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CITY APPROVES HISTORIC DESIGNATION FOR 25-27 NORTH CASCADE, RATIFIES BEAR CREEK EMERGENCY DRAINAGE EXPENDITURES



Montrose City Council has designated the earliest Montrose Post Office, located at 25-27 North Cascade Avenue, as a City of Montrose Historic Property. Above, this historic courtesy photo is from a presentation by Senior Planner William Reis.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-All Councilors were present in person for the Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Feb. 17, along with City Youth Councilor Reign Icasiano. Mayor Dave Frank opened the meeting and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John Brown spoke. "I come today angry but controlled to greet you with disbelief and distrust. I've been coming before you since March of '24, asking you, the City Council, to declare Montrose a non-sanctuary city..."

Brown noted that Mayor Frank had made a verbal statement that Montrose was a non-sanctuary city at the closing of his first meeting as Mayor.

Brown also said that President Trump had threatened states and communities that were sanctuary that they could lose federal funding. A letter was published in the *Montrose*

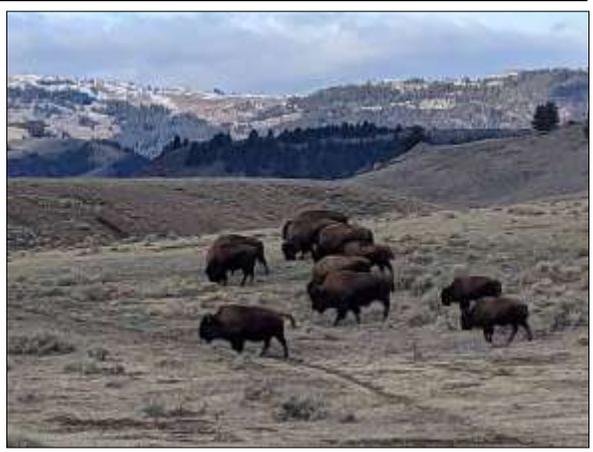
Continued pg 33

TENACIOUS BEASTS- A MEASURE OF HOPE FOR OUR WILDLIFE!

By Anne Janik
REGIONAL-The news about wildlife is dire—more than 900 species have been wiped off the planet since industrialization. Against this bleak backdrop, however, there are also glimmers of hope and crucial lessons to be learned from animals that have defied global trends toward extinction. Bears in Italy, bison in North America, whales in the Atlantic. These populations are back from the brink, some of them in numbers unimaginable in a century. How has this happened? What shifts in thinking did it demand? In crisp, transporting prose, author Christopher Preston reveals the mysteries and challenges at the heart of these resurgences in his book "Tenacious Beasts, Wildlife Recoveries that Change How We Think About Animals."

Preston will be the guest speaker at the Black Canyon

Continued pg 11



*American Bison have made an incredible comeback from a small herd thriving in the remote heart of Yellowstone to current day numbers. Learn more on this tenacious beast from Christopher Preston
Photo by A Janik).*



Bird Migration Program

February 28, 12-2 PM
Library Meeting Room



Join special guests from the Black Canyon Audubon Society to learn about bird migration. Presentations on spring migration and adaptations for bird safety. How-to birding stations followed by a bird walk (weather permitting). Refreshments and give aways. No library card or registration required.

This program is designed for age 13 and up.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

3RD ANNUAL CORNHOLE FOR A CAUSE TOURNAMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Get ready to toss some bags, root on some wiener dogs, and have a blast at the 3rd Annual Cornhole for a Cause Tournament at the Montrose Elks Lodge on May 3, from 11am to 3pm.

Entry fee is \$100 per team (includes lunch) and it will be double elimination. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. We are limiting the tournament to 30 teams. The wiener dog race is \$10 per entry and it will take place around 1 pm. There will be food and drinks available. The Elks will be supplying the alcohol. DJ Erik AK Valdez will be playing some hits throughout the day. When registering please include your team name (use your imagination). You are welcome to bring your own bags. We will have 10 sets of boards for everyone to use.

If you would like to pay by cash or check please reach out to Leah directly at 619-987-2617 or email info@mrsclausforacause.org.

Register by clicking the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../3rd-annual-cornhole-for-a...>

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- Timing the Early Spring: Traditionally, everyone waits until April. By listing now with a Realtor's guidance, you beat the rush and stand out to the surge of buyers currently searching in Montrose.
- Relocation Planning: Whether you're downsizing for retirement or upsizing for a growing family, your Realtor manages the complex "sell-and-buy" timeline so you aren't left without a roof over your head.

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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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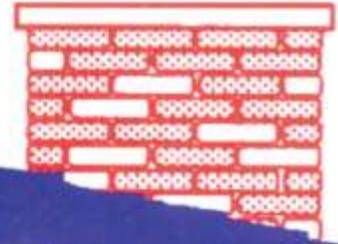
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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the Montrose Mirror or its editorial team. In addition to the Online News Association, we hold memberships in the Colorado Press Association and Society for Professional Journalists.



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CITY COUNCIL: CANDIDATE BIOS

AT LARGE CANDIDATE: SAM ASTER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-A resident of the city of Montrose since 2021, Sam Aster was born in Amador County, California, to parents with substance use disorder in 1991. After being found three months later in a U-Haul trailer,

Child Protective Services placed Sam in foster care until the following year. Being adopted by a Catholic family, Sam would then grow up, cared for by a Navy veteran and his wife, who had mothered three of her own before deciding to foster and adopt at least eight other children, giving Sam a multiethnic family of eleven siblings to learn from and occasionally get along with.

In Sam's teenage years, diabetes began to take a toll on Sam's mother, leading to regular treatments of dialysis that would leave her fatigued. Sam's father attempted to keep raising the family together, but with the increased responsibility, it wasn't long before he would be overwhelmed with the effort of parenting so many children, and Sam would be sent to Utah to finish school. Graduating in 2009, Sam returned to California to assist with wildfire recovery before being dismissed at the abrupt end of a contract, leaving Sam with no income, and eventually no home as well.

Finding refuge in a Christian ministry program, Sam began work in Major League Baseball stadiums on behalf of the San Diego Padres and the Arizona Diamondbacks, as well as for the Chicago White Sox, San Francisco Giants, and Colorado Rockies in their Spring Training venues.

In 2012, Sam moved to Ohio and began work in window manufacturing and food service. Initially moving to avoid gang violence and to reconnect with biological family, Sam would return west in 2015, settling in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado. Initially working in the agriculture industry with both hemp and potatoes before moving to the food and retail industry of Alamosa, Sam spent six years in the area, and at one time had been married until a divorce would leave Sam again without a home to live in.

After reaching out to friends, Sam was encouraged to move to Montrose in 2021, but suffered from undiagnosed agoraphobia for the first two years. In 2023, the friends that Sam came to live with had abandoned their lease and moved out of state. This led to another episode of homelessness for nearly nine months, which included a stay at the Lighthouse shelter until it closed in April of 2024.

In early summer of that same year, Sam was attempting to sleep after walking to-

wards the outskirts of the city during a heavy rain. Found the next morning near some bushes by the airport, Sam was invited to sleep at a local church until a member offered space at their own home. Having stability again, Sam was eventually encouraged to apply for a position at the Lighthouse shelter in December of 2024.

Since that same winter, Sam has shared invaluable firsthand knowledge of the impacts of a lack of accessible housing to the city as well as its residents and service providers. Being a member of the Unhoused Roundtable of the city and the Solutions group formed by the community, a contributor to the Montrose Lifestyle, and an attendant of city-held events and council meetings



Sam Aster . Courtesy photo.



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CITY COUNCIL: CANDIDATE BIOS

DISTRICT II CANDIDATE RACHEL BETANCOURT-EGE



Special to the Mirror

Born in 1992 and raised in the farming town of Ripon, California, Rachel Betancourt-Ege understands the value of hard work and neighborly respect. Growing up in the Central Valley, her parents instilled in her a lifelong commitment to volunteerism. From a young age, she was a familiar face at her local library and senior assisted living facilities, learning early on that a thriving community is built on service.

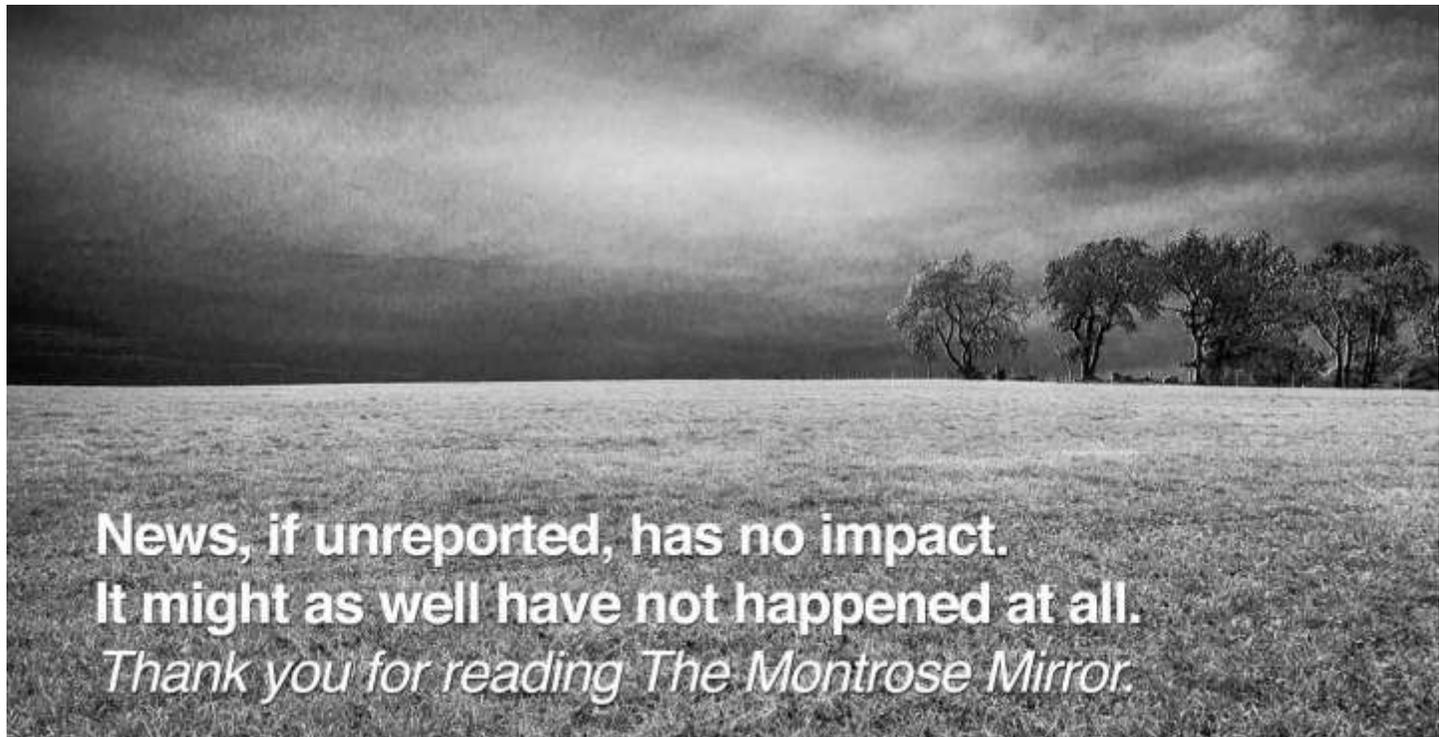
After high school, Rachel dedicated herself to caring for her aging grandparents—an experience that deepened her empathy and resolve to serve others. She went on to earn an Associate’s Degree in Agricultural Science from Modesto Junior College and a Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science from Chico State University. It was in the front row of one of her classes that she met her husband, Leif.

Rachel’s professional journey has always centered on providing care during critical times. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked as a pharmacy clerk, offering quality service and a steady presence to patients facing unprecedented uncertainty.

In 2022, Rachel and Leif relocated to Colorado, where they fell in love with the natural beauty and open spaces of the Front Range. Rachel was hired by the Denver Dumb Friends League (Humane Colorado) as an Adoption Associate, where she still carries their core phrase “Compassion Always.” Her role required more than just animal care; it demanded transparent communication and collaborative problem-solving—skills she is ready to bring to the Montrose City Council.

Rachel and Leif moved to Montrose in December 2024 to be closer to family. Today, she works at Heirlooms for Hospice, which supports HopeWest, a local non-profit and cornerstone of our community. She has quickly become an active participant in Montrose life, deeply valuing the lives and stories of the 75 volunteers she works with and the customers she serves every day.

Rachel respects Montrose’s rich history and natural resources that make this beautiful land unique. She believes that public service should be just that—a service to the public. With years of experience in high-stakes customer service and a heart for local advocacy, Rachel is ready to listen, lead, and ensure Montrose remains a vibrant, welcoming place for all generations.



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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY LAUNCHES PLOWOPS PUBLIC PORTAL TO IMPROVE PLOWING OPERATIONS TRANSPARENCY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Public Works is pleased to announce the launch of the PlowOps Public Portal, a new tool designed to enhance transparency and improve communication with residents regarding plowing operations.

PlowOps provides real-time tracking of Montrose County Public Works equipment during winter snowplowing. Through the portal, residents can view the live locations of Road and Bridge vehicles while crews are actively working, helping the public stay informed about current conditions and upcoming operations across the county.

Key features of the PlowOps Public Portal include:

-Real-Time Tracking: View the current locations of snowplows and maintenance vehicles throughout Montrose County.

-Enhanced Communication: Provides up-to-date operational information, reducing the need for service calls and inquiries.

-Track the “Name the Plow” contest finalists from Montrose County School District as they move throughout the county. Finalists include King Slow Mo, Cow the Great Big Plow, The McFlurry, Blizzard Wizard, Snowy, Plowasaurus Rex, and Kindness.

“PlowOps is another step forward in making county services more accessible and transparent,” said Brandon Wallace, Public Works Director. “By giving residents real-time insight into where our crews are working, we’re improving communication, managing expectations during weather events, and reinforcing our commitment to excellent public service.”

Residents can access the PlowOps Public Portal by visiting <https://public.plowops.com/?id=809446640>.

Montrose County encourages residents to take advantage of this new service as part of its ongoing commitment to providing high-quality road maintenance and responsive public services.

For additional information about PlowOps or questions regarding its use, please contact the Montrose County Public Works Department at 970-249-5424.



Montrose County courtesy photo.



A Glowing Invitation

Join us for one of our upcoming Spark Sessions—relaxed, come-as-you-are gatherings where cooperative members can chat face-to-face with senior staff and board leaders. This is your chance to ask questions, share ideas, and get to know the folks powering your wires behind the scenes. Drop in, say hello, and have a refreshment on us.

Tuesday, February 17
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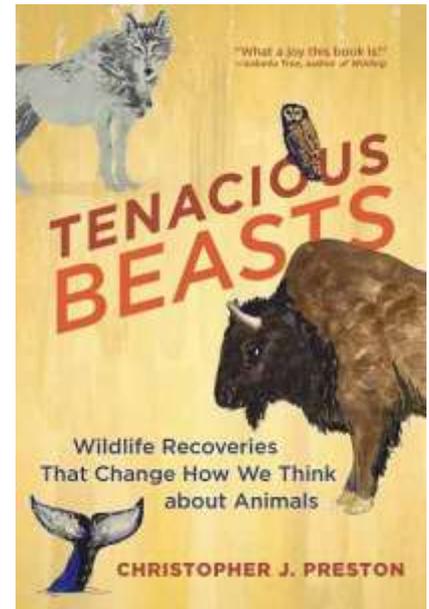


TENACIOUS BEASTS - A MEASURE OF HOPE FOR OUR WILDLIFE! From pg 1

Audubon Society's annual fundraising dinner on March 5. You are invited to hear Preston's compelling personal stories from the researchers, Indigenous people, and activists who know the creatures best. In an environmental world often described with gloom and doom, Preston recounts how some species are taking back vital, ecological roles in farms, prairies, rivers, forests, and oceans. He offers a philosophical shift in how humans ought to think about animals, passionately advocating for the changes in attitude necessary for wildlife recovery.

If you are a wildlife enthusiast, or just want to learn more about ecological restoration from Indigenous knowledge to rewilding practices, this measure of hope may be just what you need.

Enjoy a dinner with like-minded community members and learn more about this roadmap for a future in which humans and animals can once again coexist. This is the annual fundraising dinner for the Audubon Society. Advance registration is required by Feb. 27. The cost is \$50/pp for the event and dinner. BCAS has some great silent auction items as well. . Remington's at the Bridges Golf and Country Club (5-8:30 pm). Make your reservation at: <https://www.blackcanyonaudubon.org/news/notices>.



ECKERT CRANE DAYS 2026

Thurs, March 19 @ 6pm
Presentation: The Spark Bird Project at the Delta Public Library

Sat/Sun, March 21/22 9am to noon
Guided bird watching and drawing for free Audubon family memberships

Sat, Mar 21 @ noon
Free public BBQ Western State Ranches in Harts Basin



Sponsored by Black Canyon Audubon Society and Western States Ranches



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SMALL CHILDREN DEFENSELESS AGAINST AGGRESSIVE, LOOSE DOGS

Editor:

A dog that attacked a child in town last June was deemed aggressive & court ordered to be re-homed. However because of how the system works, she filed an appeal & the owner has been allowed to keep her dog, & not been held accountable.

This dog lives in a neighborhood full of children, and the owners have no control over him. He was loose today and came at me, & bit my own leg today. Now what? Because it's a holiday animal control isn't coming.

Because of her appeal, nothing the judge mandated matters, despite her having a record of mishandling animals.

I bet you can guess the dog's breed! He's a pitbull, no surprise there.

Unfortunately there seems to be a mentality that pets matter more than people in this town. Why has it been 8 months since a CHILD was sent to urgent care & this dog is still at home? Why does this family get to keep their dog, while the child's family still deals with a 4 year olds trauma from the incident?

This dog has no place in society, and yet, laws & hands are tied. Let's think about what it means to live in a community that prioritizes pets over people & doesn't hold pet owners accountable. Thankfully as an adult I anticipated this dogs aggression today. However, as we recently saw in Gunnison, a child could not have defended him/herself against this dog.

I have much more to say & would be more than willing to get this story out there, we need something to change in this town. As a taxpayer, having to make numerous calls just to get the first citation to happen was exhausting. Now today, being told it's a holiday so the animal can't be taken to quarantine sounds like a joke.

Hope Bauman, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SUPPORT SEAN POND FOR U.S. SENATE

Editor:

Change the Landscape. Support Sean Pond our LOCAL WESTERN SLOPE CANDIDATE for the US Senate. Finally!!! Someone from the Western Slope, a true Warrior, a Montrose County Commissioner who will represent us in DC! NOT SOMEONE FROM THE FRONT RANGE!! Sean will bring Common Sense Policies and fight for our Values here on the Western Slope. Watch for "Meet and Greet" for Sean coming up soon.

Carol McBride, Montrose

THE TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY

Editor:

Democracy is built on the principle that the majority should guide public decisions. But as political thinkers from James Madison to Alexis de Tocqueville warned, majority rule can become oppressive when it is unchecked, unexamined, or captured by a narrow faction. This danger—known as the tyranny of the majority—is not confined to national or state politics. It can emerge most sharply at the local level, where small groups can dominate elections, shape public narratives, and consolidate power with minimal scrutiny. And that is the reason that the founding fathers set our government up as a constitutional republic. Where all power is vested in we the people. And our

individual rights are protected from the majority by the constitution and the bill of rights. The citizens of Colorado Know tyranny of the majority. Colorado has not had a republican governor in twenty years. The democrats control of this state has led to the most tyrannical abuse of power and violation of constitutional rights in its history.

However, frustrations in the Republican Party have led to some bad decisions that has created additional problems for the Republican Party. The state Republican Party is broke and in debt because of infighting that has led to lawsuits. The Montrose County Republican Party has lost the prestige of confidence within the citizens of the county. The state party and

county party chairs running for office (2024) in contested primaries in violation of their own by-laws is the main culprit in the lack of confidence in the Republican Party. And new leadership at the state and county has not done anything to instill confidence in the voters. Many candidates have chosen to petition on to the ballot rather than go the assembly process. And the Montrose County GOP has changed their by-laws to include a provision that they do not have to honor the primary neutrality for any candidate that does not choose the assembly process. So, they have doubled down on disenfranchising the voters of Montrose County. That will only turn more voters against them.

Ray Langston, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL SEEKING THE PUBLIC'S HELP *Seeking witnesses to locate the driver in a crash*

Special to the Mirror

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY - On Feb. 20, 2026, around 5:45 p.m., the Colorado State Patrol responded to a single vehicle crash involving a silver 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier on westbound I-70 at milepost 237(east of North Spring Gulch Road). The vehicle left the right side of the roadway and struck boulders and a rock wall.

A male driver of this vehicle left the scene on foot with a dog. He was described as a 5'6" white male, blonde hair, hazel eyes, facial hair and possibly wearing a hat. The dog was described as medium to large sized and blue and gray in color.

In addition to the missing driver, a 41-year-old female passenger was transported to a local area hospital with serious bodily injuries.

Any witnesses are asked to call the Colorado State Patrol Dispatch at 303-239-4501 and reference case number 1A260474. Please be prepared to leave your name and contact information for a return phone call.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AN OPEN LETTER TO COMMISSIONER SUE HANSEN

Commissioner Sue Hansen:

Commissioner Sue Hansen, you owe the public a clear explanation for your actions.

You first accepted an appointment from the Republican Party Vacancy Committee. Then you received the Republican Party's endorsement when you were initially elected as well as in your second run as a county commissioner. For almost seven years, however, your voting record and positions appeared more moderate (pink and purple) than solidly conservative (red).

You later abandoned the Republican Party and switched to unaffiliated status without as much as having the courtesy of notifying party officials. It appears this change was to allow you to lead attacks against fellow commissioners Scott Mijares and Sean Pond. During this period, you either abstained from or voted against nearly every measure brought before the commissioners.

You pushed for a recall vote against a sitting commissioner because he was promoting transparency on the commission. He refused to follow your approach to fiscal planning and responsibility, and you no longer had a board filled with "yes men". You then recruited another commissioner who was even more purple than yourself.

Now explain why you have switched back to registering as a Republican. Over the past year, you have associated closely with Governor Polis, Senator Bennet, and Senator Hickenlooper, some of the most leftist members of the Democrat Party. You redirected the commission in what appears to be an effort to reverse the transparency and truth-seeking measures that Mijares and Pond had implemented.

You went against the majority view of Montrose County residents by supporting large-scale solar and wind fields. You undermined the people's vote against land grabs and aligned yourself with Bennet and Hickenlooper whom you held private meetings that included Commissioner Copeland and deliberately excluded Commissioner Pond.

And now, just before the deadline to switch parties and regain access to the caucus process, you want to be a Republican again.

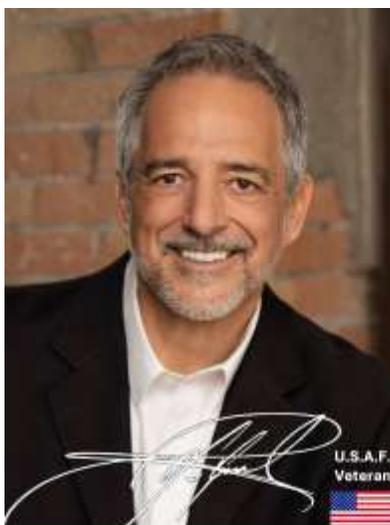
We see through these actions plain as day. Your attempt to hide behind a Republican label has many obvious flaws. It will not protect you from the truth, whether in times of strong winds or heavy rain. We can see right through you.

In a way, you have brought transparency after all, but only by exposing yourself for what you truly are. Be careful, your RINO jacket has a noticeable rip in it.

An open letter to the good people of Montrose with a full, tearful and emotional explanation is needed.

John Brown

WE THE PEOPLE



•Elections •Term Limits •Accountability

Common-Sense Reforms for a Stronger Montrose

- **End Voter Fatigue & Boost Turnout:** In 2024, less than 3,500 of 17,000 registered voters showed up for the municipal election. I propose we **align our municipal election with the November Congressional Elections** to harness higher turnout, giving your voice real power, eliminate the fatigue and **save taxpayer dollars**.
- **True Term Limits:** Current rules allow the same City Council members to rotate back in for another 8 years after a 4-year break. **Real lifetime limits** will bring fresh perspectives, new energy, and genuine accountability.
- **Financial Accountability:** The proposed 2026 city budget has ballooned to \$168 million, more than triple the 2017 figure. **An independent forensic audit** will help eliminate waste and ensure every dollar supports infrastructure, public safety, and our community priorities.

These **Common-Sense** changes will strengthen our voice, hold local government accountable and deliver a better Montrose for everyone.

*In Our Republic, We Elect Our Representatives,
but if We don't Vote, We lose our voice!*

Join me in helping build a better, stronger Montrose based on **Common Sense**.

Vote: Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Watch for the City Council ballot in your mailbox the week of March 16

<https://MJB4Montrose.com>

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY WILL HOST CHRISTOPHER PRESTON

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Audubon Society is honored to host Christopher Preston at Remington's, Bridges Golf and Country Club, 2500 Bridges Ave, Montrose, CO. The event will take place March 5 from 5:-8:30 PM. Dinner will be served followed by Preston's keynote address. The cost is \$50. per person for the event including dinner, and the public is welcome! Advance registration is required by Feb. 25 and can be made at:

<https://www.blackcanyonaudubon.org/news/notices>



**WILDFIRE RESILIENCY
CODE MEETING**

February 24, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Historic County Courthouse
320 South 1st Street
3rd Floor Board Room
Montrose, CO



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Amazon Senior Manager,
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A TAXPAYER ISSUE THAT BOCC CANDIDATES MUST ADDRESS

Editor:

Since sharing the 18-year PSST timeline in The Mirror two weeks ago, I had several friends ask an interesting question. How is it possible that \$70 million supposedly accrued to the benefit of the MCSO over and above the required General Fund and we still have an MCSO that is no stronger today than it was in 2008?

Having closely watched the PSST fund over all of those years, for me, the answer is fairly simple. A long list of elected county officials, multiple county managers, and unelected staff members have failed in their duty to properly manage those substantial funds over that 18-year period.

Concerned taxpayers should consider the following for a better understanding of the problem:

-when MC4FF was studying the MCSO in 2007 a major concern was that the MCSO was unable to attract and retain qualified deputies. Their final recommendations called for the PSST to be an enhancement fund for the MCSO over and above the required General Fund..

-with only just over 7000 votes cast in the PSST election, the issue passed with a slim 900 vote majority. In 2008 PSST funds began to accumulate in a separate fund.. for the first few years any taxpayer could go to the county website and track all activity in the PSST fund. Then suddenly it became impossible to follow the money in regards to the PSST.

For the small group of taxpayers trying to watch how those monies were spent it's certainly seemed like voodoo accounting had replaced transparency. Absent a forensic accounting several concerned taxpayers suspected that the Finance Department saw an opportunity to use PSST funds as a slush fund to offset the General

Fund.

Sadly, none of our elected officials thought to question that move..

-over the next 12 years, only a handful of taxpayers raised concerns about how the PSST was being accounted for. The first elected official to raise the alarm regarding how the PSST funds were being used was Sheriff Gene Lillard. In 2023 it became public knowledge that the MCSO was losing deputies to other agencies and it became increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified deputies. Does that sound familiar?? at the same time he began to question why monies were being taken from his PSST fund for purposes he did not approve.

-from 2023 through 2025 the MCSO consistently noted it's inability to attract and retain qualified deputies. Surprisingly, during those three years research into MCSO financials showed that during that period the MCSO failed to utilize over \$3 million of its allocated budget. Those funds could clearly have helped the MCSO in attracting and retaining qualified deputies.. what happened??? an inside source in county administration informed me that the MCSO was encouraged to under-spend, but sadly, the sheriff did not push back against the pressure from unelected staff.

-during their tenure, Hansen, Caddy and Rash had multiple opportunities to alleviate the problems in the MCSO, but they failed to do so, seemingly content with continuing to misuse PSST funds. In 2025, utilizing recommendations from the MCSO citizens committee., Pond developed Resolution 36 which clearly delineated PSST accounting procedures that would preserve the PSST as intended.

That resolution was passed with Pond and Mijares voted in the affirmative and Han-

sen voting against the resolution, content to continue using the PSST for unintended uses. Disgracefully, Pond fumbled the ball on the 1 yard line by not getting the issue on the 2025 ballot. Apparently he was more concerned with his US Senate campaign than accomplishing his main job here in Montrose.

-after the Mijares Recall, Hanson, Copeland and Pond develop Resolution 54, obviously drafted by the finance department, which assured continued misuse of PSST funds at the expense of the MCSO, continuing to put public safety in Montrose County at risk. Ponds flip-flop from Resolution 36 to Resolution 54 clearly indicated his lack of understanding or concern for Montrose taxpayers, much less the MCSO. If he cares so little about Montrose's taxpayers, will he be any better in a higher office??

-finally, the real indicator of misuse of the PSST lies in the 18 year history of the General Fund. Over those years the MCSO General Fund has increased by just under 40%, while the General Fund increases for other departments have exceeded 100%, clearly, indicating that the finance department has been using PSST funds to offset the MCSO General Fund.

Unlike the PSST in the City Of Montrose, the county PSST has no sunset date, denying taxpayers their right to continue or discontinue the PSST that amounts to just under 10% of the sales tax paid for all goods. This is a taxpayer issue that aspiring BOCC candidates must publicly address. Those candidates would be wise to state their position on allowing Montrose taxpayers to have a voice on the PSST question. You can bet this issue will not go away until the voters have a chance voice their opinion.

Dee Laird, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHO SHOULD PAY FOR THE MISTAKES OF THE DEVELOPER?

Editor:

On February the second, I attended the [Montrose City Council work session](#). I would encourage all citizens to view this session for yourself. Scott Murphy (city engineer) stated that there were problems with all the ponds in that stage of Bear Creek's Development. The ponds were supposed to be infiltration ponds (water was supposed to filter through the soil as well as evaporate). The plan failed miserably. There was too much clay in the soil. The solution to the problem was a drain pipe. The pipe was installed, problem solved, or so they thought. 20 years later water was seeping into people's yards and over curbs. The ponds were full all the time.

The HOA spent \$15,000 trying to find the problem. They appealed to the city to help and they located what they thought was a blockage. Upon excavating the site, they found out the crew had left out a 4 ft section of pipe.

That's right THEY LEFT OUT A 4 FT SECTION OF PIPE!!! (repair cost \$100,000 plus \$15,000 HOA) Please go to the city council portal and view this for yourself.

Here's where things get really interesting. They began discussing who should pay for this work. Scott Murphy had already stated that the designer was retired and living in Florida. I have since discovered that the excavating company (who was a subcontractor of the Developer) is now out of business.

There was some discussion of having the legal department look into forcing the HOA to pay or have the City (citizens) foot the bill.

It is my opinion that neither the city nor the HOA are responsible for this boondoggle. The one person left out of this discussion is the Developer. What a coincidence, it's none other than Matt Miles. Even though Scott Murphy states that every pond in that phase of the development has problems, somehow it's not the designer's fault. All these problems are a result of sub-standard work performed by sub-contractors hired by the Developer. The City proudly boasts "We don't do any inspections"!

Perhaps now is the time to start. I could do a lot of inspections for \$115,000. Mr. Miles has proven that he, or at least his subcontractors, need accountability.

John Connell, Montrose



Picture of the gap in the drain pipeline at Bear creek. Courtesy image.

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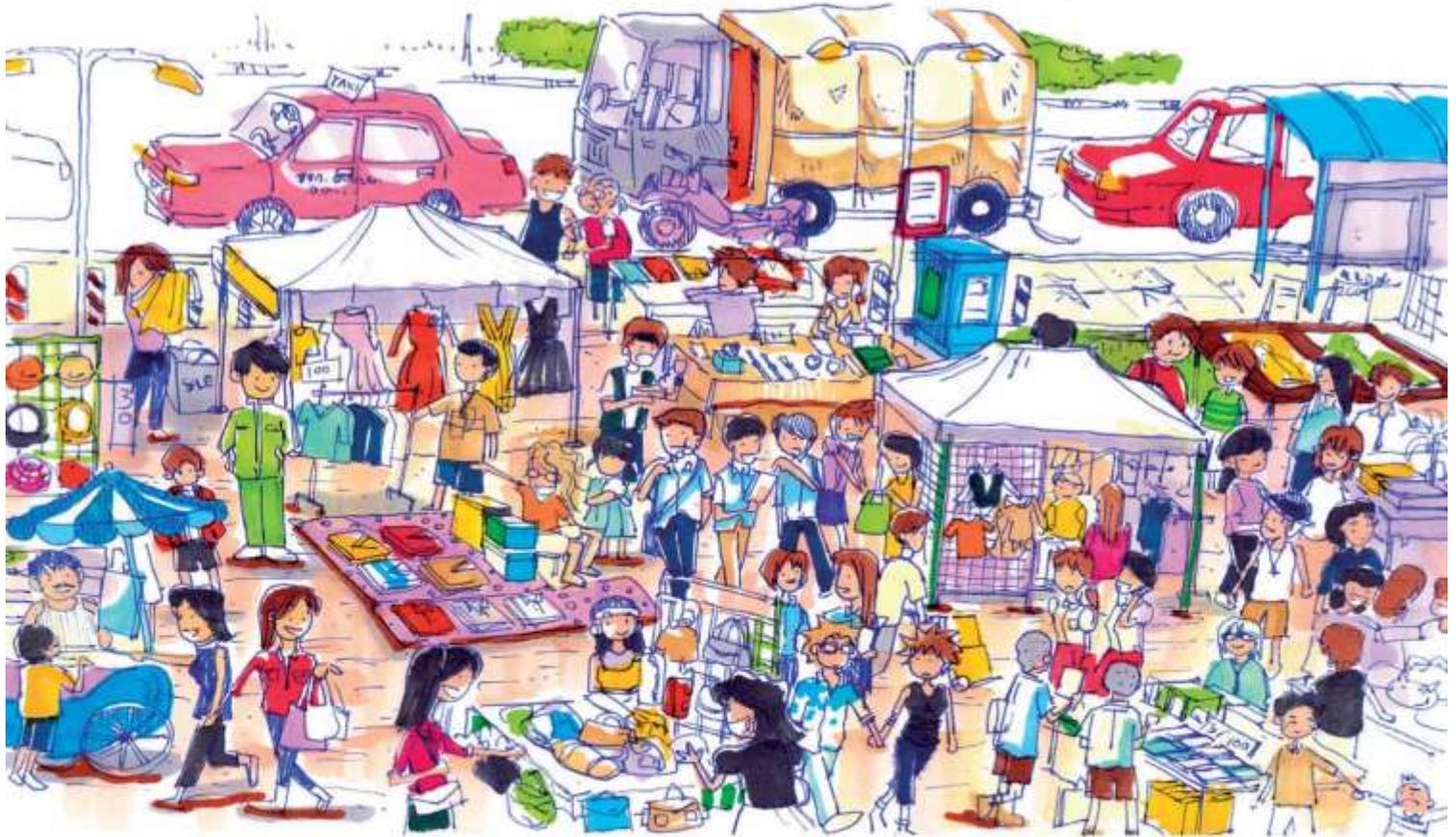
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ASSISTS LA JUNTA POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

CBI News Release

CBI – LA JUNTA – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) provided assistance to the La Junta Police Department (LJPD), the lead agency, in a homicide investigation that resulted in the arrest of an 18-year old suspect on February 14, 2026.

Anthony Barron Sandoval Jr. (DOB: 03/08/2007) has been arrested for the charge of Murder in the 2nd Degree (F2) in violation of 18-3-103(1)(a) C.R.S. He's currently being held on a \$500,000 bond.

The incident occurred on February 14, 2026, at approximately 1:51 a.m., when LJPD officers responded to a report of a male who had been fatally shot at a home in the 1400 block of Belleview Ave in La Junta, Colorado. The victim is a 17-year old male whose identity will be released by the Otero County Coroner's Office.

The La Junta Police Department, with assistance from CBI agents, conducted interviews with witnesses at the residence before arresting the suspect.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact the La Junta Police Department. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation will provide updates as they become available. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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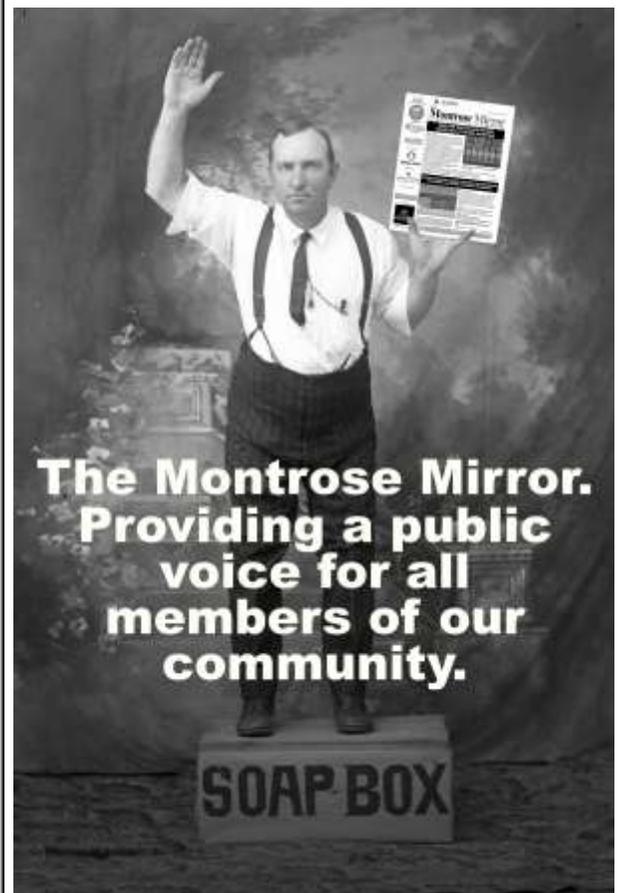


Victoria Oliva, DNP, APRN, FNP-C



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MY COMMENTS TO THE MCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Editor:

At the last meeting of the Montrose County School Board, with 26 people signing up to speak, understandably, our time was cut from three minutes to one. I didn't really get to say what I needed to say to MCSD Board. Since I started publicly, I will continue publicly through the papers that will publish my letters.

"2/10/26 Hi, I'm Zoe Werden and I had the pleasure of working with kids who had special needs for over 40 years. Both, in the Public Schools and supporting homeschool families. I truly want you as a School board, ALL students, families and staff of our public schools to succeed. I fear hiring Mr. Miller's law firm as our ONLY legal counsel will hinder that success.

I want to thank you for sacrificing your time, your family's time, energy, hours of reading, and seeking to build the best public schools for ALL kids and families in Montrose and Olathe. I hope you have had the opportunity to get into some of the many great schools, early childhood, elementary through middle and high school, alternative programs PEAK, Vista, Special education services, athletic teams and clubs, career-based and advanced placement classes, music concerts, FFA, marching band competitions. All of these showcase the vast range of opportunities and avenues to learn in RE-1J. In the past 20 years, we've learned so much about the brain and we know "one size does NOT FIT ALL" and in Public School, we teach ALL.

A wonderful feature of RE-1J is that no matter your learning style, interests or abilities, you can find an avenue for educational and life success. Also did you know that any school-aged child, whether enrolled as an RE-1J student, homeschooled, private and/or Christian school educated, can access all that RE-1J has to offer? Homeschooling and need some help with ideas for your special needs child? You can get testing and services at the public school of your choice where the services are offered. Private school student? Want to be a part of the award-winning Montrose marching band, ROTC, an AP class or Mountain bike team? It's open to you.

Finally, I'm sure YOUR brains are all overwhelmed as you are just getting your feet wet. Becoming a school board member has to be a HUGE LEARNING CURVE; so much to read and absorb and understand before every meeting, especially if you don't have any education, background or experience in Public Education. So, please, please, give yourselves some time and space by choosing ANY of the other law firms except Millers to be our (do I understand this correctly?) SOLE LEGAL COUNSEL. You do not need controversy. Your first move as a new board should not be to alienate half of Montrose. Your first big decision does not need to be divisive because of such a perceived extreme choice. Please, the PUBLIC that you ran to "listen to and serve" is here tonight, begging you not to throw our school district into total turmoil. You ran for the good of our kids.....unless of course you ran for school board because you have a different agenda.... I hope not. Time will tell. Thank you for listening."

Zoe Werden, Montrose

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
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see something, say something

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CBI CLARIFIES STATUS OF MAGGIE LONG INVESTIGATION

CBI News Release

CBI – BAILEY, CO – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is aware of unauthorized flyers being circulated in the Bailey community containing false information regarding the investigation into the 2017 murder of 17-year-old Maggie Long. The CBI wishes to state unequivocally that the Maggie Long Task Force remains active and is aggressively pursuing justice. Contrary to the claims made by an unaffiliated group, investigators from the CBI, the Park County Sheriff’s Office, the FBI, and the ATF continue to work this case as a top priority.

Setting the Record Straight

While the original task force website mentioned in these flyers was deactivated in 2021, this was an administrative change and not an indication that the case has gone cold or that work has ceased. The investigation transitioned to a dedicated state-led task force to streamline resources and digital security.

Authorized Channels Only

The public is urged to exercise caution regarding social media groups and unauthorized "task forces." The official Maggie Long Task Force has never operated a Facebook page. * We strongly discourage the public from reporting information to any social media-based groups or non-associated individuals. Providing information to unauthorized parties can compromise the integrity of the legal process and delay justice for Maggie.

\$75,000 Reward Offered

A \$75,000 reward remains available for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Maggie Long's death. This reward is offered through the combined efforts of:

- The Maggie Long Family
- Park County Sheriff’s Office
- Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)

-How to Provide a Tip

Investigators believe someone in the community holds the key to solving this case. If you have any information—no matter how small it may seem—please contact the official authorities directly. Tips can be submitted anonymously.

Official Tip Line: (303) 239-4243

Official Email: maggie.long.tips@state.co.us *(opens in new window)*

The CBI remains committed to Maggie’s family and the Bailey community. We will not rest until those responsible for this horrific crime are held accountable.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMUNITY OPTIONS INC. AWARDED \$1.25 MILLION TO CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MONTROSE'S HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Community Options Inc. (COI), has been awarded \$1.25 million through the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority's (CHFA) Proposition 123 Land Banking program to develop affordable rental housing in Montrose.

The competitive statewide award, announced in May 2025, allowed COI to purchase an over four-acre site at 366 6600 Road in December 2025. As part of the purchase, COI received a

\$270,000 donation from Housing Partners of Montrose, LLC. The project is planned to deliver at least 50 affordable apartments, in

an effort to help close the 3,900-unit housing gap identified in the City of Montrose's 2023 Housing Needs Assessment.

"This project represents a significant step forward in addressing Montrose's affordable housing need," said Jennifer Pelligra, Executive Director of Community Options Inc. "Rent for an average 2-bedroom unit increased by 27% from 2020 to 2022, pricing many working families and individuals out of the market."

Hilltop Neighborhood: A New Hub for Workforce Housing

COI's affordable housing project is a part of the larger 25-acre Hilltop Neighborhood, a new mixed-income workforce housing neighborhood along the 6600 Road corridor. The new neighborhood, being developed in partnership with the City of Montrose and state housing agencies, will feature abundant open space, apartments, and for-sale townhomes, with the majority of homes priced below market rate. At full buildout, Hilltop is anticipated to include more than 250 homes with transit access, open space, and walking trails, creating a connected neighborhood where residents can grow, work, and put down roots in Montrose.

About Community Options Inc.

Community Options Inc. has served people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across western Colorado for over 50 years. COI currently owns and operates eight residential group homes housing 50 residents across Montrose and Delta counties. For more information about Community Options, visit www.CommunityOptionsInc.org or contact Jennifer Pelligra at 970-249-1412.



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9 from Arizona

8 from Texas

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5 from California & 5 from New York

4 each from Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio

3 each from Idaho, Oregon & Wisconsin

2 each from Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah

1 each from Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Virginia

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61 were new movers from the area



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CITY RATIFIES BEAR CREEK EMERGENCY DRAINAGE EXPENDITURES From pg 1

Daily Press and the Montrose Mirror stating that Montrose was not a sanctuary city, but did not include any signatory names, Brown said.

Brown questioned the validity of the unsigned statement.

He expressed anger at Attorney Chris Dowsey for Dowsey's claim that council had met with Brown multiple times, which Brown said was not true.

He asked that Council make a declaration at a regular city council meeting, showing all who had voted to approve the statement.

As Brown reached the end of his three minutes, Mayor Frank interrupted him loudly, "...Mr. Brown, your time is up!"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the Feb. 3, 2026, City Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2703 - FIRST READING

Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro gave a detailed presentation on proposed Ordinance 2703, amending Title 1 Chapter 14 Section 2 (1-14-2), regarding rules of procedure to have the Montrose Municipal Court become a court of record. Cases that have been appealed after being tried in Municipal Court would no longer have to be re-tried at the District Court level if approved; Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2703.

ORDINANCE 2704-FIRST READING

Councilor Ed Ulibarri recused himself from the discussion of Ordinance 2704 on First Reading, which designates the earliest Montrose Post Office, with the historic address of 25-27 North Cascade Avenue, as a City of Montrose Historic Property pursuant to § 11-3 of the City Code. Ulibarri serves on the MADA Board of Directors; MADA presently owns the structure.

Senior Planner William Reis presented

information on the designation, which would enable the owners to pursue grants and opportunities through the State of Colorado.

The City's Historic Preservation Commission recommended approval. Youth Councilor Reign Icasiano asked about impacts to the building; Reis said that the owners could receive tax credits, pro bono services through the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), as well as opportunities for state, federal, and local grants.

Aaron Ranstrom asked whether the designation is directed toward the original or remodeled structure.

Reis answered the question, noting that the period of significance being identified is that of post-World War II architecture, although the building does date to the early days of Montrose.

Council voted with four votes and one abstention to approve Ordinance 2704 on First Reading.

Ulibarri returned to Council Chambers.

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on the next two items.

BLACK CANYON FLATS OGDEN SIDEWALK EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION

Council voted unanimously to approve Black Canyon Flats Ogden Sidewalk Expense Authorization, approving 48,335 in expenditures payable to Ridgway Valley Enterprises for the construction of sidewalk along the Black Canyon Flats Affordable Housing Project's Ogden Road frontage.

RATIFICATION OF BEAR CREEK EMERGENCY DRAINAGE EXPENDITURES

Also approved unanimously was the ratification of \$99,950 in expenditures associated with emergency drainage maintenance performed within the Bear Creek Subdivision.

CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR FIRE HY-

DRANT PAINTING

Council considered an extension of a contract with WBS Coatings, Inc. for the painting of up to 180 fire hydrants at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.

Utilities Director David Bries discussed the reasons for the fire hydrant coatings, which provide longer lasting coverage and the bright color that enables firefighters to quickly locate the hydrants.

In response to a question from Constituent Kendall Cramer, Bries said that communication with the Fire Department had identified the need for the coatings, as well as the choice of color--bright red.

The city maintains 1,245 fire hydrants throughout its water service area.

The contract extension with WBS Coatings was unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report by collections and by area, as well as the Fourth Quarter Budget Review.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Council Representative Reign Icasiano said that Youth Council is making plans for its booth at the State of the City event on Feb. 23, as well as for their second annual Non-Profit Expo.

"I am excited to see how this Non-Profit Expo turns out," Icasiano said.

Following the Youth Council Report, Police Chief Blaine Hall said that the Police Department would be hosting a Domestic Violence Awareness Training at the Montrose Pavilion on Feb. 20, free to the public. Councilor Judy Ann Files said that Engineer Scott Murphy and Public Works Director Jim Scheid would present on 2026 Capital Projects at the CMU Forum on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MARXIST DEMOCRATS IN CONTROL, REVEAL IGNORANCE ON WORLD STAGE

Editor:

Last year VP Vance addressed the Munich Security Conference, calling Europe to task for its internal neglect of democratic values and the needs of its people. Vance rebuked Western leaders for neglecting ordinary citizens whose concerns about mass migration and economic insecurity were being dismissed and even criminalized. In the last year, President Trump has reset this country's relationship with Europe from one of total dependence to one of reciprocity. He demanded NATO live up to their defense spending commitments, and placed tariffs on European goods to counter unfair trade practices. He leveraged this country's influence to pressure Europe into implementing reforms. Secretary of State Rubio just addressed this year's MSC and lined out a clear foreign policy vision focused on defending Western civilization and values. Rubio didn't hold back in acknowledging both the US and Europe's mutual mistakes in compromising our sovereignty, appeasing the climate change cult, and allowing unchecked mass migration. He expanded on Vance's foundation and pivoted toward unity and renewal. It is no surprise that Rubio's address was received with a rare standing ovation from the Munich attendees. Both Vance and Rubio exhibited their complete mastery of issues both in their presentations and their ability and willingness to answer unscripted follow-up questions. Likewise, Trump has no hesitation or difficulty in discussing any and all subjects and continually does so in his contacts with the press. It's no secret that Biden's handlers had good reason to hide him from the public, going back to his 2020 presidential campaign and continuing through the four years of his presidency. Kamala Harris tried hard to avoid unscripted interviews, also for good reason. On the rare occasions when she was forced to expound on any subject of importance, her total lack of depth and ability became all too obvious. An unintelligible word salad is all she is capable of whenever she is in any unscripted conversation. Why do Democrats, and Kamala in particular, come across as incoherent when they attempt to defend their views against even mild scrutiny? Because the propaganda wing of the Democrat party (the media) rarely requires them to do so. In every meeting they've ever attended, their drivel is met with affirma-

tion and no expectation of hearing anything other than talking points.

Just like Democrats should have known they couldn't expose Biden to any kind of open debate, they should have known better than sending their current crop of rising "stars" to any kind of international conference where they embarrass themselves and expose to the world a massive competence gap between the two US political parties. California governor Newsome has repeatedly embarrassed himself every time he's gone to one of these international conferences, whether it was Davos a few weeks ago or Munich. Newsome flies 6,000 miles to try to lecture world leaders on cleaning up the environment, but he can't even clean up after the homeless in California. California is #1 in the nation in homelessness – as well as #1 in poverty, addiction, gas prices, income tax, budget deficits, citizen exodus, illegal immigration, illiteracy, wage stagnation, and anti-business regulations. After running oil producers out of the state, and as gas prices surge, oil-rich California is now having to import fuel via the Bahamas using ships powered by oil ... to save the environment. Democrats can't see the irony of Newsome being in Germany acting like his failed state is any kind of model to follow. This is the same governor who can't even rebuild a single house in the fire destroyed Palisades. After Munich, Ted Cruz accurately pointed out that Newsome is "historically illiterate." In a revealing show of his intellectual abilities, Newsome tried to play the victim when he accused Cruz of making fun of his dyslexia – somehow confusing knowledge of history with the ability to read. This is the same governor who has California taxpayers pay \$16,000 per month for a photographer to follow him around and take pictures of him doing inspirational things. In the Democrat playbook, that is a lot safer than having any substantive debate on relevant issues.

Representative Ocasio-Cortez provided confirmation that the Republican party is the only adult political party left in the US when she struggled to answer fundamental questions about Taiwan and global geography. I would challenge any Democrat to watch AOC's verbal mush, and tell me that was anything other than an embarrassing display of incompetence. Michigan governor Whitmer was also present at Munich. Hilariously, she admitted she knew nothing

about international affairs and referred questions to AOC as the expert in the field.

Democrats were also represented at Munich by Hillary Clinton, where she lied through her teeth about deportations under the presidencies of both her husband and Obama. She actually led a women's rights conference there, and this week will be forced to testify about her husband's abuse of young women on Epstein island. Incredibly, she stated that "We have no links" to Epstein and is pretending Bubba just visited Epstein's island and ranch dozens of times for "charity work." Meanwhile, back home the other Democrat superstar NYC mayor Mamdani, who ran his entire campaign on freezing rent and taxing billionaires, is immediately raising property taxes forcing landlords to raise rent. This is the same man who promised free bus rides and immediately raised bus fares. NYC's budget – an \$11 billion increase over last year's already inflated budget – is \$2.7 billion short. Rather than, heaven forbid, think about actually cutting a little spending, they are going to increase property taxes on city residents by 10% across the board and raid public employee pension funds. It's also worth mentioning that Mamdani's "warmth of collectivism" already resulted in 18 of NYC's homeless freezing to death.

Mark Twain: "It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt." The Democrats who followed Rubio to Munich this year demonstrated that Kamala, who made a fool of herself on the world stage when she told Europe's dignitaries that "Ukraine is a country in Europe," was no anomaly among Democrats. New polls show that Kamala, AOC, and Newsom, along with Buttigieg and Crockett, top the Democrats' list of potential presidential candidates. You can draw your own conclusions from that.

The many thousands of Democrats more intelligent and qualified than these supposed "stars" don't stand a chance in a party totally controlled by extreme leftist America haters. Those Democrats are just part of the unwashed masses that Marxist Democrats hold in total contempt. Those elites think the public is so stupid and ignorant that the extremists must therefore act on their behalf.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SELECT ONE OF THE OTHER LAW FIRMS

Editor:

I've been attending school board meetings to hear the new Board's plans for improving student learning, school safety, and parent rights — the priorities emphasized during the campaign.

I have heard none of that.

Instead, meetings have been so long that they required rescheduling to finish business.

The Community Input portion, historically near the beginning of meetings, has been moved late into the evening — limiting access for parents, staff, and community members who need to get home to their families.

During the President's Report, Mrs. Balleck informed board members and staff that they must address her as "Madam Chair," "President Balleck," or "Madam President," and she will then decide if they may speak. Yet she referred to fellow board members by first names or Mr./Mrs., rather than "Director." Demanding respect without extending it?

The most controversial agenda item was a rushed quasi-RFP to hire "effective immediately, the sole comprehensive legal counsel for the district." No explanation was given for the sudden action.

Five firms were invited to pitch why they should be selected, including Miller Farmer Carlson (MFC). Parents and educators familiar with Colorado public education issues immediately expressed concern.

Each firm was given three minutes to present and five minutes for questions. Following the legal presentations, 26 community members signed up to speak; twenty-three spoke strongly against selecting MFC, citing documented divisiveness in other communities, staff turnover, excessive legal fees, and concerns about a political/religious agenda.

In a failed attempt at transparency, when

the item came up on the agenda, it took FOUR SECONDS for Vice President Valerio to move to select 'Miller Farmer Carlson as sole comprehensive legal counsel, effective immediately.' The 200+ community members in attendance were aghast. The speed of the motion made the decision appear predetermined. Was there a violation of the Colorado Open Meetings Law?

Notably, Woodland Park School District — an MFC client represented by Bryce Carlson (who attended the 2/10/2026 meeting in person to pitch MFC) — was ordered just this last week to pay a parent \$148,822 for violating the Colorado Open Meetings Law. A judge found the board "prolonged the litigation by failing to recognize its responsibilities under the COML." Source: <https://coloradofoic.org/a-message-to-public-bodies-across-colorado-judge-awards-148822-to-parent-who-sued-woodland-park-school-board-over-vague-meeting-description/>

During the discussion, Director Scarborough referred to MFC's lead counsel as "Brad." Are they friends? Madam President Balleck stated she called MFC to ask how many superintendents had been fired while they served as counsel. Were similar inquiries made of the other firms for clarification on an item?

One firm stated it would not represent a charter applying to a district it already represents due to a conflict of interest. MFC represents Vista Charter and assisted in the Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) application.

Regarding MCA, both Madam President Balleck and Vice President Valerio claimed that prior legal costs stemmed, in part, from the previous board (which they served on) denying MCA and MCA's subsequent successful appeal to the State Board. That is not what happened. The State Board did not approve MCA's ap-

peal. The State Board realized that MCA had submitted a different application than the one denied by MCSD. They then voted 8-1 to send the application that MCSD had not even seen back to MCSD for review. The State Board did not approve MCA's appeal. Despite this, MCA's website states: "MCA WINS STATE BOARD APPEAL!" Who 'coached' MCA to publish such a falsehood?

The truth: It was the MCSD board (including Balleck and Valerio) on September 23, 2025, that approved the revised MCA application with conditions, including 200 expressions of interest, services for multilingual learners and students with special needs, and a signed facility lease by March 2026.

The pattern is concerning. Rather than focusing on raising achievement and unifying our district, this Board's early actions are deepening division. Miller Farmer Carlson have left other communities in turmoil and fostered divisiveness among parents and staff. Hiring MFC will not raise test scores. It is the board's role to set sound policy and the staff's role to implement it effectively. MFC will not improve academic outcomes. It will create chaos, distract from student learning, and further divide our community. Select one of the other law firms.

Miller Farmer Carlson lists only four attorneys on their website.

Their address is a residence. Montrose County School District needs comprehensive legal counsel, including a firm that can handle real estate transactions, construction contracts, SPED, HR and other issues. The Montrose County School Board must select one of the other law firms. We need comprehensive representation.

Our children deserve that.

*Linda Gann
Montrose, Colorado*

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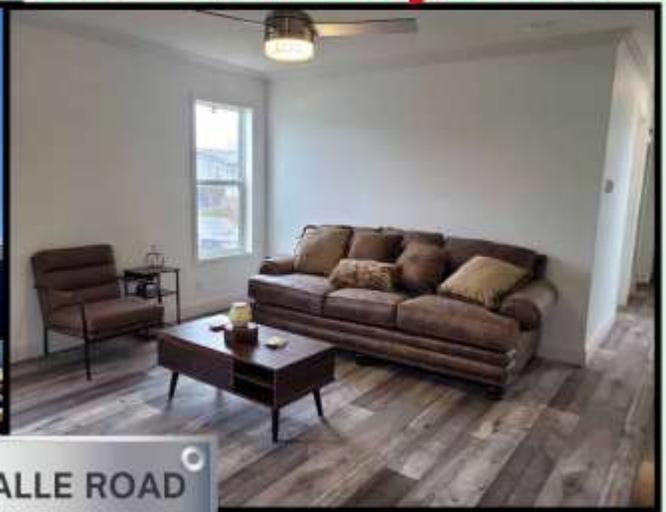
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Hidden Lake

COUNTY APPROVES AMENDMENT TO NORTH CAMPUS CONTRACT



Deputy City Clerk Briceida Ortega presented Liquor License Applications. Meeting Screen shot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-BOCC Chair Sue Hansen welcomed all to the Montrose County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting of Wednesday, Feb. 18. Hansen and BOCC Vice Chair Kirstin Copeland were present in person, Commissioner Sean Pond was present virtually.

All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delivering the Invocation was Pastor Preston Gordon of All Saints Anglican Church.

"Today is Ash Wednesday," Gordon said, "...a day we recognize, we're all dust, we all have one life, every breath we take in our life is a gift.

"Living God, we thank you for the breath you've given us in our lungs this day, every single one of us. We thank you for waking us up today, for telling the sun to rise again, and for dawning on us another beautiful day in Montrose, Colorado. We come to you with grateful hearts, and we ask for your presence and guidance on this meeting. We pray for our county commissioners today and all those leading our local government. In all areas we pray for your wisdom and your discernment, to be present and leading them in all their decisions. We pray that they will love justice and seek mercy, and act humbly, and make decisions for the good and welfare of our community that are in alignment with your heart and the good of all people who live here.

"We thank you for the chance to be here today and ask your blessings and your

care on each person here..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public.

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners Melissa Howie had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners unanimously approved Consent Agenda items, with Resolution No.'s 4-2026, 5-2026, and 6-2026 assigned to Consent agenda items 24, 25, and 26.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners voted to approve the Chair's signature on the First Amendment to contract #2024-193, North Campus Construction project, "to complete the County requested revised scope of work of constructing offices on the second and third floors in lieu of open cubicle spaces, in the amount of \$545,063.62 to Stryker & Company, Inc, as reviewed by Counsel. This amendment also includes a contract extension from August 31, 2026 to January 15, 2027 to complete the additional work. With approval of this contract amendment, the contract base price amount will be \$23,440,270.48 and the contract completion date will be January 15, 2027."

Facilities Director Jennifer Murray said that the project cost is still below the original bid price, which was more than \$25M. Murray noted that the cost change stems from the scope of work change.

"You learn as you go sometimes...we made the decision to go ahead and add those back in..." BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

The Board heard a brief overview by County Attorney Julie Andress, in preparation for entering Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and (4)(f)(I) for legal advice regarding West End water cases.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, approving two items: -Renewal of the Fermented Malt Beverage

and Wine license for James Newberry, doing business as Newberry's Store & Rock Shop, 82119 E 45 Highway 50, Cimarron, Colorado, license #04-01094. All appropriate documents, reviews, inspection, background check and fees have been submitted pursuant to CRS 44-3-302. No concerns were reported by the Sheriff's Office or the Planning Department; and

-A Special Events Permit for RedHawks Sports Inc., on March 21, 2026, at the Storm King Mountain Ranch, 70777 Buckhorn Road. All appropriate documents, reviews, and fees have been submitted pursuant to CRS 44-5-101. No concerns were reported by the Sheriff's Office or Planning and Development Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvening as the BOCC, the Board entered Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and (4)(f)(I) for legal advice regarding West End water cases, with County Attorney Julie Andress, Water Counsel Rob Pierce, and Water Engineer Brandon Eflin.

GENERAL BUSINESS POST EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon return from Executive Session, the BOCC voted to approve the following:

- Filing of application in case 10CW164 related to Montrose County's conditional water rights in the West End.

2026.02.05 Application (re 10CW164);

- Filing of application in case 10CW165 related to Montrose County's conditional water rights in the West End.

2026.02.05 Application (re 10CW165;

-Memorandum of Understanding with Pinion Ridge Resource Corporation.

MOU Montrose County and Pinon Ridge Resource Corp signed Glasier;

-Filing of application in case 10CW166 related to Montrose County's conditional water rights in the West End.

2026.02.05 Application 10CW166);

-Filing of application in case 10CW169 related to Montrose County's conditional water rights in the West End.

2026.02.09 Application, 10CW169).

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MEDICARE DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM HELPS RESIDENTS REDUCE RISK OF TYPE 2 DIABETES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- – Nearly half of U.S. adults ages 65 and older have prediabetes, a condition that often leads to type 2 diabetes without lifestyle changes such as weight loss and regular physical activity. Prediabetes also increases the risk of heart attack and stroke.

For Montrose residents ages 65 and older who have been diagnosed with prediabetes, the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program offered by Montrose Regional Health (MRH) provides a proven, no-cost way to lower that risk. The program is free for individuals enrolled in Medicare Part B. Patients who wish to enroll will need a referral form from their primary care provider. Individuals not enrolled in Medicare Part B may also enroll, with a self-pay option available.

Participants receive a full year of support through group-based classes led by a trained lifestyle coach, along with encouragement from peers working toward similar health goals. The first class begins March 26, 2026. Sessions meet weekly for the first six months, followed by monthly meetings during the final six months.

The Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program is part of the CDC-led National Diabetes Prevention Program and has been shown to help prevent or delay type 2 diabetes in people with prediabetes.

“This program gives Montrose residents access to an evidence-based approach that truly works,” said Stephanie Sheley, course instructor and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation supervisor at MRH. “Through education, lifestyle coaching and ongoing support, we help people make small, sustainable changes that can significantly lower their risk of developing type 2 diabetes.”

No formal class registration is necessary, but the provider referral form is required. During the first six months, classes will meet Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. at the Center for Wellness, 820 S. Fourth St. in Montrose.

MRH will also host two informational sessions for those interested in learning more about the program at 5:30 p.m. on March 9 and March 19 at the Center for Wellness.

Classes during the second half of the program will be held from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. on the following dates:

- Oct. 8, 2026
- Oct. 22, 2026
- Nov. 5, 2026
- Nov. 19, 2026
- Dec. 10, 2026
- Jan. 7, 2027
- Feb. 11, 2027
- March 4, 2027
- March 18, 2027

Individuals enrolled in Medicare Part B who believe they may be eligible are encouraged to speak with their health care provider about being tested for prediabetes. If you are unsure of your enrollment status, check your Medicare card or log into your Medicare account to confirm. For more information, visit cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention.

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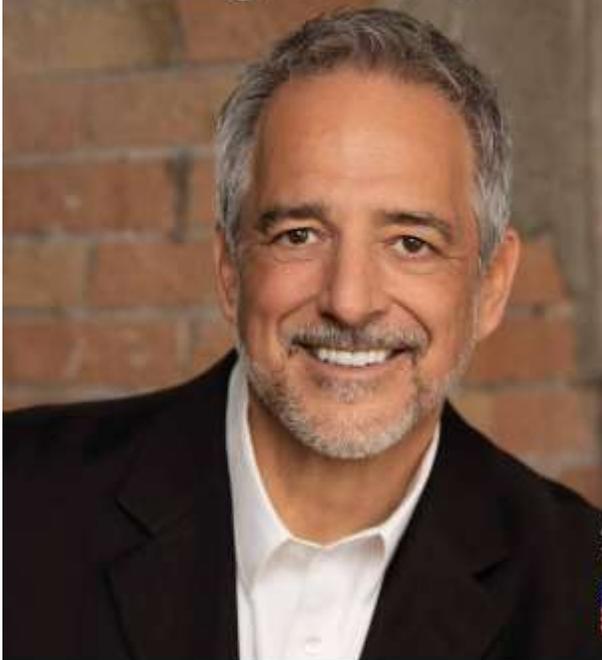
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Montrose City Council

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

•ELECTIONS •TERM LIMITS •ACCOUNTABILITY

Editor:

As a candidate for Montrose City Council, I propose three critical reforms to restore trust, increase participation, and ensure fiscal responsibility in our local government.

Aligning Elections to Boost Voter Participation

Voter fatigue affects many in Montrose. Separate April municipal elections produce low turnout.

In April 2024, only about 3,500 of 17,000 registered voters cast ballots, roughly 20 percent. Aligning municipal elections with the November congressional schedule would tap into much higher national turnout rates that often exceed 50 percent. This consolidation would save taxpayer money on staffing, printing, and administration while making it far easier for residents to engage and shape our city's future.

True Term Limits for Fresh Leadership

Montrose needs true term limits. Council members can currently serve two consecutive four-year terms before a four-year break. This allows the same faces to dominate city government for decades and fosters entrenched attitudes. In 2024, over 300 residents urged the council to declare Montrose a non-sanctuary city, yet the issue was tabled. Lifetime term limits will inject fresh ideas and ensure officials remain truly accountable to the people they serve.

Demanding Financial Transparency

The proposed 2026 city budget reaches \$168 million, more than tripling from \$49.7 million in 2017. This growth demands scrutiny. Questionable expenditures include alleyway murals costing \$25,000 to \$50,000 each and a new city hall over \$6 million, when renovating the historic building could have cost half as

much. An independent forensic audit will uncover waste and redirect funds to priorities like infrastructure, public safety, and essential community services.

These common-sense reforms, align elections, enact true term limits, and demand transparency, will strengthen our Constitutional Republic at the local level and build a stronger Montrose. Watch your mailbox for your City Council the week of March 16 and **VOTE Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"**.

Just one man's humble opinion.
Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a father of 5, grandfather of 3, USAF Veteran, recording artist, entrepreneur, Editor of USA Liberty Report, passionate about Freedom, Liberty, the founders' genius of the Constitution and current Candidate for Montrose City Council.

CORRECTION

Editor:

In the February 16 issue of the Montrose Mirror, an individual questioned statements I made concerning the Montezuma-Cortez School District's rise in the overall rankings at the RE-1J School Board meeting on February 12. He provided links to the Montezuma-Cortez School District's performance data. There was only one problem: he assumed the improvement referred to the 2024-2025 results. The scores and the additional link he provided did not coincide with the timeframe in question.

I did, however, misquote the ranking change. I quoted a 30-position move. The move was actually from a ranking of 176 (out of 178) to 133, a 43-position jump. My source is listed [here](#).

I appreciate the opportunity to correct my error.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

3RD ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY EVENT FEB. 23

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose is hosting its third annual State of the City presentation, including an open house, on Monday, Feb. 23, at the Montrose Pavilion. The State of the City will be open to the public as an opportunity for Montrose residents to gain a current assessment of city operations and engage with representatives from every department within the City of Montrose.

The State of the City will be held from 5:30 to 7:30pm on Monday, Feb. 23, at the Montrose Pavilion, located at 1800 Pavilion Drive. City leadership will deliver a presentation from 5:30 to 6:30pm, covering some of the most important issues facing the Montrose community. An open house will immediately follow the presentation from 6:30 to 7:30pm. "We are very excited to host this third annual State of the City presentation for our community," said City Manager Bill Bell. "This event gives Montrose residents an opportunity to share in our accomplishments from the prior year and to learn about a few of our major projects for the upcoming year."

Following the presentation, each department will host tables where residents are encouraged to ask questions and receive informative materials about how each department is operated and staffed.

City staff representing the city's core public services and departments will be on hand and available to speak with residents. Members of the Montrose City Council will also attend.

Anyone looking for a career with the City of Montrose is welcome to visit the Human Resources table to view current employment opportunities.

The State of the City was created as a way to give local residents more opportunities to learn about the city's operations and engage with city staff who serve the Montrose community each and every day.

For more information about the City of Montrose, visit CityOfMontrose.org.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SINGLE-ISSUE VOTER?

Editor:

Over the course of my campaign for Montrose City Council and in many conversations before that, I have spoken with numerous residents. It stands out how many describe themselves, some even unwhittingly, as **single-issue voters**. They confessed that if their top concern does not dominate the race, they choose not to vote at all.

In a Constitutional Republic, this limits our strength and dilutes our ability to create real change. A Constitutional Republic's viability depends on electing leaders and other representatives who reflect our core values. Focusing on only one issue weakens our voice and our ability to defend those values. Allowing one issue to limit your support does the same.

This has never mattered more than right now in Montrose, across Colorado, and our country. The values many of us grew up with face real pressure. Actions from Denver often override Constitutional rights, and we see the same pattern at the county level and right here in our city.

If we skip elections, we surrender our voice. Active civic participation keeps our Republic strong. It lets everyday concerns shape decisions. Participating in your Party's Caucus is also incredibly important as it determines who will be on the Party Primary Ballot for County and State races.

Look at freedoms we once took for granted. Growing up in Montrose, I never expected constant vehicle surveillance here. Yet the Flock Safety system runs through the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, with our Montrose Police Department granted full access. These cameras read license plates and record vehicle details to aid investigations. ***While useful for solving crimes, the cost to privacy and personal autonomy is high.*** Data stays for 30 days, but the tracking of public movements raises serious questions. See the official details at the [Mesa County Flock Transparency Portal](#). Recent local news highlights growing privacy concerns.

Last year, the Colorado legislature's SB25-003 completely gutted the Second Amendment rights of Coloradans to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Those whom we elect, not just the issues we vote on, determine the direction our local communities, state, and nation take. We cannot simply leave it to everyone else; our form of government requires participation and, more importantly, knowledge of both the candidates and the issues alike.

Taxes hit hard too. ***The City of Montrose carries one of the higher combined sales tax rates in rural Colorado at 8.53%*** and higher if you go out to eat (9.33%) or want to stay in a hotel (14.53%). Officials approved spending for years on projects while our aging infrastructure went unaddressed, including the wastewater treatment plant built in 1984. Only now are they addressing the need. They chose to fund it through rate increases and Certificates of Participation rather than thoughtful planning years in advance and setting aside capital.

This leads to more unnecessary debt and fee increases rather than straight pay-as-you-go solutions. Recent lodging tax hikes aim to cover tourism impacts on streets and housing, yet they still pull more from your pocket. Check [city tax info here](#).

Every government expense comes from taxpayer dollars, your pocket. Unnecessary vanity, pet, and liberty-stealing projects like alleyway murals and fish statues at tens of thousands of your dollars add to what we pay and reduce what our families keep for groceries, activities, and a better future.

Do not limit your vote to one issue. Participate fully to protect our freedoms, control our spending, and preserve the Montrose way of life we cherish. Your complete engagement strengthens the Republic as a whole and, most importantly, right here in Montrose.

Join me at [MJB4Montrose.com](#) to understand where I stand on the issues. **Vote on April 7 for Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"**, and let's ensure that Montrose values are preserved while as much money as possible stays in your pocket rather than going to City Hall.

Just one man's humble opinion.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a father of 5, grandfather of 3, USAF Veteran, recording artist, entrepreneur, Editor of USA Liberty Report, passionate about Freedom, Liberty, the founders' genius of the Constitution and current Candidate for Montrose City Council.

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UNDEFEATED!

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-Perfection is a most difficult thing to achieve. Many attempt to wear the crown of perfection but few achieve it. Perfection for an individual is a worthy goal but virtually impossible to achieve. Think for a moment just how difficult achieving perfection is in a team sport where every teammate must lay it on the line for the ultimate success of a team with 10, 20, or 50 teammates. This task is unimaginable, but it has happened right here in Montrose, Colorado.

The Montrose Red Hawks Girls' Basketball Team began practice in late November and played their first game on Dec. 4, defeating Weld Central High School by a dozen points. Three tournaments saw the Red Hawks post a 9-win, 0 loss performance heading into the holiday break.

Things really revved up as the new year flipped the calendar. Here we are a couple of months down the road and the Red Hawks are still undefeated and sporting a 23-0 record. This is one of the finest displays of teamwork and a selfless work effort ever seen in these parts. Today, Maggie Legg scores in double figures. Next Friday, Mayce Oberg gets loose for 21, and then Freshman Landree Johnson puts the team on her back and leads the Red Hawks to victory. There is no "I" in team but there is a commitment from every player not to break the chain. The chain is still intact as the Red Hawks, under the leadership of Head Coach Steve Skiff --who has the skill of a chess master--manipulated the moving parts into an undefeated season.

The CHSAA State Tournament lies ahead and the Montrose Red Hawks are ready for the challenge. We shall know the future very soon. Go Red Hawks!

RED HAWKS 58, FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 44

The next to last regular season game was a road trip to Fruita-Monument to take on the Wildcats. The Red Hawks defeated the Wildcats earlier in the season, Jan. 16, by the score of 47 to 39 to keep their undefeated streak intact.

There were some anxious moments in the first half of the game up at Fruita. The Home team led at the end of the First and Second periods. The Wildcats led 24 to 19 heading into the Third period. The Red Hawks came out smoking in third frame as they outscored the Wildcats 20 to 7 to take full control of this game. The Red Hawks then settled down and outscored the Wildcats 14-13 to close out the win 58 to 44.

The Red Hawks had four scorers in double figures and a 5th player who scored 9. Senior Mayce Oberg led the scoring parade with 14 points while Senior Maggie Legg tossed in 13. Other double scorers included Lilly Nelson with 12 points and Landree Johnson with 10. London Schafer almost made double figures, scoring 9 points.

Senior Lilly Nelson owned the backboards, knocking down a dozen rebounds while Mayce Oberg and Landree Johnson each contributed 5 caroms to the Red Hawks total. The Red Hawks passed out 14 assists and made 4 steals.

RED HAWKS 47, DURANGO DEMONS 26

The home standing Montrose Red Hawks demolished the final obstacle standing in the way of an undefeated season as the ladies took apart the Durango Demons by the score of 47 to 26. This was the second game in a row that gave a bit of heartburn in the first half of play. The Demons led 28 to 23 at half time. The Red Hawks' offense really got rolling in the third period, as they outscored the Demons 15 to 2 to take the lead and a 47 to 39 victory.

The Red Hawks Offense was led by Freshman Landree Johnson as she rattled the rim for 14 points. Senior Mayce Oberg contributed 11 points to the win while Maggie Lamm scored 8 points and Lilly Nelson had 5. Nelson did the heavy lifting on the defensive board as she snapped up 9 rebounds and Teammate Mayce Oberg also added 5 points to the Red Hawk total. The Red Hawks handed out a dozen assists, and had 89 steals.

The Red Hawk shooters dropped 4 long range shots, one in each quarter of the contest. The free throws were troublesome as the Red Hawks connected on only 5 of the 13 attempts from the charity stripe.

The future lies ahead for the Red Hawks. CHSAA will determine who comes to Montrose to take on the Red Hawks. All will be determined some time on Tuesday. Go Red Hawks!



*The Red Hawks and the Demons battle for possession of a loose ball.
Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

RED HAWKS SPLIT FINAL REGULAR SEASON GAMES – FINISH 13-10

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks Basketball regular season has come to a conclusion with a road game at Fruita and a home contest with the Durango Demons.

FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 46, RED HAWKS 36

With visions of a stinging 24-point defeat at the hands of the Fruita-Monument Wildcats at the Red Hawks home court on January 16, the Red Hawks vowed to take the fight to the Wildcats despite being on the road.

The Red Hawks kept the Wildcats within their sights from the opening tip off to the final buzzer, and finally fell to the Wildcats by 10 points, 46 to 36, a far better outcome than a 59 to 35 defeat. The Red Hawks kept things close and interesting throughout the contest and now await their fate as the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) puts together the state tournament for all of the various classes.

Two seniors, C. J. Rocco and Lane Pressler, led the Red Hawks in scoring with 12 and 13 points respectively. Sophomore Bodhi Schafer added 9 points to the score book. Freshmen Cache Oberg and Lane Pressler each collected 6 rebounds while C. J. Rocco added 4 caroms to the Red Hawks' total. The Red Hawks passed out 13 assists, had 4 steals and turned the basketball over a dozen times.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 46, DURANGO DEMONS 33

The final regular season game of the basketball season saw the Red Hawks host the Durango Demons last Friday evening. The Demons saw their overall season record fall to 4 wins and 17 losses, and no wins and 10 losses at league action. The Red Hawks finished their season with 13 wins and 10 losses overall and 4-6 in league play.

The Red Hawks moved smartly out to a 10-point lead, 16 to 6 after one quarter of action. The rest of the game was a very close-knit affair with the Red Hawks holding off the offensive efforts of the Demons with stellar defense and powerful rebounding. The Red Hawks pulled away as time ran out and the Red Hawks cemented a 46 to 33 victory.

Freshman Cache Oberg led all scorers with 18 points including several clutch baskets at crucial times in the contest. Also in double figures was Sophomore Bodhi Schafer with 13 points. The two seniors, C. J/ Rocco and Lane Pressler, each contributed 6 points to the scoring parade.

The Red Hawks showed off their defense in the second half of the contest as Lane Pressler and Cache Oberg captured 20 of the 30 rebounds claimed by the Red Hawks. Pressler was especially effective on the offensive glass as he snared 5 offensive rebounds to stoke the Red Hawks offense.

The Red Hawks saw their long range shooting come to life as they canned 6 of the 13 long range attempts. The Red Hawks managed to hit only 4 of 10 shots from the free throw stripe, while managing only 20 percent of their shots from the 2-point area. The Red Hawks can now only sit and wait as their fate will be decided by the CHSAA.



Freshman Cache Oberg soars high to tip in a rebound basket vs the Durango Demons. Photo by Cliff Dodge.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BALANCE INTEGRATED HEALTH LAUNCHES SPRING 2026 HEALTH COACHING WORKSHOP SERIES IN MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Balance Integrated Health, Montrose’s premier direct primary care practice, is excited to announce the launch of its new health coaching workshop series. Designed for busy locals seeking realistic, lasting improvements in their health, these interactive group sessions move beyond fad diets and quick fixes to deliver practical tools rooted in functional medicine and guided behavior change.

Led by experienced health coaches, the workshops empower participants to take ownership of their well-being. Each 60-minute session (held from 12pm–1pm) combines personal reflection, hands-on education, and group exercises, helping attendees explore habits, understand their bodies, and create personalized action plans they can implement right away.

“These workshops aren’t about perfection—they’re about progress,” said Dr. Melinda Marzolf, founder and physician at Balance Integrated Health. “We focus on small, repeatable steps that build real momentum, whether you’re tackling nutrition, stress, or sleep. It’s wellness that fits into real life.”

Upcoming Workshop Schedule (All sessions at The Grace Center, 11 S. Park Ave., Montrose, CO 81401, 12pm–1pm):

-February 25, 2026 — Exercise & Movement

-March 4, 2026 — Sleep Habits

-March 11, 2026 — Stress Management

-March 18, 2026 — Risky Substances

-April 1, 2026 — Mindset & Motivation

-April 8, 2026 — Relationships

-April 15, 2026 — Gut Health

-April 22, 2026 — Hormone Health

Pricing is accessible for the community:

-Individual Workshop: \$45 for Balance members; \$50 for non-members

-3-Workshop Bundle (Build Momentum): \$120 for members; \$135 for non-members

-9-Workshop Bundle (Reset & Rise): \$350 for members; \$405 for non-members

Open to everyone—members and non-members alike—these sessions are ideal for individuals ready to invest in their long-term health without overwhelm.

Balance Integrated Health is a membership-based direct primary care practice offering unlimited access to compassionate, holistic care. Led by board-certified family physician Dr. Melinda Marzolf, the practice integrates lifestyle and functional medicine with traditional primary care to support whole-person wellness for patients of all ages.

To register or learn more, visit balanceintegratedhealth.com/health-coaching or complete the pre-enrollment form at forms.gle/uGbt4cqozNsrfcna9. For questions, contact (970) 514-5463 or email membership@balanceintegratedhealth.com.

About Balance Integrated Health Located at 336 S. 10th St., Suite 107, Montrose, CO 81401, Balance Integrated Health redefines primary care with a patient-first approach: same-day appointments, direct physician access via text or email, and no copays or hidden fees. The practice prioritizes prevention, education, and personalized plans to help Montrose residents thrive in body, mind, and spirit. Learn more at balanceintegratedhealth.com.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL – CIRCA 2026-2028

Progressives and Friends of the City Manager Coming Your Way? An interesting assortment of candidates awaits your vote!

By David White

Compromised? On the payroll? Pay to play? Go along to get along? All of this and more appear to fit the City of Montrose playbook for its so-called leadership team, AKA, the City Council.

If you haven't heard, there are three (3) seats on the Montrose City Council that will be filled come April 7, 2026, when you'll get to VOTE to elect 3 out of 11 individuals currently running for seats representing Districts 1 and 2 (4-year terms each) and the At-Large seat (2-year term only).

District 1 candidates are Michael Badagliacco, Kevin Clay and April Heard.

District 2 candidates are Ed Ulibarri (incumbent), Rachel Bentancourt-Ege and Ryan Sedgeley.

At-Large candidates are Judy Ann Files (incumbent), Adam Wooden, Kendall Cramer, Greg Cairns and Sam Aster.

For purposes of this editorial/opinion piece, I'm going to focus on some of the newcomers (Montrose residents for 10 years or less) to the local political scene and their interesting connections to the City's current governing elite and organization as well as their "progressive" leanings. While I commend anyone wanting to step up and run for public office, it is wise to do so only if you're not potentially compromised in my opinion. Unfortunately, some of these candidates have ties that might bind making their respective candidacies questionable.

The group I'm referring to is comprised of candidates Kevin Clay, Rachel Bentancourt-Ege, Ryan Sedgeley, Kendall Cramer and Greg Cairns. Sam Aster will be discussed but for reasons other than a connection to the City.

For purposes of brevity (given the amount of information to be shared), I'm going to break this story into three parts with the rest to be discussed in future editions of The Mirror. So, let's start with Kevin Clay

(District 1), Rachel Bentancourt-Ege (District 2) and Sam Aster (At-Large): Kevin Clay – District 1:

Born in 1973, Mr. Clay and his wife (Gabrielle) are local business owners (Studio 14 by Gabrielle & Mela Environmental Services, LLC). Studio 14 is a photography studio located at 431 East Main Street. Mela Environmental Services is operated from the couple's home.

Both Clays are involved in the City's DART program (Development & Revitalization Team) as committee members with both having served on the "Economic Vitality" committee which focuses on capital, incentives and other economic and financial tools to "assist" businesses. Such assistance was given to them. According to City records, check No. 144028 for \$10,000 was written to artist Jesse Joseph Melanson on March 27, 2025 as a 50% payment toward painting a mural on the alley side of their building with a second check written on June 26, 2025 (No. 145252) for an additional \$10,000 for the balance due on the mural project (this 2nd check included the Clay's property and properties at 433 & 435 East Main Street). Payment was drawn from the City's DART operating account. While the program calls for businesses to participate financially in the mural program, there's no evidence that this was done by the Clays. (As a side note, these kinds of programs are more of City Manager Bell's "lipstick on a pig" solution to the underlying problems we face as a community.)

To top it all off, the City of Montrose popped for a "Mural Celebration" held on June 12, 2025, that even included \$227.70 in "custom cookies," all to commemorate painting an alley wall on Mr. Clay's building. As before, payment for this event came out of the DART operating account. During the course of 2025, a total of \$3,200 was paid to Gabrielle Clay for professional services (photographing of City

employees). This amount was paid in multiple check transactions drawn from the City Manager's operating account over the course of the year.

As a part of the DART team, the Clay's along with fellow DART committee member and City Council Candidate Ryan Sedgeley, have attended and participated in out-of-town conferences (paid for by you, the taxpayer) promoted and hosted by Downtown Colorado, Inc. (an organization that drives much of the "revitalization" of downtown Montrose through their various connections and marketing efforts) and which the City Manager and other senior members of City government and City Council also attend (an average of 15 go on these junkets and the cost is staggering to say the least, but that's a story for another day). Always in attendance was real estate developer David Dragoo with Colorado Outdoors, the 166-acre development that the City has "invested" millions of your taxpayer dollars in a project that seemingly benefits his business interests. Such a cozy relationship is a cause for concern given his connection to Mr. Clay and the potential for him to be an elected Council member.

Politically, Mr. Clay has been a registered Republican since December of 2019. According to public statements, his position on environmental and City growth show a more progressive stance regarding government. Records show that former Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum, when she was the Democratic candidate for Colorado Senate District 5 in 2024, was the recipient of a donation from Mr. Clay and his business. She eventually withdrew from the race. It's unclear if this was a business move or one of conscience. While the Clays are seemingly well-intentioned, experienced business owners and citizens, the above information and more call into question the ability of Mr.

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL – CIRCA 2026-2028 FROM previous pg

Clay, should he be elected, to make the best decisions for all of we Montroseans and not defer to the “friends” he’s made within City government, all of which present conflict of interest problems for him and City staff.

Rachel Betancourt-Ege – District 2:
Born in 1992, Ms. Betancourt-Ege is to be commended for her interest in local government and serving the public. She gives evidence in the biography that she released to the public that she is focused on compassion, advocacy and collaboration. She was raised in California and has been a resident of Montrose since December of 2024. She has been married to City of Montrose employee Leif Andrew Royal Betancourt-Ege since August of 2024. Mr. Betancourt-Ege is employed in the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant and has been in training to receive his wastewater treatment certification and license to operate equipment in the facility.

Not much more is known about Ms. Betancourt-Ege. She is a registered member of the Green Party of Colorado and currently employed by Heirlooms for Hospice in downtown Montrose. Given her recent arrival in the area, her candidacy, in this writer’s opinion, is a bit premature. While the City has a nepotism policy, given the position of an elected official, the appearance of a conflict of interest is not to be underestimated. This isn’t any different than the circumstances that affect Mr. Clay’s candidacy. I would suggest that she involve herself to a greater level in the community and get to know the City to a much greater depth historically as well as to gain an understanding of the needs and priorities of the citizens in order to be more fully versed in what is expected of a City Councilor.

Sam Aster – At Large:

Born in 1991, Mr. Aster is quite the enig-

ma. According to his biography, he states that he was born in Jackson, California and 3 months later, was abandoned and was subsequently adopted and raised in the San Joaquin Valley of California but graduating from high school in Grass Valley, Utah. He has lived in San Diego, Phoenix, Marion, OH, Alamosa, CO and now Montrose since 2021. While living a largely vagabond life, Mr. Aster, according to public records, was able to register to vote in Montrose (he’s registered as “Unaffiliated”.) What’s interesting about him, as discovered in public records, is that “Sam Aster” is his “preferred name.” His given legal name is “Robert Jordan Kelly” according to records I’ve seen.

Mr. Kelly (aka Mr. Aster) has a mailing address that coincides with his stated place of employment (The Shepard’s Hand, 505 South 2nd Street). As an FYI, The Shepherd’s Hand is a Colorado non-profit corporation dedicated to meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families in the Montrose area. Their goal is to provide a safe and friendly gathering place for delivering needed services.

Adding to all of this confusion, Mr. Kelly’s residence address on his voter registration form is at a home on Columbia Way owned and occupied by former Montrose Democratic Party Chairperson Connie Pittenger. In an article in The Montrose Mirror dated July 23, 2018 (pg. 7), Ms. Pittenger somewhat famously stated when asked about Democrats in positions of leadership in the community, that “We have progressives on the board of Delta-Montrose Electric Association, the Rec District, on City Council, and on a lot of other boards around town that are critical ---and they are being successful.” While Ms. Pittenger, in a show of compassion, may be helping Mr. Kelly (Aster), I’m still

intrigued as to what the end game is here with his candidacy and if it’s even legal to run for office and potentially win a seat under a name that doesn’t coincide with your legally registered name.

Nonetheless, by Mr. Kelly (Aster)’s own admission, he has been homeless on and off these last couple of years and as such, has found a calling with various community groups trying to address the problem with the “unhoused” and often can be found conversing with a librarian, non-profit directors, attending City events, etc.

Unfortunately, while he has secured a place on the ballot for the At-Large seat, he gives us virtually nothing in the way of qualifications for this position. While I wish him the best with what life brings, I just don’t see City Council as a good fit for him or us.

As is often the case, election season is always interesting. This year will prove no different for Montrose voters. This recap of these City Council candidates is off to an interesting start. Just wait until next week for more to come. If you like wolves, you’ll read all about them and their Council wannabe advocate (among other things) but don’t count on one single mention of fiscal responsibility or prioritizing needs over wants! It’s just not in the playbook for some of these candidates!

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He was most recently the Interim Montrose County Manager. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & a great grandchild.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

WHAT'S CONNECTED - ROAD CONDITIONS AND CRASHES: *Colorado State Patrol's 'Winter Ready' campaign*

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO— Even the most cautious driver can get into a crash when faced with unsafe road conditions. Colorado State Troopers responded to 11,745 crashes last winter season (Nov 2024 – March 2025),



with the impacts ranging from property damage to death. Troopers want drivers to stay alert and plan when their need to go out coincides with inclement weather of all types (snow, ice, fog, high winds, and heavy rain). “Drivers with almost any level of experience know that weather can play an important factor in stress and length of the drive,” explained Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “This is a case when knowledge truly can be power. Drivers can give themselves more time and make better choices on their route and the way they drive. Looking at four years (2021-2024) of crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol where road condition was noted (23,577 crashes), troopers found that 47.69% occurred in winter (Dec – Feb), 23.82% in spring (March- May), 18.17% in Autumn (Sept – November), and finally 10.32% in summer. (June – Aug). As anticipated, icy conditions were the most challenging road conditions, resulting in the highest number of crashes, followed by wet roads and then snow. Road conditions can impact factors such as reduced traction, increased stopping distances, and challenges with control, including abrupt movements (steering, braking, and acceleration). Reducing speed and maintaining a greater distance between vehicles can allow the driver more time to avoid a crash.

“Similar to road conditions, weather plays a role in crashes,” stated Col. Packard. “Road conditions can quickly change during weather events. Plus, visibility can be impeded, and traffic flow can become congested.

Referring to the Colorado State Patrol's crash data (2021-2024), troopers reviewed over 110,000 crashes that included information on weather conditions. Snow, freezing rain, and foggy conditions all had a higher rate of crashes compared to other seasonal weather conditions.

The Colorado State Patrol wants residents and visitors to be 'Winter Ready' during our cold, snow, and ice season. This campaign aims to educate drivers on the most common behaviors that lead to serious injury and death during the winter months on Colorado roadways.

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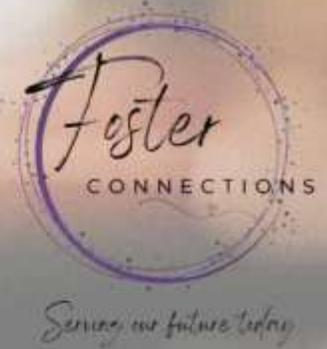
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ROBERT MARTIN EVANS

August 27, 1945 — February 4, 2026



ROBERT MARTIN EVANS, 80, passed away on February 4th in Grand Junction, CO.

Son of Louise M. Evans (Nissen) and Stanford R. Evans, he was born August 27, 1945, in Gulfport, MS. Bob graduated from Dominguez High School, Compton, California, in 1963. In 1968, while serving for three years in the Naval Air Reserve, he married the love of his life, Jean L. Shaneyfelt. In the early 1970's, he began his career in the power industry with Southern California Edison. During that time, their son, Michael, was born, followed by their daughter, Renee, four years later.

By 1980, he and Jean decided to move the family to Montrose, Colorado. From

the moment they arrived, Bob was happier, especially when he could see "his" beloved San Juan Mountains. Bob worked 10 years for Colorado Ute Electric Association, then for Western Area Power Administration, retiring in 2008.

Some of his hobbies included classic car restoration, woodworking, hunting, and fishing. He was happiest when creating something or learning something new. He was a great friend to all and a wonderful husband and father.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father, and sister, Cheryl. He is survived by Jean, his wife of 57 years, son Michael, daughter Renee (Shawn), grandson Evan, granddaughter Sofia, and brother Jay.

JUDY ANN COFFIN

June 10, 1951 – February 13, 2026

JUDY ANN COFFIN passed away peacefully in Montrose, Colorado, on February 13, 2026, after a long and courageous battle with COPD.

Born in Burbank, California, to Arnold and Gloria Janssen, Judy grew up in Granada Hills and graduated from Bishop Alemany High School.

Years later, she made her home in Nederland, Colorado where Judy worked as a teacher's aide at Nederland Elementary, supporting and caring for countless students. She was also devoted to her role as a homemaker, creating a warm and steady home for her family.

Judy found lasting love when she married Bruce Coffin, with whom she built a blended family rooted in love and companionship. Judy and Bruce later settled in Montrose, Colorado, where they lived for over 25 years. They were truly each other's partner in crime, best friend, and soulmate sharing travel adventures in their RV, cheering on football games, and enjoying the simple gift of time together.

Judy's greatest joy was her family. She is survived by her beloved husband, Bruce Coffin; her children, Marcus, Scot, Cherish, Susan, and Lauren; and her amazing grandchildren, Ainsley, Dallas, Maria, Anthony, Marcela, and Isabella. Nothing brought her more happiness than being Grandma.

She loved reading, traveling, football games, and spending time with those she loved.

A Celebration of Life will be held this summer to honor Judy in a way that reflects the warmth and light she brought into the lives of those around her. She will be deeply missed and forever loved.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MICHAEL ANTHONY GUZMAN *August 23, 1967- February 10, 2026*

MICHAEL ANTHONY GUZMAN passed away suddenly on February 10th, 2026. He was born in San Jose, California on August 23rd, 1967, to Frank Guzman and Sylvia Maestas. He grew up in California and attended James Lick High School in the Bay Area.

He moved to Montrose in 1993 where he remained until his passing.

Michael found the love of his life Renne Guzman on Thanksgiving Day in 2008 and married on August 24th, 2009. He became a father to three children Mari, Daniel, and Michael. He loved them like his own and they became an instant family. His true joy in life came with the births of his grandchildren Arieon, Autumn, Emanuel, Aiden, Marceline, and Aaliyanah. To them, he was the best Papo in the world.

Michael lived his life to the fullest. He loved talking to anyone he came across and became immediate lifelong friends, remembering every detail and word spoken for years. He enjoyed watching every sport imaginable on TV or in person. His love for the Raiders went deep. He loved riding his motorcycle and his Harley was

his baby. Michael and Renne went on many rides together. There was never a day you wouldn't catch Michael blasting music while making some sort of delicious meal watching whatever sport was on TV. He couldn't wait for the weekends to come so he could just relax or spend time with his grandbabies.

Michael is preceded in death by his father Frank Guzman, Pops Joe Maestas, niece Janine Maestas, and his cousins Ralph Gonzales, Anthony Flores and David Celaya.

Michael is survived by his wife Renne Guzman. Daughter Mari Moreno and grandkids Arieon, Aiden, and Autumn. Son Daniel (Kierra) Moreno and grandkids Emanuel, Marceline, and Aaliyana. Son Michael Moreno. His mother Sylvia Maestas and Aunt Martha Celaya. His brothers and sisters, Gina Guzman, Michelle Guzman-Flores, Angela Guzman, Philip Guzman, Nick Guzman, Joey Maestas, Gina Johnson, Nicki Webb, Lori Maestas, and Jerry Maestas. His nephews Nathan Maestas, Cameron Monthes, and Jerius (Sean) Holmblad. His Cousins Steve Landice and



Denise Celaya and many more uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Michael was loved by so many and he will truly be missed. A celebration of life will be held on March 7th, 2026, from 1pm to 5pm at the Montrose Elks Lodge. The family invites anyone whose lives were touched by Michael and would like to help celebrate his life.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JIM PATRICK CARROLL

January 10, 1943 — February 11, 2026

JIM CARROLL, 83, of Montrose Colorado, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

Jim was an amazing man. He could design, build, and fabricate anything.

He loved teaching industrial arts for 27 years in Denver, and his students loved him. Some students went on to successful careers in the construction trades.

Jim was a husband, a son, a brother, and a good friend to so many.

Jim passed away surrounded by his family at home and he will be sorely missed.

The family wants to thank the wonderful professionals at HopeWest Hospice, who provided support and care to Jim.



BONITA MARIE STICKLER

May 14, 1948 – February 12, 2026



BONITA MARIE STICKLER, born May 14th 1948 in Williamsport Pennsylvania. Parents were Rex and Betty Berfield. Bonnie has a twin sister, Connie Hood, along with two other sisters Penny Burgess and Debbie Berfield. Bon-

nie went to kindergarten in Salida, Colorado. She then attended Gunnison Public schools from first grade through high school, Graduated in 1966. She attended Western State College, graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor in education, she then received her masters in 1973. When Bonnie wanted something she went out there and she got it! Bonnie began her career in Nucla, Colorado in 1970 teaching kindergarten for a year. She returned to Gunnison, where she taught at Powderhorn school, the last one room school house in the district. When the school closed in 1973, she started teaching in Gunnison where she taught until her retirement in 2001. Bonnie married the love of her life, Ted Stickler in 1972. Bonnie and Ted had two children, Wendy Stickler and Art Stickler. Grandchildren, Courtney Stickler, Brant Stickler, Lane Stickler, Blake Stickler, Colton Bailey, Audra Bailey and Chance Bailey. Great grandson, Stetson Hutton. Bonnie's grandchildren were her pride and joy. Bonnie enjoyed her retirement in Montrose, Colorado. She loved

going on early morning walks before it got too hot out, and eating her breakfast on her back patio.

Bonnie loved to garden, she maintained her flower beds weekly, never leaving a dead flower head behind. Bonnie's favorite hobby was sewing, if you knew Bonnie I'm sure you have something that she sewed for you. She was a true artist and took her time to make each piece of material sewn perfect. Bonnie also loved to paint, she specifically loved painting blue birds. Bonnie loved to read, she would read multiple books a week, she always found ways to keep herself busy. She showed her love for her hobbies with her family. Bonnie adored each of her grandchildren, she loved watching them strive in whatever they put their minds to. Bonnie was the happiest person, always had a big smile. She loved meeting new people and would greet everyone she came across on her walks. She never let anything upset her and would put others before herself.

Bonnie will be greatly missed.

ISSUE 562 Feb. 23, 2026

ART & SOL

WORD FROM THE WEST: WITH WENDY VIDELOCK

Day of the Desert Fox

PALISADE-This morning while walking our small patch of desert out back, I caught sight of a fox on the other side of the arroyo. If not for the snow, I probably wouldn't have been able to see her at all.



By Wendy Vidlock
Courtesy photo.

I watched as she went from a casual trot to a sudden hunting stance.

She crouched, holding still for a moment before charging full speed toward a ground critter a few outstretched lengths away.

With a mouthful of something clenched in teeth, she spun around and headed back toward where she'd come.

When the spinning world reminds me the wild isn't something inferred, and the earth isn't just a word, I find myself a little less blurred, a little more awake a little more deeply stirred,

a curiously curious child of the world.

Encounters with wildlife always seem to wake me up. I'm suddenly aware of where I am: at the edge of the arroyo, at the foot of a mesa, on a spinning watery planet—the sky all around pitched a deep blue.

It's mid-winter and because coyote have moved on for the time being, fox are about.

A couple of weeks ago, while walking Lady, our dog, down in the bottom of the ravine, she got fixated on something in the scrub. She wouldn't come when I called. I was getting a little nervous, recalling the lion tracks I'd seen earlier in the mud on the north side of the house.

I stood to the side, on the dirt path and watched as Lady cautiously nosed her way into a patch of greasewood. A piercing snarl from within sent her running back towards me.

That did not sound like a mountain lion. It sounded like fox.

I could have been wrong.

The fox is a slender little prism, rarely conspicuous, always adaptable, and sometimes

fiercely ambiguous.

This morning I saw a fox, but more often than not, the fox is watching me. The fox and humans have actually been keeping an eye on one another for a very long time, not quite as rivals, but as parallel intelligences moving through all kinds of landscapes.

In cognitive studies, foxes demonstrate problem-solving abilities comparable to our domestic dogs, though with less dependence on social cues. Here in the high desert, foxes are solo strategists.

In urban settings, though, they share territory and food sources much more readily.

It has been observed that urban foxes quickly learn human schedules, traffic rhythms and precisely when the garbage gets taken out.

Featured in fairy tales and often as a cautionary tale, the fox has always lived at the edge of the human story. He appears at dusk, when vision and certainty softens. Legend cast the fox as trickster, thief, shapeshifter—an animal that understands the ways of the world well enough to go largely unnoticed.

And what elegant, agile creatures they are!

Last year I spotted a fox moving among

WORD FROM THE WEST: WITH WENDY VIDELOCK From previous pg

the columbine
and couldn't help note
for a canine,
the fox
is awfully feline.

Across Indigenous cultures, the concept of spirit animals, or totems, describes a living system of relationship between animals and humans. These animals are not considered mascots or symbols assigned at birth, nor are they metaphors. Rather, these animals are understood as forms of intelligence, offering guidance and ethical instruction. In this world view, animals are elders, carrying knowledge shaped by deep time.

A spirit animal's arrival signals a call to responsibility. To be guided by Bear, Wolf, Eagle, Fox or Snake is to be taught when to be fierce, when to adapt, when to pay closer attention, when to shed an old skin.

A Whole Lotta Critters Goin' On
It's said a snake will die if she cannot shed her skin. Perhaps the grizzly isn't exactly what you think. It seems to me coyote knows where you have been,

the elk is masculinity, the beaver's life is industry. The trout is hardly made of steel. The elephant, the elephant is what you feel. The fox is a creature who's quick on his feet. The funnel spider weaves and weaves and weaves and then retreats. How strange and strangely sweet; this earth is where we've all convened. The moose is bulk and scrutiny. The lizard is all about the warmth of the stone. I've come to think no critter lives her life alone. The common rat is multiplicity, the turtle is likely immortality—and vaguely the raven knows the kind of song you've come to sing. The honeybee is jazz and blues. The catamount knows it's we who are closing in. The eagle is in the news, the octopus remembers you. The falcon is adrenalin, the whale, some kind of guardian, the wolverine will chuff and wheeze. The human is a student to all of these. The doe is born of a minor chord, a swarm

of gnats is an arabesque, the scorpion is the queen of swords. The javelina is the shape of war, the tadpole is the sign of change, the horse has the largest heart of all.

It's hard to know exactly where you are without some kind of guiding star.

Wendy Vidlock advocates for the arts in public spaces. Her essays and poems appear in O Magazine, The New York Times, Hudson Review, Poetry, and Best American Poetry. Her books are available wherever books are sold. Find out more at [WendyVidlock](http://WendyVidlock.com)



Public domain photo.

SAVE THE DATE. MARCH 4, 2026

FREE Program

Western History with Kate Burke

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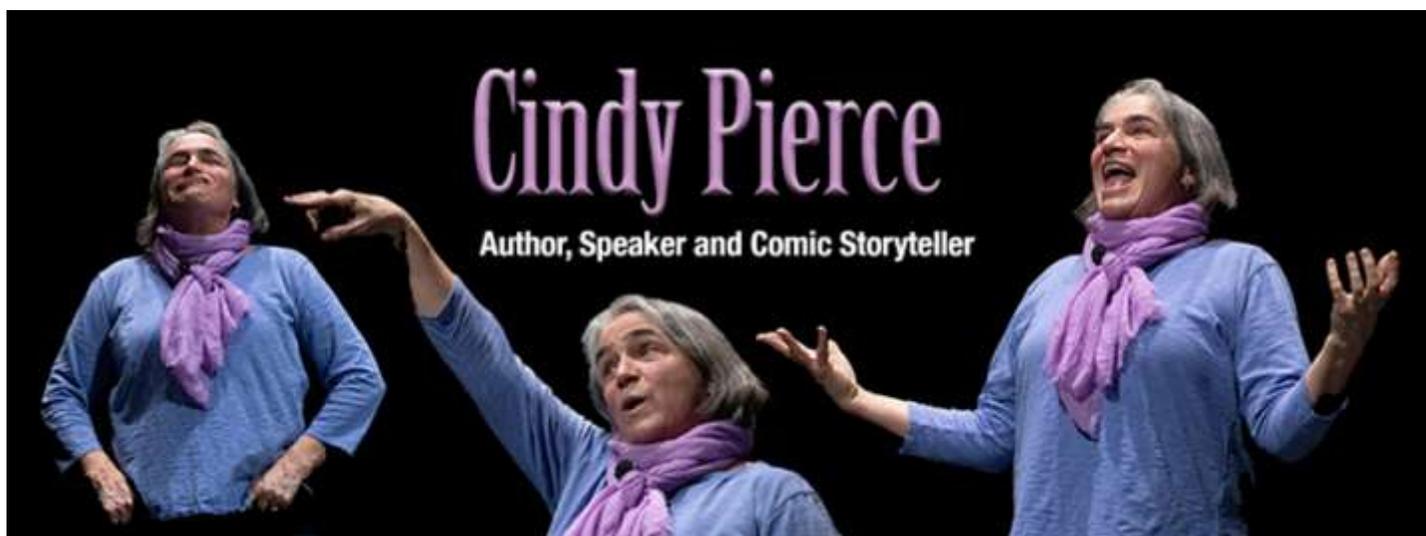


Questions: Newcomers & Neighbors, (970) 417-4236 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10 am. Wed., March 4, 2026. Montrose Senior Center, Montrose Pavilion

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ACCLAIMED STORYTELLER CINDY PIERCE TO PERFORM HER LATEST SOLO SHOW, "GLITCHY BUSINESS" AT THE TELLURIDE ELKS LODGE



Storyteller Cindy Pierce - photo by Geoff Hansen

Special to Art & Sol

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY— Acclaimed comic storyteller, author, innkeeper, and sexuality educator Cindy Pierce brings her hilarious new show, *Glitchy Business*, to the Telluride Elks Lodge on **Saturday, March 14th at 7 PM**. Doors open at 6:30. Cash bar will be available. Pierce's brand of outrageous, bawdy, and honest humor will be on full display in her performance of *Glitchy Business* as a fundraiser for **Tri-County Health Network**. Tickets are \$45 per person before March 1st (\$50 online after March 1st or at the door). The show runs approximately 80 minutes and is for **ADULTS ONLY** due to the mature content. "Tri-County Health Network is thrilled to welcome Cindy back to Telluride," says Melanie Montoya Wasserman, Executive Director of Advocacy and Inclusion at Tri-County Health Network. "It has been a stressful winter for our community. Our team is working overtime to meet the increased needs for emergency funds, such as the Good Neighbor Fund, and also rising requests for mental health scholarships. We are looking forward to an evening of fun and laughs for our friends and neighbors that will also support our work at Tri-County Health Network."

"I am amazed by the impact Tri-County Health Network has in the community," says Pierce. "Over the years, I have had the privilege to work with highly engaged

TCHN staff members who have facilitated and coordinated my educational presentations for students and parents. Their dedication to providing many people with access to healthcare, support, and programming is remarkable. I hope that an evening of comic storytelling will bring community members out to benefit TCHN."

Glitchy Business chronicles Pierce's unique take on life, navigating both the ordinary and the extraordinary that shaped her path, including stories about growing up as the youngest of seven in an inn, navigating relationships, parenting mishaps, and the ongoing adventure of being human. At its heart, the show is about learning to be kinder to yourself, worry less about others' opinions, and dive into life—glitches and all.

Pierce's ability to poke fun at herself leaves the audience members feeling lighter and less alone. "I can't help myself from generating or tripping into cringe-worthy situations," says Pierce.

"Embarrassment doesn't get its hold on me because the humor of the situation jumps into the front seat before the incident has fully unfolded. By the time I became a mom, it was clear that becoming an even-keeled, well-behaved adult was not an option. Shameless gusto is how I roll."

Past audience members describe *Glitchy Business* as highly entertaining, honest,

and relatable.

-Nini Meyer, Executive Director of Positive Tracks, said: "I haven't stopped thinking about Cindy's show for over a week—the mark of unforgettable impact. It's freeing, moving, and downright hilarious—every darn minute."

Actor Dan Butler shared: "Let me add to the heap of praise about Cindy's show. What a messenger she is! She speaks in her own set of tongues and lets it flow through her particular channel."

Pierce has performed her solo shows and presented to audiences all around the country since 2004. Her solo show, *Finding the Doorbell*, launched her successful career as a comic storyteller, public speaker, and author of three books about sexuality, relationships, and young people navigating their online lives. Says former UNH classmate, actor, and director Mike O'Malley, "Cindy Pierce is, was, and will continue to be the funniest woman I have ever met. She is a natural storyteller." Pierce is a mother of three young adults. She and her husband, Bruce, run Pierce's Inn, located in Etna, NH.

TICKETS are \$45 per person before March 1st (\$50 after March 1st or at the door) and can be purchased [HERE](#). Learn more about **Tri-County Health Network** [HERE](#).

Read TESTIMONIALS about *Glitchy Business* and view PHOTOS [HERE](#).

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**THE
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Your Source for Local Business News and Information

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU WOMEN: WOMEN IN BUSINESS CONFERENCE RETURNS MARCH 11 WITH AWARD-WINNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER KYLEE MARSHALL

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the return of its annual **Women in Business Conference** on **March 11, 2026**, at the Colorado Mesa University Ballroom. This year's theme, "**When Life Gives You Women**," celebrates the power of collaboration and the extraordinary things that happen when women gather to learn, lead, and lift one another up.

The full-day event will feature a dynamic lineup of speakers and interactive sessions designed to equip attendees with practical tools, fresh perspective, and meaningful connection.

Keynote Speaker: Kylee Jean Marshall

The conference will conclude with a keynote address from award-winning author and veteran educator **Kylee Jean Marshall**.

Marshall, author of *Of Dirt and Wildflowers: A Memoir on Growing the Courage to Bloom*, is the recipient of the prestigious NYC Big Book Award and has been featured in Times Square. With more than twenty years of experience inspiring growth and resilience, she brings powerful storytelling and heartfelt authenticity to the stage.

Her keynote presentation, "**Planting Seeds**," will encourage attendees to embrace courage, cultivate strength in every season, and bloom boldly where they are planted.

After speaking at last year's conference and receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback, Marshall was invited back to deliver this year's keynote address to the full audience.

A Day Designed for Growth and Connection

The conference begins at 8:00 a.m. with check-in and breakfast and opening remarks to start at 9:00 am, followed by a leadership panel titled *Lemons to Leadership*, featuring respected women leaders from business, healthcare, finance, and hospitality who will share their insights on navigating challenges and growing through experience.

Attendees will then participate in a series of breakout sessions throughout the day, offering opportunities to explore topics in personal growth, professional development, and practical business tools. Sessions are designed to address real-world challenges such as building trust, overcoming imposter syndrome, managing overwhelm, strengthening financial literacy, leveraging marketing strategies, and applying artificial intelligence in today's workplace.

Midday programming includes an awards presentation recognizing outstanding women making an impact in business and the community, followed by an interactive networking experience designed to foster authentic connection.

The day concludes with Marshall's keynote, final reflections, and a celebratory happy hour. A silent auction benefiting the CMU Women in Business Club will be open throughout the event.

Event Details

March 11, 2026

Colorado Mesa University Ballroom

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration includes full conference, breakfast, lunch, and happy hour.

"The Women in Business Conference is about more than professional development," said Kayla Howell, President & CEO of the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's about creating space for women to connect, collaborate, and grow together. When women come together with intention, incredible things happen."

Full agenda details and registration information are available at fruitachamber.org.



Keynote Speaker: Kylee Jean Marshall
Courtesy photo.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MISSOURI STORYTELLER KATE TORODE READS AT BARDIC TRAILS MARCH 3

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE- Storyteller, writer, mixed-media painter and professional reinvention enthusiast Kate Torode of Missouri will be the featured storyteller for the Telluride Institute’s first Tuesday Talking Gourds’ Bardic Trails virtual Stories & Poems series Tuesday Mar. 3rd at 7 pm MST.

Kate tells us she is living her second act on the banks of the Mississippi in St. Louis. Her writing blends wit, warmth, and an affinity for existential snack food. After years in the corporate world supporting engineers, executives, and large teams, she did what many people only fantasize about during particularly bleak meetings: she listened to the quiet, persistent voice insisting there had to be more than calendars, budgets, and “just circling back.”

That voice eventually turned into humor, then stories, then a fully realized alter ego named Mallory Reynolds, also known as Chicken Nugget Girl. Through sharp wit, self-deprecation, and emotional honesty, Kate writes about burnout, grief, mental health, midlife unraveling, and the strange beauty of

starting over when you’re fairly sure you should have everything figured out by now. Her work blends laugh

-out-loud moments with genuine vulnerability, inviting readers to see themselves in the mess, the humor, and the resilience.

In addition to writing, Kate is a mixed-media abstract painter whose visual art explores chaos, healing, and the quiet courage required to begin again. Her creative universe—often referred to as the “Malloryverse” includes novels, short stories, experimental fiction, and emerging multimedia projects that blur the line between comedy and catharsis. She was a participant in the 2025 Fischer Poetry Contest.

When not building worlds or reworking punchlines, she’s painting, trapezing, being a self-proclaimed master puppeteer, laughing with her husband and five cats and navigating creative life with a mug of something warm and with a strong local art community.

For those that like prompts, we are suggesting “Mysterious Fork in the Road,” although poems on any subject are welcome. Virtual attendees are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share each month after the featured reader, their own work or someone else’s.

The Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds Poetry Program hosts the free Bardic Trails virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month. The Wilkinson Public Library continues as our collaboration partner, with town support from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts & Special Events.

No longer needing to register with the library, participants are encouraged to visit <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren’t already on our mailing list. Thanks to the Cantor Family, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our program and projects.



Kate Torode . Courtesy photo.



**Fiesta Guadalajara
Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460**

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970-648-0609**

**Pahgre's
970-249-6442**

**Jimmer’s Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227**

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970-249-7427**



**Stone House
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**Beer Barn II
970-249-5550**

Community
EASTER
SONRISE SERVICE
 Sunday April 5th 6:30am

“He is Risen”

**Everyone is welcome! Join us at
 the Montrose Pavilion South Lawn for an Easter service.
 Please bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.
 Refreshments will be available.
 Outside event - please dress warmly**

Speaker



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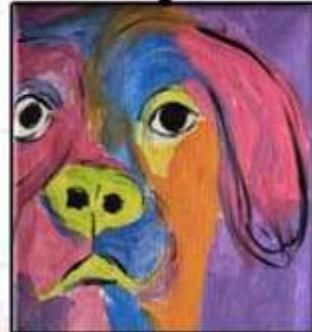
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Address: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401.

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist
 112 Main St.
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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, Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

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: 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 UN-

DER 3 is available during Worship and Dis-

cipleship Hour. Youth Night (6-12th

grade): Tuesdays, 6:30 PM. Weeknight

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 6:30

PM. 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, [in-](mailto:in-form@fpcmontrose.com)

[form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-form@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, [\[roseumc.org\]\(http://roseumc.org\)](http://mont-</p>
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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

youtube.com/@rosemontbaptistchurch

facebook.com/RosemontBaptist

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

10:45 AM.

We also have small groups we call L.I.F.E.

Groups for all ages on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.

We strive to have each of our small groups live L.I.F.E. together.

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 where they are at in life .

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?

Premier Sponsor:
 Montrose Farmers Market
 970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
 970-249-6889

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

Fiesta Guadalajara
 Re-Opening 2026
 970-249-2460

El Jimador
 970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
 970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
 970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
 970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
 970-417-4340

Rib City
 970-249-7427

Stone House
 970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
 970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's
 970-546-0074



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





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MONTROSE COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 30 – April 3
7:00 to 7:30 AM



**Monday – St. Stephens Anglican Church
2504 Sunnyside Rd.**

**Tuesday – First Church of the Nazarene
705 S. 12th Street**

**Wednesday – Calvary Chapel
2201 Townsend Ave.**

**Thursday -Montrose Christian Church
2351 Sunnyside Rd.**

**Friday – Celebration Church
2900 Sunnyside Rd.**



Services will be 30 minutes, followed by a continental breakfast.
An Offering will be received for ministries of the AMC

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. 24-Tuesday, Feb. 24 7 pm. Let Ignite Montrose Spark Your Interest! Enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced, five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, passions and curiosities. The Association (39 W Main, Montrose). Beverage/food service will be available. Check ignitemontrose.org for a list of topics.

Feb. 25--The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is pleased to present Aria Nouveau at the Delta Performing Arts Center at 822 Grand Avenue in Delta on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7 PM. Doors open at 6 PM. Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the night of the performance: \$25 for adults and \$5 for students. For more information please contact Anna Marie at 801-870-8621 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit www.deltamontroseconcerts.com.

Feb. 26--Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Friday, Feb. 26, at Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fairgrounds, 1001 N Second Street in Montrose. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and share. The February meeting will focus on caring quilts and finishing UFO's (UnFinished Objects) for community donations. There will be a sew-in after the guild meeting to make baby receiving blankets for the Montrose hospital. Fabric has been pre-cut, and the sewing is simple. Bring your sewing machine and basic sewing supplies and help make blankets. It's a great way to serve our community.

March 5-The Black Canyon Audubon Society is honored to host Christopher Preston at Remington's, Bridges Golf and Country Club, 2500 Bridges Ave, Montrose, CO. The event will take place March 5 from 5:-8:30 PM. Dinner will be served followed by Preston's keynote address. The cost is \$50. per person for the event including dinner, and the public is welcome! Advance registration is required by Feb. 25 and can be made at:

<https://www.blackcanyonaudubon.org/news/notices>

March 12-**March 12**-League of Women Voters City Council Candidate Forum has been set for Thursday, March 12, at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers.

April 5-Easter Sunrise Services-6:30am. Montrose Pavilion South Lawn.

MIRROR IMAGES: BLOWING IN THE WIND



Last week's high winds were unsettling to pedestrians and hazardous for motorists, but shoppers at the Downtown Montrose City Market witnessed the sizeable flag at the far east end of the parking lot in its full, star spangled glory. Mirror staff photo.



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