this thirty-seven year old man.

Every 2nd Amendment proponent should be screaming right now at our Federal government. Everyone who spoke out saying Ashli Babbitt was "murdered" in the Capitol Riot should verbally be attacking ICE and our government.

Kristi Noem immediately held a news conference and stated that the victim "committed an act of terrorism". That he "came with weapons and ammunition to stop a law enforcement operation" and to "inflict maximum damage and kill law enforcement". Lies. Border Patrol senior official Gregory Bovino said at his own press conference that the man shot appeared intent on causing "maximum damage" and he approached his agents while armed brandishing a 9mm semi-auto handgun. Lies.

Watch the videos yourselves. Alex Pretti is holding a cell phone with one hand, his other hand empty and high in the air. Pretti did what I hope we would all do. He watched as a masked agent pushed a woman to the ground. He came to her aid and appeared to try and help her up. The agent grabbed Pretti, sprayed him with a canister of gas, and then focused his attack on him. Pretti was not obstructing. He was doing what a nurse would do, which was his profession. Help the woman. He was pulled down onto the ground and several agents jumped in including one who was seen hitting him with an unknown object (probably a spray canister)..

Yes, Pretti had a handgun, which he was legally allowed to carry. He did not pull out his firearm. One agent can be seen with Pretti's handgun in his possession and walking away, FOLLOWED, by a single shot. Pretti was shot AFTER he had been disarmed. He was shot in his BACK. What followed next is unspeakable. One or more agents then fired their guns into Pretti's prone body several times. Maybe a total of ten times!

DHS says they will investigate the shooting. How can they investigate? In news conferences, they had already decided the agent[s] were justified in the shooting. They have already claimed that Pretti was a "terrorist".

What happened to; secure the crime scene, bring in investigators, gather witness statements, and announce to the public that there will be a full investigation? Instead, it was immediately stated that the agents involved were justified. When did this become protocol?

The end of this horrible day, the parents of Alex Pretti came out with a statement. To summarize they wrote, "We are heartbroken but also very angry. Alex was a kind-hearted soul who cared deeply for his family and friends and also the American veterans who cared for as an ICU nurse". They said he, "wanted to make a difference in this world. Unfortunately he will not be with us to see his impact. I do not throw around the hero term lightly. However his last thought and act was to protect a woman".

They continued, "The sickening lies told about our son by the administration are reprehensible and disgusting. Alex is clearly not holding a gun when attacked by Trump's murdering and cowardly ICE thugs. Please get the truth out about our son. He was a good man".

Alex Pretti. Renee Good. Killed. Others injured severely by Border Patrol and ICE agents.

This unlawful use of force must stop. The lies must stop. The excuses need to stop. The Department of Homeland Security needs to be both investigated into its methods and more regards more accountability. For once the Department of Justice needs to stop being the president's personal attorneys and do their job. The agents involved in the killing of Alex Pretti and Renee Good, must be investigated to determine if they violated Pretti and Goods civil rights. Their right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness".

In watching the videos of Alex Pretti's unlawful detention and attempt to place him in custody, it sure appears to look like a murder and an execution. I am sickened. Every American citizen should be too.

Jon Sering (retired 20 year Federal law enforcement officer)



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EVENT SCHEDULE MONTROSE

02/16

MON.

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03/05

THURS.

PRECINCT CAUCUS

Precinct 1: Naturita Community Center
Precincts 2-21: Montrose High School
Times coming soon!

03/21

SAT.

COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Centennial Middle School
1100 South 5th Street, Montrose
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04/07

TUES.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Vote! Very few vote in these elections. Spread the word to vote for conservative candidates. Only those who reside within the city limits can vote!

04/11

SAT.

STATE ASSEMBLY

Massari Arena- CSU Pueblo Campus

06/30

TUES.

PRIMARY ELECTION

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03 NOV 2026

GENERAL ELECTION

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CURRENT STATUS OF EVENTS AND UTILIZATION OF THE OURAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS AND EVENT CENTER

Special to the Mirror

OURAY COUNTY— The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners (Board) has been evaluating a budget shortfall and the associated constraints for the 2026 fiscal year. Late last year, after careful consideration, the Board made the difficult decision to pause all events at the Ouray County Fairgrounds and 4H Event Center until further notice. In order to achieve a balanced budget, the salaries for the Fairgrounds Manager and Assistant were also removed from the 2026 budget. Given these circumstances and the need for appropriate oversight, the Board felt it was necessary to temporarily suspend all events until a new plan could be implemented.

The Board and County Staff acknowledge the historical significance of the Fairgrounds and the 4H Event Center, recognizing their vital role as a cornerstone of our community and their importance to the numerous user groups that depend on these facilities throughout the year. The annual Ouray County Fair and Labor Day Rodeo are two such important events, and the Board is adamant that these events continue through the temporary closure.

This decision was made with careful consideration and deliberation. The Board will continue working diligently to explore creative solutions and has scheduled a work session for Feb. 10 at 2:30pm to discuss this topic. The Board encourages the public to attend the upcoming work session and participate in this important conversation.

When circumstances allow for the reopening of the Fairgrounds and 4H Event Center later in the year, all user groups will be notified promptly. The Ouray County Fairgrounds and Event Center webpage, along with its social media platforms, will be updated to incorporate these changes and will feature a FAQ sheet to address any potential misinformation within the community.

Ouray County is dedicated to delivering timely and accurate information to our residents. We sincerely appreciate the community's understanding and patience as the County reassesses its needs and priorities.

County residents are encouraged to reach out to the County and County Commissioners with questions and concerns. Meeting information is available on the County website, and the public can subscribe to receive timely emails with meeting information, before scheduled meetings.

Please visit www.ouraycountyco.gov for more information.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL'S DERELICTION OF DUTY: *Abdicating Authority to the City Manager*

Editor:

In Montrose, the City Council has increasingly shirked its responsibilities as elected representatives. Instead of directing policy and overseeing governance, council members have ceded critical decisions to the City Manager. This reversal of roles undermines their responsibilities and represents a clear dereliction of duty. The City Manager's position exists to implement council directives and handle daily operations, not to dictate policy or control the council. Elected officials serve the public, while the manager serves at their pleasure. Yet, for years, this dynamic has flipped, allowing unelected bureaucracy to steer the city's future. Residents deserve a council that reclaims its authority and prioritizes Montrose's needs over ceremonial posturing.

Abdicating Policy Leadership

The council's habit of deferring to the City Manager erodes the foundational structure of local government. Under Colorado law, city councils are tasked with setting policy through ordinances, resolutions, and budgets, as outlined in the state's municipal code. The manager's role, per the council-manager form of government adopted by many Colorado cities, is administrative: executing policies, managing staff, and advising the council without overstepping into legislative territory. By allowing the manager to lead on key issues, the current council has blurred these lines, effectively outsourcing their elected duties.

This pattern has persisted for over 15 years, turning the council into a rubber-stamp body. Rather than debating and shaping initiatives, members often approve manager-proposed agendas with minimal scrutiny. Such passivity not only disempowers the council but also distances decision-making from public accountability. If the manager drives policy, who

holds the Manager responsible? The answer should be the council, but their inaction suggests otherwise. This setup invites inefficiency and potential abuse, as unelected officials gain undue influence over taxpayer-funded operations.

Consequences of Poor Policies

The results of this hands-off approach are evident in Montrose's mounting challenges. Debt levels have ballooned under policies that prioritize short-term gains over fiscal prudence. For instance, unchecked borrowing for projects, long-term debt which now exceeds \$200 million has strained the city's budget, burdening residents with higher taxes and fees.

Hollow Public Engagement

Public input, a cornerstone of democratic governance, has become a complete farce under the current council. At meetings, residents are allotted time for comments, yet these are systematically ignored. Council rules explicitly state that members will not respond or address raised issues, rendering the process meaningless. This is not engagement; it is theater designed to mimic concern without substance.

True dialogue requires interaction: questions, responses, and follow-up actions. Instead, Montrose citizens face a one-way street where their voices echo in vain. This futility discourages participation, eroding trust in local government. If the council truly valued input, they would integrate it into deliberations during public meetings, or perhaps through regular town hall meetings and dedicated interactive sessions that are convenient for the public rather than at the council's convenience. The current system is mere window dressing, perpetuating the illusion of accessibility while shielding council members from accountability.

Breaching Transparency Laws

Compounding these issues are reports of

council members evading Colorado's Sunshine Law, which mandates open meetings for public business. Allegedly, the three most left-leaning councilors achieve consensus through serial one-on-one discussions, sidestepping quorum requirements. This tactic, if verified, violates the law's intent to ensure transparency and prevent backroom deals.

The Sunshine Law, codified in Colorado Revised Statutes Title 24, Article 6, requires that meetings of three or more members discussing public business be open to the public. Serial communications that effectively form a quorum undermine this, allowing decisions without oversight. Such practices not only breach legal standards but also betray public trust. Residents deserve full visibility into how policies are formed, not secretive maneuvers that favor ideological alignment over open debate.

A Call for Reform

Montrose cannot afford another term of complacent leadership. The council must reclaim its role, directing policy while holding the City Manager accountable to their vision. Voters should demand candidates committed to active governance, fiscal responsibility, and genuine public dialogue. By addressing these failures, Montrose can rebuild a government that serves its people, not bureaucratic inertia. The time for ceremonial roles is over; real leadership is essential.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a father of five, grandfather of three, U.S. Air Force Veteran, international recording artist, Editor-in-Chief of the Colorado DOGE Report and USA Liberty Report, a Citizen of Montrose, CO, passionate about Montrose, Colorado, the United States of America, Freedom, Liberty and the founders' genius in crafting the Constitution.



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Contact Information:

Leslie Gore

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SILENCE IS NO LONGER AN OPTION

Editor:

If you don't like what has been happening in America in the last year but haven't spoken out for whatever reason, now is the time for you to reconsider. In just one year of President Trump's second term, America has become a place where paramilitary squads rampage through American streets terrorizing, traumatizing, and killing people.

President Trump has given these heavily armed and often masked federal agents free reign to do whatever they want to whomever they want without any legal consequences.

They are ignoring our fourth and fourteenth amendment rights.

The Department of Homeland Security is denying people the right to a phone call and holding people for weeks in overcrowded detention centers THOUSANDS of miles from their homes in inhumane conditions, including rotten food, unsanitary water, lack of medical care, and physical abuse. Over 30 people died in ICE custody last year.

President Trump's paramilitary force is arresting American citizens based on the color of their skin, their accent, or just based on a "hunch". They have arrested Americans at peaceful protests or if they happen to be walking or driving through a protest area.

This paramilitary force has tackled people to the ground, put them in chokeholds, and beat them until they are bloody and bruised. They have tear gassed children and used pepper balls against clergy. They murdered Renee Good and Alex Pretti. They are hurting people even if they

aren't resisting in any way. Even if American citizens offer proof of their citizenship, they are being held for days on end without being charged with any crime and without any explanation.

They are taking people away from their families at gunpoint; grabbing people off the street, throwing them in the back of a van; breaking down doors, raiding homes without a warrant signed by a judge. They are deporting people to other countries WITHOUT due process within a week's time.

This is happening. In America. The land of opportunity. The land of liberty and justice for all. Is America's 250 year experiment with democracy gone?

This is happening to a purple heart veteran whose head they smashed on the ground and then denied him a lawyer for hours.

This is happening to a snow plow driver who was snatched off the street and denied his medication.

This is happening to an off duty police officer who was held at gunpoint and not allowed to show her badge. This is happening to a disabled woman on her way to a doctor's appointment. This is happening to three native americans who have disappeared. This is happening to an elderly citizen who was marched out of his home in his underwear. This is happening to a pregnant woman who they pulled across the road by her arm. This is happening to five year old Liam Gonzales who they kidnapped.

These are just some examples of Trump's private military lawlessness. All of this and more happened in one week, in one

state. But these stories are everywhere. And each week there are more of these stories from Los Angeles, D.C., Chicago, Minneapolis and now these lawless thugs are in Maine. The President's new paramilitary force has yet to spend its GIGANTIC new budget that is the same size of Israel's military budget.

You may have voted for violent, undocumented immigrants to be deported when you cast your ballot for President Trump but that isn't what is happening in America.

We need to say what this is : terror and trauma on innocent people. And I don't think that most of my good neighbors in Montrose County voted for other humans to be hurt. Especially a five year old little boy wearing a blue bunny hat and a spider man backpack, torn away from his mother.

I know that there are good people in this county who are scared to be brave and speak out against this inhumane treatment of our fellow humans. We may think we are "safe" here in our bubble but we would be wise to remember the father and his children that were abducted in Durango last fall.

We can't wait this out until the next election. It is time to use your people power because the people give power to politicians, businesses, labor, faith organizations, schools, military / police, local elected officials - not the other way around. Enough is enough and silence is complicity.

Holly Speaks, Indivisible Group Leader, Social Worker, Mom, Wife, Daughter, Granddaughter, Sister, Aunt, Friend."



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMAND ACTION NOW TO PRESERVE OUR WATER

Editor:

Listening to a few old farmers, bib overalls, dusty boots and corn cob pipes, I thought that I had best express my thoughts of our coming summer.

They were talking about water, you know the stuff that is wet and falls (sometimes) from the heavens either as drops of liquid or as snow. Well they said that they had news already, because of a lack of precipitation and the projection (by experts) that there was to be little more, if any. The experts have already PROGNOSTICATED that farmers (producers) should count on no more than 60% of their full allotment. One of the more vocal gents said that if that was all the water he was to get, he should be paying only 60% of his normal bill. Well the 'bill' is the least of their worries. A water allotment reduction of 40% means a lot less production. In spite of us city folk not growing food, the farmer's earnings, or lack thereof, has a great deal to do with the Western slope's economic wellbeing.

The real point is that we are in an ever worsening drought and while we as humans have little influence on precipitation, WE CAN HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH WATER USE in our daily lives as City Slickers. AND I would opine that if a 40% reduction is foreseen today, in January, the reduction will likely be much worse.

I thought of what a reduction of my paycheck to 60% would do to me, my family and friends. IT WOULD BE DEVASTATING! Then I contemplated just what I would have to do to survive in my home with just 60% of my income. Can you imagine the population of Montrose with its entire income for 2026 reduced by 40%? Think of what that will do to the farmer's spending habits in our fair city.

Over the 26 years I have lived in Montrose I have posed the question of what we, the citizenry (including the several governmental entities) should do to economize on our water use so that in tough water years we could minimize suffering on all of us but most especially our agricultural industries. NO ONE SEEMS CONCERNED! One of the most selfish, self-centered and ignorant replies I have heard from some of our so-called government leaders is that

'we don't have to worry because we are at the source of our water (the San Juans snow fields) and therefore can pre-empt other calls from downstream users! As selfish as this is, it is just not so; the controllers of our water (state and federal) can and LIKELY will cut our allotments FIRST. That may appear to most as pure conjecture but if we think about it, it is entirely possible.

But no sweat because our illustrious civic leaders can sit tight, say there is nuttin' that they can do. They draw their pay as usual. After all they are city slickers, they live in town and their water does "not come from the sky", it comes out of the faucet.

And so as I observe the three creatures on our Board of County Commissars (and the 5 city commissars similarly as well) are simply ignoring this inevitable drought for this coming growing season I am amazed at their ignorance of what is about to happen. An agricultural disaster and all they feel good about is the number of new water users they can bring into our water guzzling city.

Maybe if 40% of the population would leave Montrose the water problem would be solved---and Montrose would be a ghost town with 40% of EVERYTHING closed down. Talk about a calamity. But our "do nothing" Commissars would just sit tight and draw their salaries and maybe even vacation in Mexico.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Commissars to ensure the well-being of the population---FIRST---and be damned about anything else. AND WATER, AS MUCH AS WE IGNORE IT, IS FIRST BEFORE PUBLIC SAFETY. Humans can only live about three days without a drink of water. Maybe we could turn ourselves into that legendary COWBOY who will drink from that muddy hoofprint!

A population dedicated to solving this problem cannot do it, they could surely reduce it. But I see little awareness of this situation; rather I just see every individual turning on the faucet, watering their grass, washing their car and, I imagine, taking fifteen minute showers as usual. ONLY FIRM GOVERNMENT ACTION CAN BEGIN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND ACTION

WILL BE PAINFUL!

I have some recommendations for immediate action:

- 1.Demand that all of our ditch companies weed spray all canal banks and ditches over which they have authority.
 - 2.Demand that everyone who has a ditch running through their property likewise kill all the weeds.
 - 3.That we figure what our policy on watering our parks and our golf courses is going to be for this growing season.
 - 4.That our fire departments be charged with burning all vegetation on lots or fields without houses on them.
 - 5.That all sprinklers not aimed at and hitting desirable vegetation be turned off.
- On the longer term:

- 1.Determine the sustainable growth as homes and industries that should be tolerated.
- 2.Determine the policy on residential properties for allowing grass lawns vice zero-scape.
- 3.Establish a program for replacing wasteful shower heads in all domestic structures.
- 4.Establish a program to replace all non-water efficient toilets with more efficient ones.
- 5.Establish schedules for watering yards for years to come based on water availability.
- 6.Establish a strong enforcement agency to ensure all legislated fixes be enforced with penalties for waste.

These are only a few ideas. Many of our citizens can suggest/recommend more and perhaps even better ones. I have written this article to hopefully start us thinking about the mess (regarding water) that we are in already.

Let's conserve our water problems the best we can BEFORE there is not anything to CONSERVE.

OH! I HAVE NOT EVEN BEGUN TO OPINE ON WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ALL THIS DRY DEAD BRUSH CATCHES FIRE in front of a good wind.....! Like the Hawaiian Island that burned up. Oh yes, when there is insufficient water to fight the fire. Let us demand action now.

*Thank you for reading,
Bill Bennett, Montrose*

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

FRANK FERMIN MORALES

April 22, 1953 – December 29, 2025



In Loving Memory

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Frank Morales, who departed this world on December 29, 2025, in Montrose Colorado surrounded by family and friends.

Frank was born on April 22, 1952, in Montrose, Colorado.

He was 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.

Frank enjoyed fishing, hunting and loved making people laugh.

Frank is survived by Gilbert Morales (son), Meagan Moore (daughter), Bea Morales

(sister), Horacio Morales (Brother), Danny Morales (brother) and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by Agapito Morales (father), Celia Morales (mother), Agapito Morales Jr. (brother), Esther Samora (sister), Darren Morales (son), Lori Morales (daughter), Jeffery Morales and Tim Samora, (nephews).

Frank was loved by family and friends and will be missed dearly. We will cherish his memory in our hearts forever.

Thank you to Valley Manor, HopeWest and Crippin Funeral Home for all their help during this difficult time.

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers,

The Morales Family.

SHANE WARD RICE

March 27, 1965 — January 20, 2026



SHANE WARD RICE was born March 27, 1965 and passed away at home on January 20, 2026 following a long illness.

Shane worked the majority of his adult life in the Heating and Air Conditioning Trade, eventually owning his own company, Superior Heat and Air. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was very much a family man who cherished his children and grandchildren.

Shane is survived by his children Steven Rice, Kymberly Bushrow, Jennifer Rice, 5 grandchildren, his brother Holt (Rhonda) Rice, sisters Rheata (Mark) Steen, Roxie (Roy) Huston, Rorri Adams, and Robyn (David) Huston. He was preceded in death by parents William and Jeannie Rice, and brother Cody Rice.

At Shane's request no service will be held. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

PATRICIA ANN MCCOY

November 23, 1934 — January 18, 2026

PATRICIA ANN MCCOY passed away peacefully in Saint Mary's Hospital on January 18, 2026. Patricia was 91 years old.

Patricia was born November 23, 1934 to Sidney A. Mays and Sue C. Hart (Mays) in San Antonio Texas, at Fort Sam Houston. She had two older brothers, and one younger brother Sydney A. Mays Jr, Edwin M. Mays, and Samuel T. Mays. Growing up, her Dad was in the Air Force, and they moved around a lot. In 1944 Patricia became a Christian in a vacation bible school. In High School, she decided to live for, and serve the Lord. She graduated High School in 1953 in Tacoma, Washington. After High School, she decided to go to college. She went to Howard Payne College in 1954, where she met, and later married the love of her life John Henry McCoy. They got married August 11, 1955.

Patricia and John had three kids together, John David McCoy, Susan McCoy (Meders), and Sandra McCoy. She was a devoted wife and supported John and backed him up on everything he did. Patricia

also took being a mother very serious. She was very involved in her kids' life's even until her death. She was a devoted grandmother; she spent countless hours with her grandkids.

She was their best friend and partner in crime. However, she wouldn't hesitate to correct you if you misbehaved. Patricia loved her family, technology, and learning, growing in the Lord, and reading her Bible. She also loved animals, and her flowers.

Patricia is preceded in death by her parents, Sydney A Mays, and Sue C Mays and her brothers Sydney A. Mays Jr, Edwin M. Mays, and Samuel T. Mays, also by her Husband John Henry McCoy, and her first born, great-grandson, Ayden Daniels.

She is survived by her children John David McCoy, Susan Meders and Sandra McCoy. Five grandchildren, Casey Daniels, Brittany Daniels, Jessica Jones, T'Anni Meders, and Addie Meders. And nine great grandchildren, Chloe, Jason, Hunter, Niki, Ryder, Brody, Emma, Brentlee, and Koy. She is



also survived by great-great grandson, baby Alec.

We love you so much Grandma and appreciate you, and all you have done for us. You will be dearly missed and never forgotten.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BARBARA ANN FRANK COSTER *March 12, 1936 — January 11, 2026*



BARBARA ANN FRANK COSTER, age 89, of Montrose, Colorado passed away on Sunday, January 11, 2026. Barbara was born on March 12, 1936 in Sterling, Colorado to Elizabeth (Kippes) Frank and Joseph Martin Frank. She was one of 20 children born to her parents. Being second to the youngest child with one brother younger, Barbara always treasured family life. She often recalled stories of the fun, laughter and learning she was able to experience being in such a large close-knit family. Particularly, she often recalled the dance moves which her brother, George, ten years her senior, taught her. Included in those moves was swinging her over his shoulders and under his legs while doing the Jitterbug! If you haven't seen the Jitterbug from the 1940's, Google that, it's on YouTube!

Barbara's youth was spent on the farm near the South Platte River in Crook, Colorado where her family's intense work ethic was instilled in her, lasting a lifetime. A dream life for a child; raising chickens, sheep, pigs and milk cows, playing near

the river, and growing your own food in the garden, what better way to prepare for the future service she passed on to others. She became a Matriarch to over 50 nieces and nephews with so many stories of how proud she was of her wonderful childhood filled with the love of family, animals and great food! As a young teen, Barbara and her family moved to Sterling, Colorado where they were active in St Anthony's Catholic Church. Her parents had been active in Catholic Churches everywhere they lived including many years at St Mary's in Montrose. There should be a brick with her dad's name on it in Montrose from 1911 when he helped work on the Church.

On July 10, 1960, Barbara married the love of her life, Donald Clarke Coster, from Buffalo, New York. Together they built a life in Southern California working and living at times in Long Beach, Laguna Beach, and San Clemente near numerous older siblings and their families. Eventually starting their own business there, they enjoyed traveling, designing and refurbishing homes, going out to eat and gathering with family. While Donald was boogie boarding at the beach, Barbara was planning yet another trip across the USA or to one of the numerous countries they visited around the world. Traveling for Barbara encompassed enormous opportunities. She enjoyed and was good at welcoming new family members, shopping for new clothes, shopping for local specialty items to ship back to her home such as Venetian glass, garden gnomes, furniture, artwork, or fabulous coats filling her closets. Her favorite places to travel were Europe and Hawaii. This classy lady may have had enough beautiful coats to keep a small country in Europe warm!

Barbara was intensely proud of her Volga

German heritage and made sure the younger generation of family members knew about it. She'd send writings, books, pictures and stories of the Frank Family Lineage to all. A true genealogist for the entire family, which to her was a very important task she took on, to pass the knowledge and stories along. In turn, the younger family members made sure she kept up with the times; Starbucks red pepper egg bites, Dominoes pasta bowls, Almond M&M's, and gummy bears just to name a few.

Upon retirement, Barbara and Donald left the ocean behind for the mountains of Montrose, Colorado where her parents first began their family life back in 1911. The year was 2000 and again, the philanthropy continued. She joined international women's groups, St Mary's Catholic Church, organized numerous fundraisers providing scholarships for teachers and nurses and even hosted political events in their home. Barbara lived 25 years in Montrose, Colorado in retirement. She had a fervor for life wherever she lived. Her fierce independence drove her to be of service throughout her life.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and every one of her siblings. Her passing marked the end of an era, the end of that generation. Her beauty and her strong-willed spirit lives on in each one of her descendants.

She is survived by one sister-in-law, Shirley Frank, in Anza, California and the legacy of many nieces and nephews along with their children.

Barbara Ann Frank Coster will be laid to rest in Sterling, Colorado next to her beloved husband and parents. A funeral mass will be held at St Anthony's Catholic Church in Sterling, Colorado. Date and times yet to be determined.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KIJA SAGE KEITHLEY

November 8, 2001 — January 9, 2026



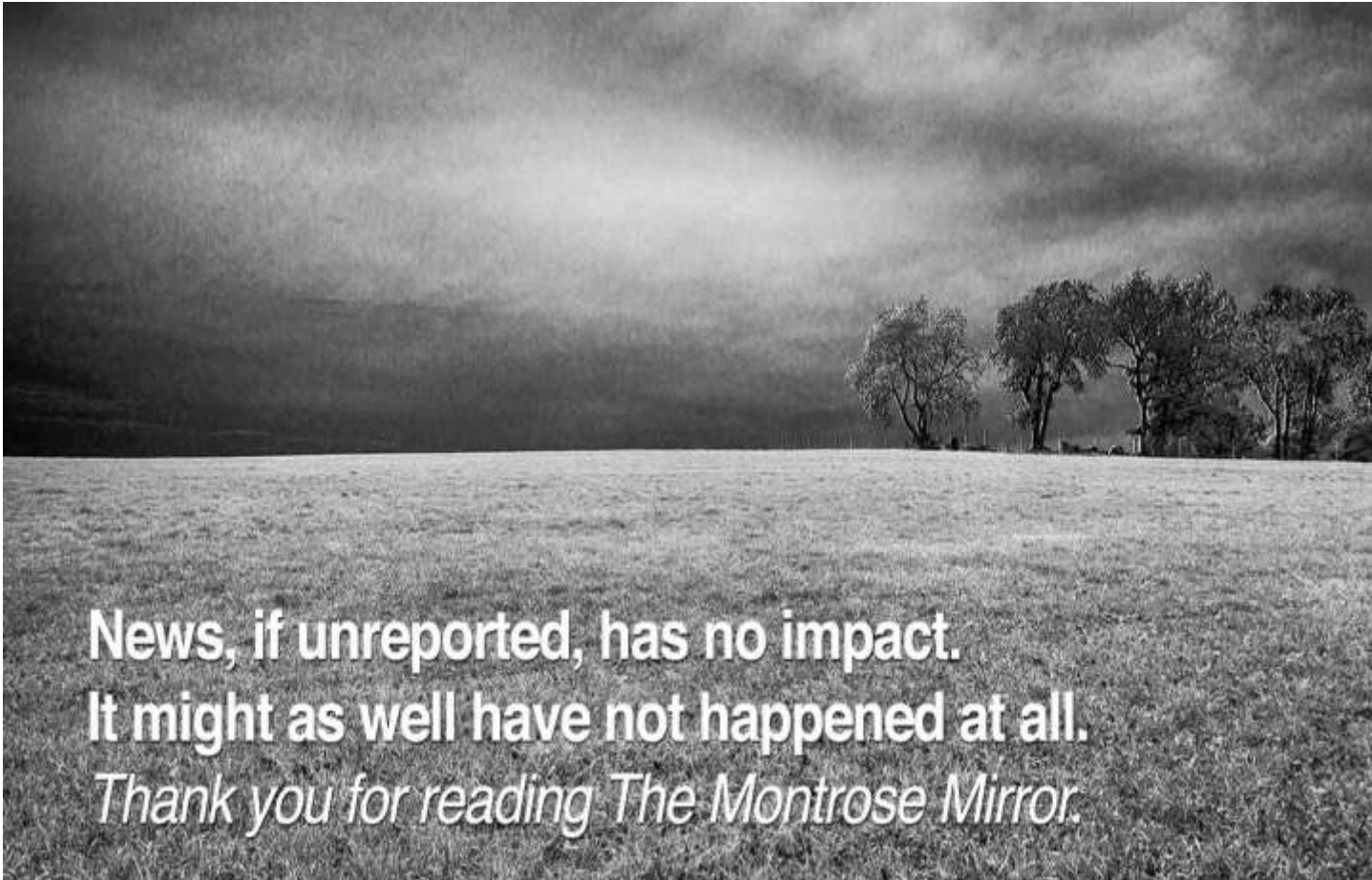
KIJA SAGE KEITHLEY, 24, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on January 9, 2026, in Aurora, Colorado. She was born on November 8, 2001, in Montrose, Colorado, to Douglas Stony Keithley and Rebekah Amber Washack.

Kija spent her childhood and attended high school in Montrose, where she grew up surrounded by the mountains she loved so deeply. She found joy in the outdoors—hiking, swimming, fishing—and cherished live music and concerts. Her adventurous spirit and appreciation for nature were a constant throughout her life.

Though Kija never married, her greatest joy came on July 21, 2023, with the birth

of the light of her life, her daughter, Lakota Sage Keithley. Being Lakota's mother was her proudest role and deepest love.

Kija is survived by her beloved daughter, Lakota Sage Keithley; her parents, Douglas Stony Keithley and Rebekah Amber Washack; her grandparents, Daniel Harold Keithley, Arlene Hutchings, and Janice Robinson; her brother, Lukas T. Washack; and her twin brother, Daniel Cole Keithley. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered for her love, her spirit, and the imprint she left on those who knew her. A Celebration of Kija's Life will be held at The Temple, 511 East Main Street, Montrose Colorado on Saturday, January 31st, 2026 from 2pm till 6pm.



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

ISSUE 558 Jan. 26, 2026

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – REGENERATION



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD

Greetings Mirrorites!

OLATHE—This winter's cold has wreaked havoc on some of the older plumbing systems on my small farm. I got a pleasant older fellow in the neighborhood to commit to replacing a broken frost-free hydrant once the weather warms. He also took a gander at my back pasture since he offers rototilling services in late spring. He vowed with utter sincerity to plow the crap out of it. I demurred and assured him that one pass would do. I explained that I was basically a no-till, regenerative agriculture adherent. I must have begun speaking Greek, given the look on his face. He was an old school gent, who thought I must be out of my hippie mind, even though I am only a few years younger than he, with decades of soil science experience, both practical and academic. I let it go, uncertain as to whether he was

the guy for the tilling job, but happy to let him tackle the hydrant.

Regenerative agriculture is a hot topic right now. The term is not as hackneyed as sustainability, just give it a couple more years. But here's a brand-new twist on that theme...regenerative positive psychology. How to revitalize the soil of your mind, your community, and your environment.

During the first two decades of the 21st century, positive psychology largely concentrated on boosting *individual* happiness, strengths, and meaning. That is the form of positive psychology I was exposed to at the University of Utah. That focus produced many helpful interventions for mental health challenges, yet critics correctly pointed out then and even much more now (for me, 12 years later) that there's a blind spot: What is the value of flourishing human selves in a catastrophically depleted planet? In 2025, wellbeing researcher [Michael Steger and colleagues](#) proposed a broader paradigm—*regenerative positive psychology*—which sees human flourishing and the health of the living systems that sustain us as inseparable. I immediately took to this concept like a swallow to a barn (or to Mission San Juan Capistrano).

Regenerative positive psychology (RPP) keeps the evidence-based rigor of the original field, but widens its lens from self-improvement to *system-improvement*. In practice, this means promoting ways of living that simultaneously enhance per-

sonal wellbeing, strengthen communities, and restore ecosystems. Among the most accessible and well-studied paths to that triple win is spending time in, and feeling emotionally connected to, nature.

How did I discover this new paradigm, you ask? Quite simply, because of my vanity. I love it when journalists write about the same concepts that I do. Just a few days ago, an article in the *Washington Post* captured my attention. While I began reading with glee that all of my notions will be validated, I did not expect to learn anything new. Wrong. It was in this article entitled "[Try this 14-day exercise to strengthen hope, even in darkest winter:](#) *This Noticing Nature Intervention is straightforward, but its results might surprise you*". Just my cup of tea. Although I somewhat disagree that all it takes is 14 days of noticing three cool things about nature daily for two weeks, it's not a bad place to start.

My research and personal experience indicate that frequent trips that become a perpetual habit of spending time in restorative environments is the key to a more youthful brain and a better, happier, more pro-social and generous personality. But I did not disagree at all with the premise of this new use of the word *regeneration*.

The article author included an interview with a professor who teaches pretty much what I do, but there was also a link to the original research, which of course I followed right down that rabbit hole.

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – REGENERATION From previous pg

"Holli-Anne Passmore, chair of the psychology department at Concordia University of Edmonton, has been doing study after study testing ways to access the psychological benefits of nature; her most recent one was [published in October](#). She has developed a simple method called the Noticing Nature Intervention. She has also tested a nature-centric version of the popular ["three good things"](#) psychological technique, in which people develop gratitude through daily reflections.

Such techniques boost mood and positive emotions in ways similar to non-nature interventions, but they also cause large increases in complex emotions that prove elusive when using other means, Passmore told me. They build a sense of "transcendent connectedness" (feeling connected to other people, to nature, and to life in general), a sense of "elevation" (profound feelings of gratitude, moral uplift, and being part of a greater whole), and a sense of "hope agency" (determination and confidence in pursuing goals)." Quoting author Dana Milbank, January 23, 2026.

I clicked on the [published in October](#) link and was treated to an open-source paper that rocked my world. The author notes that original positive psychology was studied and applied on the individual human level, for the sake of humans and that's it. The author, Michael Steger, proposes that a much broader framework is needed now more than ever. As with production maximization and profit-only focused agriculture that has destroyed the nation's most fertile soils, positive psychology needs to adapt to changing conditions. Human-oriented only positive psychology



Photo courtesy of D. Hazra'

once had its place in academic circles while it was still a toddler pushing back on its 'negative psychology' parent. Psychology that pathologized everything and everyone was indeed the foundation of the discipline. Positive psychology was a narrow yet much-needed voice in opposition to that paradigm. Now it's time for it to grow up and include a systems approach, rather than being exclusive to an individual's 'well-being in a vacuum' approach.

To that end, Steger demands a new mentality in which... "RPP (Regenerative Positive Psychology) would seek to nurture proximal, local, and distal systems that are healthy for each other as well as the individuals within them. We might invest in any number of healthy overlapping human, social group, business, governmen-

tal, charitable, environmental, ecological, or planetary systems. We would learn to be as adept at understanding the strengths and wellbeing of these systems as we are at understanding the flourishing of individuals. Critically, by regenerating the health of life-giving systems we would benefit individual wellbeing."

This article is so deep and timely that I will probably read it a couple more times this week as a tonic providing hope and guidance in a world gone mad in 2026. I encourage you guys to access it and read it as well, and then get out into nature to take note of three good things, once this intense and bitter cold has passed, of course.

Stay positive out there,
The Mindful Naturalist



The Satisfied Self

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND THE ART OF SUSTAINABLE CHANGE



By Gia Pirelli

If change were purely a matter of information, most of us would already be living exactly as we intend to. We know what supports us. And what doesn't. We understand the value of movement, rest, boundaries, and consistency.

But knowing rarely translates into doing. The disconnect isn't a failure of character, it's a failure of systems and approach. Sustainable change doesn't begin with motivation. It begins with the nervous system. It begins in the body, not the mind.

A nervous system under chronic stress prioritizes immediacy over intention. It pulls energy toward survival, not growth. When this happens, even simple habits can feel heavy, overwhelming, or oddly inaccessible. This is why habits collapse, even when they're important to you.

This is why:

- routines work for a few days, then unravel
- consistency feels inconsistent
- discipline feels brutal instead of supportive

The body is not resisting change. It's protecting itself. Until the system feels safe, change will always require force. And force is not sustainable. No matter how badly you want something, your body will overrule.

The missing link is regulation. Regulation is the body's ability to move between states, like focus and rest, or effort and recovery. A regulated nervous system can tolerate discomfort, adapt to stress, and return to baseline more easily.

From that state:

- habits feel lighter
- discipline feels natural
- self-trust rebuilds quietly

This is why regulation is not a luxury. It's the foundation of every lasting transformation. The nervous system doesn't respond to logic. It responds to input.

Breath, movement, posture, sound, rhythm—these signal the body whether it's safe to soften or whether it's necessary to brace.

This is where practices like yoga, Pilates, meditation, and sound healing, become profoundly practical. Not as workouts or trends, but as regulation tools to shift the nervous system gently out of fight-or-flight and back into coherence.

Short, repeatable practices work not because they're easy, but because they are doable when the nervous system is taxed. And it creates space to build upon them. Transformation is rarely a big, dramatic event. It's generally the result of small, consistent actions over time.

The most effective regulation practices share three qualities:

- brevity
- consistency
- Resulting in clarity not depletion

Five minutes of breath work. Ten minutes of intentional movement. A few moments of guided stillness. We spend most of our time in our heads. Repeating feedback loops, weaving stories and narratives. The irony is we try to think our way out of overthinking. Or use logic on the body. And then grow frustrated when those things fail. Breaking those feedback loops by interrupting the signal, just for short intervals, increases neural plasticity. It creates new neural pathways. We've all heard "neurons that fire together, wire together." You can't force them to fire together. And in order to create the person you wish to be, you must first create the container to hold that vision, story or energy. It's like people who win the lottery and wind up broke a year later. In order to be a millionaire, you have to first be a person who knows how to have a million dollars. Same goes for health and wellness.

If you don't actually have habits that support your nervous system, or habits that stem from organic consistency and interest, then you can do all kinds of challenges or plans, but they will ultimately collapse and fail. You can try keto for the 7th time, and start over every Monday, dragging yourself to the gym for resistance training—which ironically is exactly what it becomes: an exercise in resistance. The body grows stiff from tension and anxiety, you're simply strengthening and cementing the muscles around that tension and energeti-

cally reinforcing it.

Engaging in short, repeatable practices, and then occasional longer sessions from a place of desire or even curiosity, as opposed to duty, is what will create the necessary traction for transformation. Over time, this teaches the body a new baseline, one where calm is accessible and effort is optional. This feels entirely different than another punishing challenge.

Change that comes from regulation doesn't feel dramatic. It feels steady. You stop negotiating with yourself. You stop starting over. You simply begin every day by building forward.

Calm comes from the ground you stand on, not the reward you earn later. If you think being fit or thin, etc will suddenly make you happy, or resolve your stress, depression or self-doubt, that's unlikely. Understanding your "why" is important here because if your goals are based on fulfilling an identity that's not in alignment, or services the expectations of others (ie being thin because you're "supposed to be") then that sucks. We lean into things that feel good and we run away from things that don't. Simple as that. So choosing to feel good, to experience true health, to have a richer quality of life, or engage in something that's currently off limits because of your fixable physical limitations, those are good why's." Chose to build yourself for yourself and you'll find it much easier to relax into a rhythm that evolves into a whole new way of life.

In the next article we will explore why modern culture mistakes urgency for effectiveness, and how choosing calm in a world that pushes is not passive, it's powerful.

Byline

Gia Pirelli is a yoga and Pilates teacher and sound practitioner specializing in nervous system regulation and embodied well-being. She offers short, accessible online practices designed to support calm, strength, and sustainable self-leadership.

Learn more at <https://www.theembodiedself.co>

For more about her in-person classes or workshops, visit: <https://giapirelli.com/>

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MYSTICAL MYSTERIES IN THE DESERT: D.L. BLANCHARD RELEASES BLUE MOON BENCH

Pain Isn't Your New Normal.
Relief Starts Here.



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Dr. Adam Archie

Spine Surgeons



Dr. Ryan Hagens



Dr. William Summers

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From diagnosis to treatment, our collaborative Spine & Pain team delivers personalized care designed to improve function and quality of life.



Spine & Pain Center

MRH Spine & Pain Center
3330 S. Rio Grande Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
970-252-2584
MontroseHealth.com/Spine

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—What happens when the past refuses to stay buried? In her latest novel, *Blue Moon Bench*, Montrose local author **D.L. Blanchard** invites readers into a world where breathtaking southwest landscapes, Hopi traditions, and haunting secrets collide. Living in the shadow of Alex's late wife Rachel, Jessica finds herself struggling with jealousy, doubt, and fear. When whispers suggest Rachel's death at the Grand Canyon was no accident, Jessica is forced to confront the terrifying possibility that the man she loves may not be who he seems. Blanchard's novel blends the timeless beauty of the Southwest with the pulse of psychological suspense. From the sacred Hopi Kachina dances to the silent depths of the Grand Canyon, every setting becomes more than scenery—it becomes part of the mystery itself. Themes of love, loss, betrayal, and resilience make *Blue Moon Bench* both thrilling and deeply human. "I wanted to create a story that shows how fragile trust can be when secrets linger," says Blanchard. "The desert holds beauty and silence, but it also holds echoes of the past. My characters are forced to decide whether they will be consumed by those echoes or find the strength to move forward." *Blue Moon Bench* will resonate with fans of suspenseful, character-driven fiction. Readers who enjoy mysteries entwined with cultural richness and emotional depth will find themselves drawn into Jessica's journey—a story about love tested by shadows, and the courage it takes to uncover the truth.

About the Author The author of *Blue Moon Bench* is a Tibetan Buddhist now living the western slope of Colorado. She is a fine artist and author who lived in Arizona for over 17 years and spent many days hiking in canyons and deserts in the southwest. She has written many articles for magazines such as *Southwest Art Magazine*, as well as the Article "Shaman's and Master Artists" published by the American Rock Art Research Association. *Blue Moon Bench* is the first in a series of mystery novels based on the Southwest. She loves including the mystical part of the sacred beliefs and ceremony of the native people because they are very similar to Tibetan culture and rituals which she carries in her heart. She is on the Board of the Montrose Center for Arts, Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas, owns Meditation Spaces, a small shop in Montrose, Colorado, and she leads weekly group meditation for a new group on the Western Slope. **Contact information: email: bluemoonbench@gmail.com, 970-318-0104.**

LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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Spacious Kitchen: Enjoy the well-planned kitchen with a breakfast bar and dining area, ideal for family gatherings and casual meals.

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Stylish Flooring: Features a mix of plush carpeting and durable plank vinyl tile, blending comfort and practicality. Move-in ready and waiting for a new buyer to make it their own!



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3 bedroom
2 bathrooms

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MORE KIDS OUTSIDE IN 2026!



As part of FOYAN's many outings with youth, there is often a stewardship component. On this Public Lands Day, fourth graders from Delta County are building bluebird nesting boxes for their schoolyard. Courtesy photo.

With a little guidance from experienced anglers, youth get a chance to ice fish at Ward Lake on the Grand Mesa National Forest. Courtesy photo.

By Anne Janik,

Friends of Youth and Nature

MONTROSE—More kids outside! That's a prescription for physically and mentally healthy youth in our communities. Time outside—even as little as 20 minutes—can help re-set our attitudes, priorities and general well-being. Outdoor experiences also help young people develop confidence, resilience, leadership, teamwork and environmental stewardship—skills that last a lifetime.

Communities on the Western Slope get it! Because of our location so close to acres of public lands, lifestyles of our community members incorporate the inspiration of our breathtaking landscapes, the challenges of outdoor endeavors, and an appreciation of our nearby natural resources. Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) works to provide these rewarding outdoor opportunities for our youth.

Because of you, FOYAN received over \$23,000 in private end of year donations. FOYAN was able to facilitate outdoor and nature learning experiences for over 12,000 youth and families in Mesa, Delta, Montrose, and Ouray Counties in 2025, up from 8,800 in 2024. More than \$44,000 was distributed to schools for field trip transportation assistance to Eureka Science center, river festivals, natural resource days, outdoor learning labs (OWL), and snow science/cross-country skiing

opportunities on the Grand Mesa National Forest. FOYAN also provided 43 scholarships for local youth and teens to attend summer day and overnight camps.

There has been a drastic growth in community support for FOYAN's mission. Through the umbrella organization of the Western Colorado Community Foundation (WCCF), FOYAN received generous awards from the West Elk Community Fund, the Delta Community Fund, the Ouray County Fund and the Montrose Community Fund to engage youth in those counties with outdoor equipment, scholarships and outdoor adventures.

In 2025, Service clubs, local organizations and counties have stepped up support along with so many local businesses willing to sponsor our fundraiser activities and events.

One component of FOYAN's programs is watershed education. We want our youth to learn about our local water resources and specifically about the Gunnison and Colorado River watersheds. Forever our Rivers, the Gunnison Basin RoundTable, and WCCF have provided funding for these opportunities. Colorado Parks and Wildlife Partners in the Outdoors has provided funding specifically for youth angling and hunting classes through FOYAN.

Transportation has always been a barrier for getting more kids outside. FOYAN received funds to purchase a van to be

shared with partner organizations to transport youth to various outdoor activities. We are grateful to WCCF, the Boettcher Foundation, the Enterprise Mobility Grant, and private donors for this.

FOYAN has received significant support for expansion into a professionalized, staffing model to improve and expand organizational reach. The Mighty Arrow Foundation, the San Juan Council from El Pomar, the Colorado Health Foundation, Intermountain Health and the Anschutz Family Foundation all contributed to general operations.

Time outdoors for kids is vital—it promotes physical health, mental well-being, self-esteem, friendships and a sense of belonging, all essential ingredients for strong, thriving kids and communities. FOYAN also works to instill appreciation, respect and a connection to public lands and natural resources in our youth, teens and young adults. Our communities get this- and we are so appreciative of that support in our efforts to pass on the gift of the outdoors to our next generation.

For detailed financials and recognition of our grantors, local businesses, service clubs, and partner organizations who donated to support our mission of getting Western Slope kids outside, please visit the FOYAN website at www.friendsofyouthandnature.org



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ABOUT THIS PROPERTY:

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- ✓ 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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

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

Contact: [ststephensmont-](mailto:ststephensmont-rose@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?



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970-249-6889

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Burgers & Beer
970-252-1227

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Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



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



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

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



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MY FUNNY VALENTINE: OUR SONG-PERFORMANCES

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-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. Directed by Lisa Rediger, Assistant Director Rachelle Rediger

My Funny Valentine Our Song— Thursday, Feb. 5th-7:30pm MST

My Funny Valentine Our Song—Friday, Feb. 6th-7:30pm MST

My Funny Valentine Our Song—Saturday, Feb. 7th-7:30pm MST

My Funny Valentine Our Song—Sunday, Feb. 8th-7:30pm MST

Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.



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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

Feb. 3-April 10-The Montrose AARP Tax-aid 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.

Feb. 5-Montrose Women's Giving Club scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 5 at 5:30pm, Bridges Golf and Country Club. ALL WOMEN WELCOME!!!!

Feb. 12-On Thursday, Feb. 12 7 p.m. Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Don Marsh, who will continue to share his African adventures Part 2: Birding the Kenyan Coast and Nairobi National Park. Don is a gifted photographer and even more gifted birder and we are lucky to have him present his excellent images of the wildlife in this part of Africa. The Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubon-society.org.

MIRROR IMAGES: WINTER TREES



Harry Switzer snapped this photo of frozen trees and gray sky.



B. Switzer took this photo of snow blanketing the branches of a blue spruce.

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