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PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY GRINDS ON AS MONEY FLOWS



The Project 7 Water Authority held a regular monthly meeting on March 26. Vicki Ripp (standing center) visits with new board member Ron White. White replaces Kevin Carlson as the City of Delta Board Representative. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

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

March 27, 2026, Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jake Foreman. During roll call, Delta Representative Ron responded as present; however, it wasn't until a few minutes later that Manager Adam Turner introduced Ron White as the new representative, taking the place of Delta Mayor Kevin Carlson.

All board members were present in person and approved the minutes of the Jan. 22

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HISTORIC MONTROSE CITY HALL CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL YEAR, FUTURE UNCLEAR

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- When the City of Montrose moved from the historic City Hall at 433 South First Street to Main Street in 2023, they left behind a century of local history as well as a beautiful, art deco style building with parking and easy accessibility for the public. Constructed in 1926, the structure is listed on both the State and [National](#) historic registers. According to [History Colorado](#), it was designed to also house the City's library. According to the National Park Service listing, "The .38-acre landscaped grounds include a brick wall, walkways and pool with sculpture. The ship's bell from the troop carrier the U.S.S. Montrose, hangs in the center of the grounds. The brick used in the landscaping are a red color sympathetic to the red brick used on the City Hall building."

The graceful and stately former City Hall building, which

Continued pg 13



The ship's bell from the troop carrier the U.S.S. Montrose still hangs on the grounds between Montrose's historic, Art Deco style City Hall and Library buildings, but the grounds are no longer accessible to the general public. The beloved and beautiful local landmark celebrates its Centennial year in 2026. Mirror staff photo.



Master Gardener Open House

March 31,
6-8 p.m.
Library Meeting
Room



Join the library and master gardeners from the Tri-River Area Colorado State University Extension (CSU Extension) for an open-house workshop over gardening resources here in Montrose! Topics include the Montrose Seed Lending Library, gardening for newcomers, and a Q&A with gardening materials to engage with.

320 S 2nd, www.montroselibrary.org
Mon-Thurs 10-7, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5,
(970)249-9656.

MONTROSE REGIONAL
LIBRARY DISTRICT

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLUMBINE QUILTERS TO MEET APRIL 4

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-On April 4 at 9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose. Social time is at 9, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments and a program. Book Pillows with Kim Lindel For more information: Paula millsappscoui@gmail.com or Cheryl [970-462-3849](tel:970-462-3849) Visitors are always welcome.

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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



Fresh news for busy people

Serving Colorado and Beyond Since 2010!

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

Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Harry Switzer

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

For information, advertising opportunities, or to submit content:

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Website: www.montrosemirror.com

Connect with us on social media:

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www.Instagram.com/MontroseMirror

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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JOIN FORUM ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 9 - 10 AM TO HEAR ABOUT THE HUGE IMPACT THE MONTROSE ROTARY CLUB HAS HAD ON OUR COMMUNITY OVER THE LAST 105 YEARS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-For this program, the Montrose Rotary Club has assembled 16 speakers to highlight Rotary’s involvement with Montrose since its inception in 1921.

A PowerPoint presentation will show the connections that help make Montrose what it is today. From the airport’s early days, hospital, first mammogram machine, parks, Habitat for Humanity, Magic Circle Theater and the Pavilion to the Amphitheater, Botanic Gardens, Ute Museum, Colorado Mesa University, fireworks and golf courses, Rotary was there. And these collaborations don't even mention projects like the Academic Booster Club, Youth Appreciation Day, Shoes for Kids, scholarships, and Rotary Exchange Programs. Accompanying this presentation is a newly released short written history of the Montrose Rotary Club which contains more details and will be available for purchase.

Family

Help Our Community Stop Child Abuse, Call 1-844-CO-4-KIDS

MOVIE EVENT

April 10th • 3pm
 at the **FOX THEATRE**
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- **Featuring the Family Film: "Super Mario Galaxy Movie"**
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APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

LEADERS IN CHARGE OF MINE SITES AND WATER QUALITY IN SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS WILL PRESENT COMMUNITY UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) invites community members to “Local Water Quality & Mines,” a free meeting on Tuesday, April 28, at the Ouray Community Center Massard Room at 320 6th Ave., Ouray, Colo. Come to learn about mine sites and water quality in the Uncompahgre River Watershed, including the state of Colorado’s remediation agreement with Idarado Mining, local mine reclamation and water monitoring activities, status of the Revenue-Virginus and Campbird mines, and more.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with presentations and moderated question-and-answer sessions schedule from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. No registration is necessary for this free event with light refreshments. This evening of impactful information sharing is made possible with the cooperation of the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment,



Photo courtesy of Idarado Mining Company

Newmont, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety, Thorin Resources, and the City of Ouray.

The Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed has many stream segments including the Uncompahgre and several tributaries that are impaired and not meeting water quality standards. Most of the water quality problems stem from acidity and heavy metals attributed to highly mineralized geologic zones that also have lots of old adits and mine workings.

Mine site remediation and water quality treatment is complex and expensive. Understanding who is responsible for mine reclamation can also be complicated. UWP believes community conversations will engage decision makers and inspire collaboration and action that will improve natural resources, critical to watershed health. We urge you to attend this informative meeting.

UWP encourages submission of questions to info@uncompahgrewatershed.org before the meeting, so speakers can address those in their presentations. We will also be taking written and online questions during the meeting, and getting answers as time allows.

Questions? Contact Tanya at tanya@uncompahgrewatershed.org or 970-325-3010.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HICKENLOOPER, BENNETT DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR SECURITY

Editor:

With the exception of John Fetterman, the entire Democrat contingent of The US Senate has proven repeatedly that they care more for illegal aliens than they do US citizens. For over 6 weeks now they have failed to fund DHS, putting our entire country at risk. Quietly hiding among that group are our own Senators, Hickenlooper and Bennett. When these two men come seeking our vote next fall Coloradans should remember that neither of these two support the safety and security of our country.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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HORA: 3:00pm

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HISTORIC MONTROSE CITY HALL CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL YEAR, FUTURE UNCLEAR

From pg 1



Montrose's Historic City Hall is 100 years old this year. Mirror staff photo.

is adjacent to the City's Elks Civic Building, continues to be a topic of discussion among many residents, if only for the fact that the proposed repurpose of the beloved structure appears to be somewhat complicated.

In March of 2023, the City of Montrose adopted [Ordinance 2617](#), authorizing the sale of the historic City Hall. The price was \$1.55M, and the buyer was Rathbone PropCo.

In May of 2023, the City authorized [Ordinance 2621](#), "...Appropriating funds and authorizing the loaning of money in conjunction with the sale of real property addressed at 433 South First Street pursuant to Article II, Section 5 of the City Charter." Section 1 of Ordinance 2621 states, "The sale price of City Hall. Which has an address of 433 South First Street, Montrose, Colorado, is \$1,550,000. Rathbone PropCo LLC has placed \$50,000 earnest in escrow and shall pay the city \$250,000 of the sale price at closing. City Council hereby authorizes the loan of \$1,250,000 of the sale price of City Hall to Rathbone

PropCo LLC as a condition of the sale."

Section 2 of Ordinance 2621 allocates \$400,000 to the Colorado Mesa University Foundation to create a Montrose Permanent Fund, "for the current fiscal year," with the allocation of the \$400,000 contingent upon the closing of the sale of the City Hall. In an Executive Session on Aug. 12, 2024, City Council discussed allowing Rathbone Enterprises to assign its interest as buyer for Montrose's historic City Hall building to Typhoon Properties, Inc.

The assignment was then approved in a Special Meeting following the Executive Session. Proceeds from the sale were to be contributed to a permanent endowment fund in collaboration with the Colorado Mesa University Foundation, for further expansion of the CMU-Montrose physical campus and its program offerings.

Today the historic property is owned by [Typhoon Properties](#). On the company's web site, (principals are Alia and John Eyres) are [listed projects](#) involving the former Montrose City Hall, as well as the

historic Fire Station (formerly known to many as the Centennial Room) and the building that housed the former Daily Bread Bakery.

The City Hall Project is described: "Built in 1926, the original Montrose City Hall is approaching its Centennial anniversary. This ambitious plan aims to transform the former centerpiece of the city into a boutique extended stay hotel, providing visitors with a unique place to stay and explore the burgeoning town and entirety of our Western Slope. A core partnership with Colorado Mesa University will provide educational training for CMU's hospitality program, job opportunities, and serve as an incubator for talent to serve all of Colorado and beyond."

The Fire Station (Centennial Room) Project is also described:

"Decommissioned Fire Station #1 is slated to become a destination farm-to-table restaurant, led by a world-renowned Michelin-star chef. In partnership with Colorado Mesa University, the venue will serve as an educational space for culinary training under his guidance. The vision to support local valley producers, create job opportunities, and cultivate culinary and F&B talent for the region is a core commitment of this project."

When reached for comment, Colorado Mesa University Montrose President Steve Metheny said, "We have a culinary program at CMU in Grand Junction, and we're going to try and support that...We're having meetings (with Typhoon), and we're in constant contact, but I don't know what the timeline looks like."

Meanwhile, the City's purchase and renovation of the former Wells Fargo Building on Main Street to serve as the present City Hall appears to have cost nearly \$5M to date, with an initial purchase cost of \$1.5M, roughly \$3M in façade and interior renovations, and \$347,267.19 allocated for roof repairs at the Council meeting of March 17--an expenditure that Mayor Dave Frank referred to as "a win-win."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY EXPANDS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION EFFORTS WITH FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Montrose County is hosting a series of free, family-friendly events throughout April to raise awareness and support children and families across the community.

The county will kick off activities with a special event for preschool-aged children on April 6 at 2 p.m. at Hilltop, located at 540 S. 1st Street in Montrose. Families are invited to enjoy crafts and story time designed for young children. A Love & Logic parenting education session will be available for parents to take as well as a Fatherhood session and car seat inspections. There will be a diaper raffle and other raffle items available.

On April 10 at 3 p.m., Montrose County will host its annual movie at the Fox Theatre, featuring Super Mario Galaxy. Free popcorn and a drink will be provided, and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Fox Theatre is located at 27 South Cascade Avenue in Montrose.

New this year, the county is also bringing a movie event to the West End of Montrose County. A free showing of the family film Zootopia 2 will take place at the Old School Gymnasium, located at 141 West Main Street in Naturita at 2 p.m. This

event expands access to families across Montrose County and provides another opportunity for community connection. In Montrose County, 167 children were impacted by child abuse or neglect in 2025. Montrose County received 1,032 reports of child abuse, neglect, or requests for service. Of that number, 246 were assigned for investigation or serviced as Youth in Conflict. While most cases involved neglect, there were also instances of physical and sexual abuse.

“Prevention of child abuse takes a village, and we are fortunate to have a strong one here in Montrose County,” said Montrose

County Child Welfare and Adult Protective Services Program Manager Keri Shelton. “Everyone plays a role in helping to prevent child abuse.

Parenting is challenging and sometimes overwhelming. During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we’d like to remind parents that you are not alone and there are community resources available to families to help navigate challenging times.”

All events are free and open to the public. Community members are encouraged to attend, learn more about prevention efforts, and show support for children and families throughout Montrose County.

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Commercial buildings like this one don't come on the market very often, and this particular site offers a comprehensive suite of features perfect for a new start-up or an established business looking to relocate. The property boasts one of the best locations in the city and includes several special amenities...a unique architectural design with lots of natural light in the work area, a beautiful well-lit dining area, and functional features including double drive-up windows, a grease trap, ample storage, and a large well-lit parking lot with over 20 spaces. Low-maintenance landscaping features mostly xeriscaping with timed irrigation for shrubs. This is a rare find that combines a prime location with high-quality facilities!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PALISADE INSECTARY'S NEW GROWHOUSE BOOSTS FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES IN COLORADO

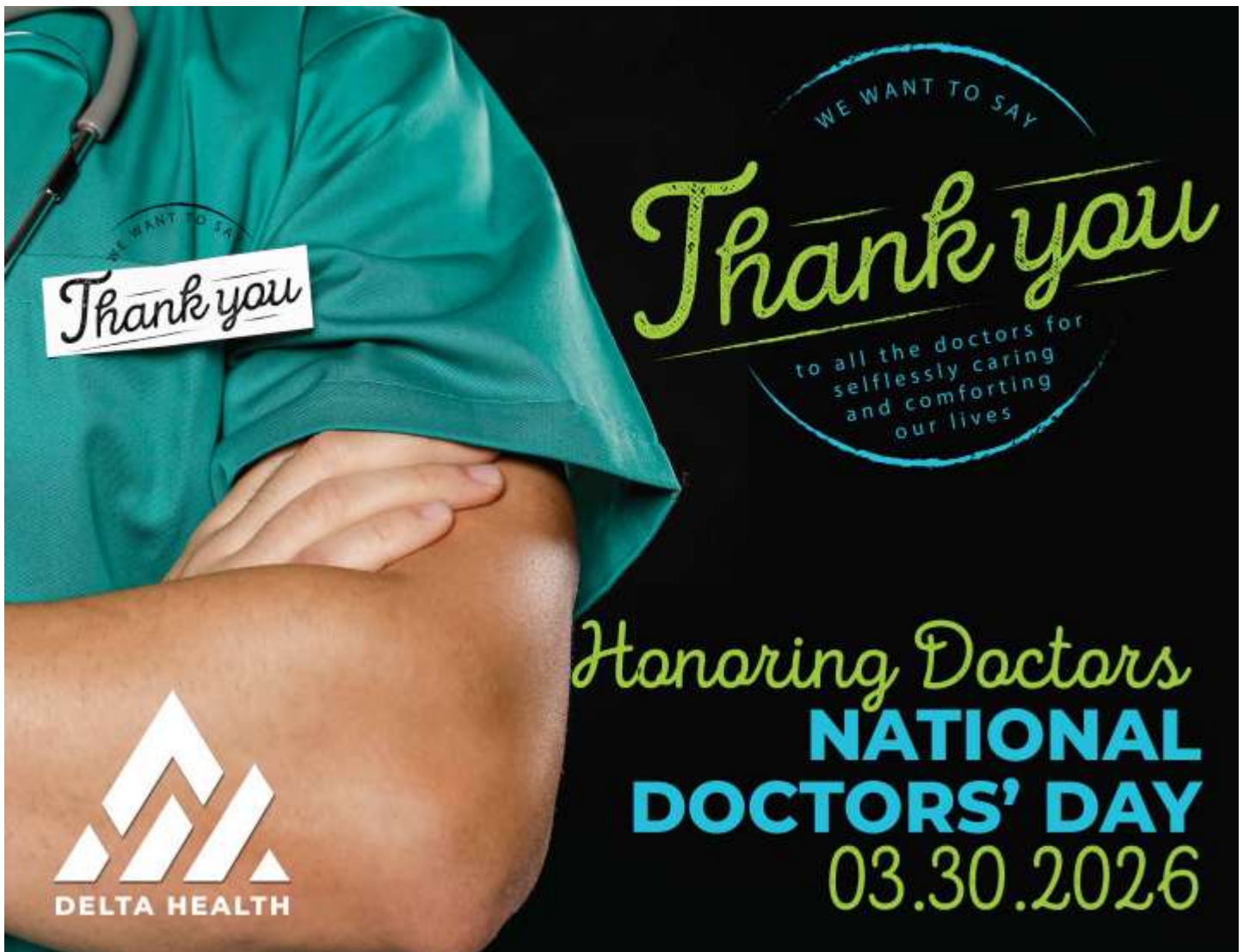
Special to the Mirror

PALISADE-To kick off the 2026 Colorado Agriculture Week, the Palisade Insectary, part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of a new growhouse. The 880 square foot building, along with existing greenhouse upgrades, greatly increases the Insectary's ability to produce biocontrol agents, which are supplied to agricultural producers and land managers across the state for control of noxious weeds.

Biocontrol agents are specially reared insects, such as mites, midges, and wasps, that target invasive plant and insect species. Non-native plants negatively impact the environment because they provide poor habitat for livestock and wildlife, crowd out native species, and heavy infestations can make the land unusable.

"The completion of this new, state-of-the-art growhouse is a significant milestone that will allow the Insectary to rear even more biocontrol agents, bolstering our efforts to help the entire state of Colorado manage invasive plant and insect species that harm crops, rangeland, and urban greenspaces," said Insectary Director Dan Bean.

The new structure provides four separate grow rooms with vertical growing capacity. These windowless rooms use LED lighting and specific temperature settings, enabling the Insectary to precisely control light and temperature for the plants that feed its various biocontrol agents, ultimately ensuring extended growing time.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SLOW DOWN AND SMELL THE FLOWERS THIS SPRING

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO— From March to April, the spring season in Colorado is marked by variable weather conditions. Colorado drivers may experience more dry road days, and perhaps a bit of anticipation to drive without delays, backups, and winter-related crashes. The temptation to increase speed or engage in other aggressive driving behaviors could forecast a citation.

When looking at four years of citation data (2021-2024) broken down by season, Spring had the highest number of citations (147,565), followed by Fall

(137,074).

“It’s common to have fluctuating temperatures in Spring and Fall, leading to slick roads after a beautiful day of sunshine,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “No matter how nice it feels to see blue skies and some green on the ground, we hold a responsibility to drive safely every day of the year.”

Over the four-year period (2021-2024), the most common citations issued by Colorado State Troopers in Spring (March – May) were:

1.Speeding (10-19 mph over)

2.Drove Vehicle When Safety Belt Not in Use

3.Careless Driving

4.Speeding (20-24 mph over)

6.Failed to present evidence of insurance upon request

Citations for speeding 10-19 mph over the speed limit were more than double the second most common citation type (125.49% more citations than seat belt citations).

“Daily driving on our roads isn’t intended to be a competitive sport. Reserve your adrenaline rush for the ski slope, athletic field, or court,” stated Col. Packard.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

JOIN US WED, APRIL 1 AT THE 10 A.M. MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING!

Dear Editor,

The Montrose Veterans Memorial is No. 8 on the agenda at the upcoming Montrose County commissioner meeting where they will consider the new memorandum of agreement and hopefully will sign it! See agenda here https://granicus_production_attachments.s3.amazonaws.com/montrose-county/55a37cfd0e28c13fb360afb6d82e2b870.html.

There will be many of us veterans there to thank the county and march us one more step toward spring construction of the memorial. We would like to fill the chambers with public support!

Next up will be the City of Montrose council meeting Monday, April 6 for their review of the MOA and possible signing. We are so thankful for the support!

The MVMC board of directors signed the MOA at their Wednesday, Mar. 25 meeting. We're on our way!

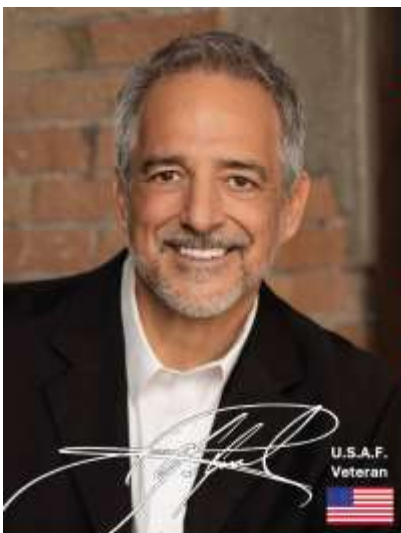
Planning is well underway and construction could begin next week.

Order your tribute bricks by May 1st for the first brick-laying ceremony this fall. www.montrosevmc.org

On behalf of the board,

Les Williams, President

J. Bob Brueske, Chairman



My Common-Sense Plan for Montrose!

I will advocate for City Charter Amendments allowing the voters decide to:

- **Establish Term Limits for City Council**
Lifetime limit of 8 years to bring fresh ideas and prevent entrenched leadership.
- **Move our City Elections to November**
To Increase Voter Participation and Save the Taxpayers up to \$15,000 per election
- **Grant voting rights in City elections to all residents who pay the Special Rec District Tax.**
No More Taxation without Representation
- **Grant voting rights in City elections to business owners who live in Montrose County and operate their business within the City limits.**

Additionally:

- I will call for an **Independent Forensic Audit** of city finances to establish full transparency.
- I will advocate for **Long Term Financial Planning** for major infrastructure projects to avoid more debt.
- I will push to **eliminate the "good old boy" system** and replace it with a fair process that stimulates our local economy.
- I will advocate for **humane, common-sense solutions for the unhoused** that do not raise taxes.

"I would be humbled and honored to be your voice."

**In Our Republic, We Elect Our Representatives,
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"

If you live in the city limits and have not yet received your ballot, visit city hall!

<https://MJB4Montrose.com>

Be part of the solution by casting your ballot before April 7th



MJB4Montrose.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A REQUEST FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM A NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Dear Editor:

Montrose Regional Hospital has publicly stated that its proposed partnership with Community Hospital in Grand Junction could generate “millions in annual savings” through efficiencies such as combined purchasing, shared technology, and improved reimbursements. That sounds promising. But for patients in this community, a simple question remains: where are those savings going?

Because, from a ground-level perspective, costs are not going down. Mammograms, imaging, and lab work are as expensive as ever, and in many cases more so. At the same time, the hospital continues to expand specialist services, when the helicopter can get someone to St. Mary's in 15-20 minutes.

Savings on one side of the ledger should show up somewhere on the other. If they are not lowering patient costs, then where is that money going?

This question becomes even more urgent in light of Montrose Regional Hospital's decision to move Humana and UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plans out of network. Patients are now forced to travel to Delta or Grand Junction for routine, in-network non-emergency care that is available there.

So here are the questions the public deserves answers to:

How much will this partnership actually save each year?

What portion of those savings will reduce patient costs?

Which services will become more affordable, and when?

And if costs are not going down, how does that align with a nonprofit hospital's obligation to serve its community?

This is not a criticism of growth or investment. It is a request for transparency and accountability from a non-profit community hospital.

If millions in savings are being realized, the community should be able to see the benefit.

Linda Gann, Montrose

LET'S MOVE COLORADO FORWARD

Dear Editor:

Many Colorado voters say they want better choices and a healthier political climate. Colorado Forward Party is working to make that possible. If you are tired of the polarization and believe our politics can work better, I encourage you to learn more about the Colorado Forward Party.

Forward is building something different. Instead of imposing a rigid policy platform, Forward candidates commit to core values such as respect for the rule of law, strengthening democracy, collaborating across differences, engaging with their constituents, and offering data-driven solutions to address real problems.

Colorado Forward Party also supports reforms that give voters more choices at the ballot box to bring new voices into leadership. Innovations like ranked-choice voting, nonpartisan primaries, and fair districting are designed to encourage cooperation, accountability, and a healthier democratic process.

The Colorado Forward Party is preparing for its remote Nominations Assembly, where it will hear from National Party leader Andrew Yang. The Candidate Committee will present vetted Forward Party candidates seeking public office, and voting members in attendance will choose which candidates will receive the party's nomination for upcoming elections. The assembly, which is open to all, will be held on Saturday, April 11th, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM.

Forward welcomes anyone, regardless of party affiliation, who believes our democracy works best when leaders collaborate and focus on solving problems. Our goal is simple: empower voters and build a political culture that works for the people of Colorado.

To learn more about the Colorado Forward Party, register for the Nominations Assembly, or get involved in your local Forward Party Community, visit coloradoforwardparty.com. Democracy works best when more citizens participate.

Janine Reid

Colorado Forward Party

Delta County and Montrose County Community Organizer



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE "NO KINGS" PROTESTS: AN AFFRONT TO AMERICA'S CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC

Editor:

On March 28, 2026, the "No Kings" protests unfolded across the United States. While some participants may hold genuine concerns about recent events, the movement itself spreads misinformation and outright falsehoods. Its leaders undermine the very foundation of our nation and are literally anti-American. They claim that "our democracy is under attack." The truth is that our Constitutional Republic faces assault, and the perpetrators are the organizers of this movement.

The Founders' Vision: A Constitutional Republic, Not a Democracy

The United States is a Constitutional Republic, not a democracy. This distinction stands at the heart of the founders' vision. They rejected pure democracy as unstable and dangerous.

-In *Federalist No. 10 and Federalist No. 14*, **James Madison** warned of the turbulence and follies that arise when factions dominate unchecked majorities.

-Virginia delegate **Edmund Randolph**, addressing the Constitutional Convention of 1787, explained that the delegates sought to cure evils traced directly to **"the turbulence and follies of democracy"**.

-**Thomas Paine** described democracy as **"the vilest form of government"**.

-**John Adams** cautioned in 1814 that **"democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself"**.

-Chief Justice **John Marshall** observed that **"the difference between a balanced republic and a democracy is like that between order and chaos"**.

-Historian **Charles Austin Beard** later noted that **"at no time did the American people proclaim the United States a democracy through solemn convention"**.

-The 1928 U.S. War Department training manual emphasized that the founders **"made a very marked distinction between a republic and a democracy and said repeatedly and emphatically that they had founded a republic"**.

-The Constitution enshrines this republi-

can form. **Article IV, Section 4** guarantees to every state in this Union **"a Republican Form of Government"**. This Guarantee Clause reflects the framers' intent to create a representative system with checks and balances rather than direct majority rule.

Key Legal and Constitutional Precedents Relevant legal and constitutional precedents reinforce the founders' design. The Guarantee Clause itself has been interpreted by the Supreme Court in *Luther v. Borden* (1849) as a political question committed to Congress, not the judiciary, underscoring that the republican form is a structural commitment rather than a judicially enforceable democratic mandate.

Article II vests all executive power in the President. Congressional laws that dilute this authority unconstitutionally disrupt the separation of powers the founders established.

On immigration enforcement, **8 U.S.C. Section 1325 criminalizes improper entry by an alien.** The statute imposes up to six months imprisonment for a first offense and up to two years for subsequent offenses. The Supreme Court has long affirmed broad federal authority over immigration as inherent to national sovereignty.

On election integrity, the **Supreme Court in *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board* (2008) upheld voter identification requirements as constitutional**, recognizing states' legitimate interest in preventing fraud without unduly burdening voters.

The Backers: Radical Far-Left Agendas Exposed

The backers of the "No Kings" movement expose its radical far-left agenda. **Neville Roy Singham**, an American tech billionaire who sold his company Thoughtworks for 785 million dollars in 2017, is a socialist benefactor and admirer of Maoism. He funds far-left causes worldwide and has partnered with entities tied to Chinese Communist Party propaganda. Reports

document his support for media outlets and activist groups that promote pro-China narratives and revolutionary socialist politics.

Indivisible, a leading organizer, pushes policies that defy established law. It opposes enforcement of immigration statutes such as 8 U.S.C. Section 1325 and demands "ICE out" because it rejects border security under Republican leadership. The group resists voter identification laws despite overwhelming public support across party lines for measures ensuring that only American citizens vote. These positions prioritize open borders and unrestricted participation over the rule of law.

The "No Kings" effort draws support from a network of more than 120 radical left-wing organizations. These groups advance an anti-American "pro-democracy" message that directly contradicts the founders' establishment of a Constitutional Republic. Their agenda seeks to erode constitutional safeguards rather than defend them.

The Real Threat to Our Republic

The true threat to our Republic comes not from those the protesters blame, but from the movement's leaders who mischaracterize our system and dismantle its pillars. Americans must reaffirm fidelity to the Constitutional Republic the founders envisioned, complete with its guarantees of representative government, separation of powers, and protection against majority tyranny. Only then can we preserve the liberties secured by our founding charter.

Just One Mans Humble Opinion.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a father of 5, grandfather of 3, USAF Veteran, International 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.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS GET A BITE OF REALITY! *Financial Reality Fair held to Promote Financial Literacy*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-NuVista Federal Credit Union & Black Canyon Rotary Club hosted the 9th Annual Financial Reality Fair for the seniors of Montrose High School, Olathe High School, Black Canyon High School, and PEAK on Thursday, March 19.

During the event, powered by the Bite of Reality APP, students gathered in McMullan Gymnasium, to learn about what goes into a monthly budget as an adult.

“My favorite part of the reality fair was deciding what to spend my money on. For example, I bought the premium food package because I wanted my family to be healthy, however, because I spent a lot of money on food, my husband had to ride a bus for transportation. It was interesting figuring out what to prioritize,” said MHS senior Presley Davis.

Each student was given a hypothetical life circumstance—a job, monthly salary, spouse and child, credit score, and student loans. They then had to navigate through different stations to make purchases for their monthly budget. OHS senior Andrew Greninger said, “I enjoyed the randomly generated scenarios, it mirrors real life pretty well since no two people have the same life experience or financial situations.”

The different stations included housing & utilities, transportation, childcare, entertainment, household needs, clothing & personal care, groceries & dining and shopping. In each station, students were guided by local, adult volunteers who helped the students make difficult, but appropriate choices among a variety of options to determine what would fit within their hypothetical monthly budget. The

students watched as each choice they made slowly dwindled their monthly income.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – On Saturday, March 28, 2026, almost 2,000 local Montrose, Ridgeway, Ouray and surrounding area residents came together along with over 8 million Americans across the country in a nationwide day of nonviolent protest at the third No Kings National Day of nonviolent action. There were almost 3,300 events planned nationwide and some internationally.

Protestors gathered in front of Montrose County's recently beautifully renovated old county courthouse now Montrose County government offices. The event centered around the theme “I AM A HUMAN” which was updated and a historical reference to “I AM A MAN.” “I AM A MAN” is a declaration of civil rights, of independence and against oppression. It has been used for: Black Lives Matter; Sí Se Puede (Yes We Can); Say Their Names; Vote; I Can't Breathe, the Memphis sanitation strike in 1968 and many more movements.

Community member Ron Meecham, aka “The Old Man”, spoke at the event in defense of and in support of, the LGBTQIA community. “Nowhere is it more dangerous for LGBTQIA children than at our public schools. White Christian nationalists are running public school boards across America. They want to use our public taxpayer dollars to fund private white Christian nationalist schools,” said Meecham. “They want to ban literature that teaches children of the dangers of authoritarianism, theocracies and individuality. But

they also want to ban books that would help children learn to love and accept themselves.”

Local Indivisible leader Holly Speaks shared after the event, “Our movement is growing. We are connecting with new people and getting them engaged in everyday activism and helping our neighbors.” Speaks added, “We had a baby in a stroller at her first protest today and parents were carrying a sign that said ‘Babies Over Bombs’. That was just ONE of the MANY powerful messages we want our community and members of government to hear from us.”

The event included singing by local choir San Juan Voices of Resistance, DJ Erik Valdez and a “giving table” for nonperishable food items that will be locally donated. No Kings is a mass, nonviolent movement that has already mobilized millions — from over five million participants on June 14, 2025 to over 7 million people joining 2,700+ events across all 50 states and the District of Columbia on October 18, 2025 — and is growing as communities unite to reject authoritarian power grabs and defend dignity and freedom.

The No Kings coalition organized the nonviolent protests across the country with other large organizations including the ACLU, American Federation of Teachers, Common Defense, 50501, Human Rights Campaign, Indivisible, League of Conservation Voters, MoveOn, National Nurses United, Public Citizen, SEIU, among others. A full list of partners can be seen at <https://www.nokings.org/partners>.

For a full list of participating cities, event details, and spokespeople available for interviews, visit www.NoKings.org or

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE DEBT: LACK OF PLANNING, NOT JUST INVESTMENTS

A Little Context

In any discussion about city finances, context matters. My opponent in the race for City Councils District 1 seat, Kevin Clay, recently defended Montrose's debt levels by pointing to our A+ credit rating and labeling major projects as necessary investments. He compared borrowing for infrastructure to a family mortgage. While strong credit is valuable and some debt may be unavoidable, this perspective misses critical flaws in how we reached this point.

The Core Issue

The core issue is not that Montrose has debt. The problem is why we carry so much of it. It stems from two main failures:

1. A lack of long-term foresight

2. Spending on nonessentials

Ignoring the Obvious

Consider our key facilities: The Wastewater Treatment Plant, constructed in 1984, is now 42 years old. Our Public Works facility dates to the 1960s, making it roughly 60 years old. Typical government buildings have a life expectancy around 25 years. Both needed replacement, which no one disputes. **But where was the financial planning and good stewardship of the taxpayers' dollars?** They were nowhere to be found. No reserves were built by setting aside a portion of the budget over decades to offset these inevitable costs, instead we just spent every last dollar that came in without regard or care for the future expenses

we knew were looming. Instead of proactive saving, we now borrow heavily.

Wasteful Spending on Non-Essentials

Compounding this, the city pursued less critical projects. When major infrastructure needs loomed, resources went toward things like **alleyway murals costing \$25,000 to \$50,000 each** and **fish statues for roundabouts at \$38,000** for the sculpture alone, before pedestal and installation. And giveaways with zero accountability for the use of taxpayer funds for things like commercial kitchens and other programs handed out like candy to those who are friends of the city administration. These choices strain the balance sheet with no actual accountability, leaving the taxpayers holding the bag when any of these project owners decides not to participate in providing tax revenue to the city either via a sale of the business after the improvements are made on the taxpayers dime or simply taking the funds and closing their doors.

The Public Works Facility Blunder

The Public Works facility decision stands out as particularly shortsighted. In 2006 the city bought 35 acres specifically for its eventual home. Rather than use that land, which showed real foresight by an earlier council, our council rubberstamped the proposal by the city manager and approved the new site. This required clearing trees and hauling in massive amounts of fill dirt. Taxpayers bore significant unnecessary costs. According to reports, this added approximately \$23 million to the

project, bringing the **total project cost for a maintenance garage near \$77 million**, not the \$54 million often cited.

Why the Defense Falls Short

Clay argues these are investments funded at good rates that leave the general fund intact. Yet better planning and wiser choices could have reduced borrowing needs dramatically. Debt is debt. It saddles our children and grandchildren regardless of labels.

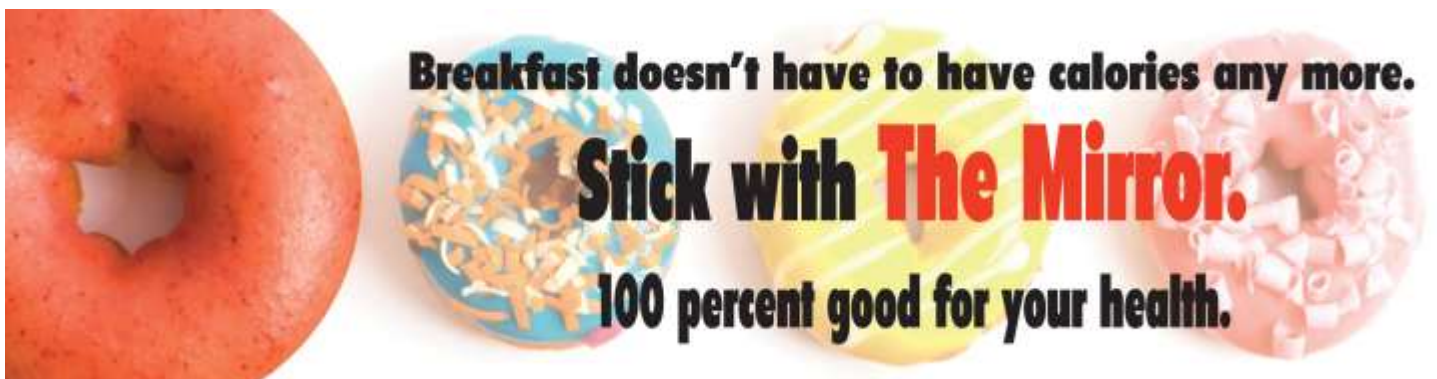
Leadership Matters

Most Montrose residents had little idea of the full debt picture until recently. We must demand transparency and true long-term planning. Government should operate lean and clean with minimal debt. Essential infrastructure deserves funding, but through disciplined budgeting, not repeated borrowing after avoidable expenses. A cycle that has become all too common when it is *"the people's money."* Montrose deserves leaders focused on functionality and fiscal responsibility over showpieces. By addressing these planning gaps, we can build a stronger future without overburdening future generations.

Just One Mans Humble Opinion.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a father of 5, grandfather of 3, USAF Veteran, International 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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PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY GRINDS ON AS MONEY FLOWS From pg 1

meeting. There were no changes to the agenda, and no Public Comment.

Annual Meeting:

Proof of Publication Foreman said that the annual meeting was noticed in three local print newspapers.

Manager’s Report – Adam Turner

Process Control

Turner said, “Snowpack is very low. It’s tracking really close to 1976/1977, with 47 to 33 percent of normal. Fifty percent of Blue Mesa is full. Blue Mesa and Taylor will probably not fill. South Canal is on for the summer.” Turner touched on surveys, evaluations, and the annual report.

He went through the annual report, a spiral bound multi-paged report, and highlighted specific pages. Turner said, “We’ll put some of these pages on our webpage that will answer some of the most asked questions [from the public]. We are working with Mayberry Auditors trying to get it to us in a more timely manner.”

Consumption Report

Turner said, “We are tracking pretty well; 400,000 gallons above 2025. There is an uptick in water use already. People are watering faster this year.”

Cash Flow Report

Turner said, “February shows capital investments. Interest income is up this year. [Packet information shows] loan and grant reimbursements. Expenses are tracking well; 17 percent or less. Debt service is a little high because it’s only made twice a year.”

Updates CFO introduction

Turner said, “The CFO [recently hired] is not available tonight. She had [previous] family plans.”

Referring to the annual report, Foreman Matt Miles said, “I requested this to be put in the [board] packet so we can review. This is what we need to review. This is what I requested. It’s very difficult for me to absorb when we jump around like this [verbal report]. You asked if we have any questions, but if we haven’t had a chance to look at it, how can we have questions?”

Speaking to the Chair, he said, “Jake, I don’t mean to be a pain in the ass but



The Project 7 Water Authority held a work session and regular monthly meeting on March 26. Two dozen attendees included newly established Technical Advisory Group (TAG), board alternates, and interested citizens. Photo by Gail Marvel.

explain to me what is in this report.”

Foreman, who had not yet seen the report, said, “I’ll review it and put it before [Olathe] members.”

Speaking to Manager Adam Turner, Vicki Ripp said, “You had this [annual report] before this week? It was in your computer. Send it out. Look how long it took [for you] to go over it.”

Foreman asked Turner, “Are we going to have to start [water] rationing?”

Turner said, “We treat the water, but we don’t set limits on what you [entities] use. No one is foreseeing that we will have to do that. You’ll get 100 percent of what you guys need. [Rationing] is not under our jurisdiction.”

Jake Foreman said, “We [Olathe] are looking at cutting back.”

Turner said, “You should get 100 percent from us.”

Legal Update – Tim Flynn sitting in for Attorney James Silvestro (Zoom).

Flynn said, “I don’t have anything to report.”

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

During the January 2026 board meeting, board members had acknowledged their lack of expertise and the need for a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was determined. TAG is made up of experts from all six member entities.

With Program Manager Engineer Rick Huggins facilitating, TAG has held three meetings. In his lengthy summary report Huggins emphasized TAG is an advisory group only and does not have authority to make decisions.

Matt Miles questioned Huggins on best practices and having a two or three page summary in the board packet, rather than the full report.

The Huggins summary identified three risks:

- Financial/Affordability
- Organizational/Governance (management team’s request to downsize the current P7 board structure).
- Aging P7 Water Treatment Plant.

Facility Master Plan

PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY GRINDS ON AS MONEY FLOWS *From previous pg*

It was disclosed that Project 7 does not have a Facility Master Plan, which should include the facility and the existing water lines. Huggins, noting his past relationship and work experience with Project 7, said, "I would like to make that plan for you."

David Bries said, "The decision for the board is, do we continue with HDR [Huggins' firm], or do we go out with an RFP [Request for Proposal]?"

City of Montrose Engineer Scott Murphy contributed to the discussion. He said, "Let me chime in. A lot of work needs to be done. Ridgway [proposed second water treatment plant project] isn't going to make a difference; Ridgway won't save this. You need to look at facility expansion here [current location]."

Foreman was ready to move on with the agenda, but Ripp said, "We need a Facility Master Plan."

Matt Miles asked Bries, "What were you talking about, an RFP or RFQ [Request for Quotation]?"

Bries said, "We're kind of slipping back. Do we continue with HDR, or do we slow the process down? It will be two or three months to do an RFP or RFQ. A higher cost to bring in someone new and get them up to speed."

Matt Miles said, "But also it would be fresh eyes. The pros and cons. How do you scope an RFP?"

Chair Foreman broke into the discussion by asking Randy Meaker, who was engaged in a side bar discussion at the back of the room, to return to the table and be part of the board discussion.

Bries said, "Adam needs direction on how to move forward."

Matt Miles said, "Let's address the elephant in the room. If the City of Montrose doesn't want it to happen, it won't happen."

Bries said, "We don't even know if we have a viable project."

Matt Miles said, "A good way to get fresh eyes. A fresh look. Have the TAG group come up with an RFP."

Bries said, "If we go with someone else [other than HDR] we are delaying." Matt Miles said, "It's been delayed 13 months; what's wrong with another delay?"

Huggins asked the board to make a decision on where they stand with the Cost

Allocation presented at a previous meeting. Matt Miles said, "Rick, we're trying to re-scope and re-focus."

Bries said, "We are not in agreement on the Cost Allocation."

On Zoom, D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz said, "The Cost Allocation [is needed] regardless of the project."

The TAG will meet next week and work on an RFP for the Facility Master Plan.

Old Business

Easement – Following discussion on an easement near the Ridgway site, the board approved the purchase of an easement for \$8,100.

New Business

Chipeta Proposal for Additional Audit – Matt Miles

Matt Miles said, "We're proposing a forensic audit on the Resiliency Project. We've spent an unknown amount, \$17 to \$20 million to date. We need previous invoices. I'd like to know where the money has gone; reconstruct where the money went. Give the board a crystal-clear picture of where money has been spent to date."

Bries said, "Maybe not an audit, but an accounting."

On Zoom Swartz said, "We hired a third party to provide accounting services. I discourage a forensic audit [because of expense]. We were planning to do this anyway."

Matt Miles said, "I'm baffled. We put a transformer deposit down that we probably won't use. Can we return the transformer for a 15 percent restocking fee?"

Swartz said, "The board has given authority for everything to date." Swartz suggested the new CFO make a chart of accounts for the board.

Background Excerpt from the Montrose Mirror report for the February 27, 2025 board meeting.

San Miguel Power Transformer Procurement (Action)

Manager Turner would like to order a new transformer that will be needed for the second water treatment facility. The cost for the transformer with installation is \$227,971.

Indicating he feels the transformer is not needed at this time, John McCollum said, "That's getting the cart before the horse."

Ripp said, "It only improves, it's not the cart before the horse. We have already decided that we are going to move forward. It will only improve our property."

The purchase of the transformer was approved in a four to two vote. Chipeta Water District John McCollum and City of Delta Mayor Kevin Carlson voted against the expenditure.

Election of Officers

Chair Vicki Ripp

Vice Chair Randy Meaker

Secretary/Treasurer David Bries

Adjourned

Project 7 Background:

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

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

The City of Montrose

The City of Delta

The Town of Olathe

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District

The Chipeta Water District

The Menoken Water District

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

Project 7 Board meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, begin at 4:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are available on Zoom.

Board packet materials, which are unavailable to the public, are circulated to board members prior to the meeting.

Project 7 Contact Information:

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

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

The City of Delta Ron White ronwhite@cityofdeltanet

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

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

The Chipeta Water District Matt Miles matt@leadershipcirclellc.com 970-249-3398

The Menoken Water District Randy Meaker 970 249-5118

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

Get Your Home Market-Ready In April: To-Do List

January

- ✓ Declutter each room (start small)
- ✓ Tackle minor repairs early
- ✓ Improve indoor lighting
- ✓ Schedule furnace / HVAC service
- ✓ Create a timeline and budget

February

- ✓ Refresh interior paint
- ✓ Repair or replace worn flooring
- ✓ Service chimney + water heater
- ✓ Plan curb appeal for early spring

March

- ✓ Deep-clean kitchen + bathrooms
- ✓ Spruce up landscaping
- ✓ Perform final touch-ups
- ✓ Organize for staging

April

- ✓ Finish staging
- ✓ Professional photography
- ✓ Prepare marketing launch!



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

GIVE SPACE TO AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS

How you respond can reduce your risk of a crash

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Whether driving on a highway or community street, every motorist has experienced another driver making an unsafe lane change, a hand gesture or tailgating. Being the target of these behaviors often causes an emotional reaction, but how you respond can either restore a safe environment or increase the risk to yourself and other roadway users.

Colorado State Patrol crash data shows that last year, lane violations were the top causal factor for injury and fatal crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol. Troopers investigated over 684 fatal and injury lane violation crashes caused by lane violations in 2025, a 6.7% increase over 2024 (641).

These crashes occurred consistently every day of the week, but the peak times fell between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

“There are several reasons that drivers may cut another person off. A person could be distracted, driving aggressively, or miscalculate the distance between vehicles,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Despite the frustration it causes, the reason doesn’t matter at that moment. Instead of reacting, create distance and space between you and that driver. You matter more than any real or perceived affront.”

When making a lane change, drivers must wait for a gap in traffic to leave a safe distance between vehicles. Once a driver sees an opening, turn on the turn signal and check all mirrors and blind spots to move into the desired lane safely and smoothly. Unsafe or aggressive lane changes can cause crashes when another driver doesn’t have time to react.

“If someone cuts you off, the worst thing you can do is create a new hazard by reacting out of anger or frustration,” stated Chief Packard. “Don’t escalate the situation. It’s very possible that the initial incident was never about you and you can regain control of the situation by putting space between you and that driver.”

If you encounter an aggressive driver who is putting other motorists at risk, avoid them by getting out of the way, not making eye contact, responding with a hand gesture or indicating disapproval of their driving behavior. Contact the Colorado State Patrol as soon as it is safe to do so by pulling over and calling *CSP (*277).

Be prepared to provide the following information: vehicle description, license plate number, location and direction of travel, driver description, and the aggressive driving behavior being demonstrated.



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**Rib City
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**Stone House
970-240-8899**



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



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORICAL PRESENTATION BY ELAINE HALE JONES APRIL 1

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Museum will be presenting a program by celebrated local author, Elaine Hale Jones. She will be discussing her most recent publication "LANDSCAPES LOST; Pioneering Ventures into Uncharted Waters, The Gunnison Tunnel Story."

This book focuses on the construction of the Gunnison Tunnel and the communities of Lujane (West Portal) and River (East Portal)

that were built to house workers and their families. Ms. Jones will share stories and photographs from her family's involvement in this historic project.

Copies of LANDSCAPES LOST will be available for purchase at the event.

Remember, we have had a recent CHANGE OF VENUE!

This presentation will be on Wednesday, April 1st at 7:00pm in the

Pioneer Room at Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds.

Please use the smaller door to the left of the main doors.

The venue will be open by 6:30.

As always, the program is free to attend and open to the public.

Light refreshments will be provided.

We hope to see you there!



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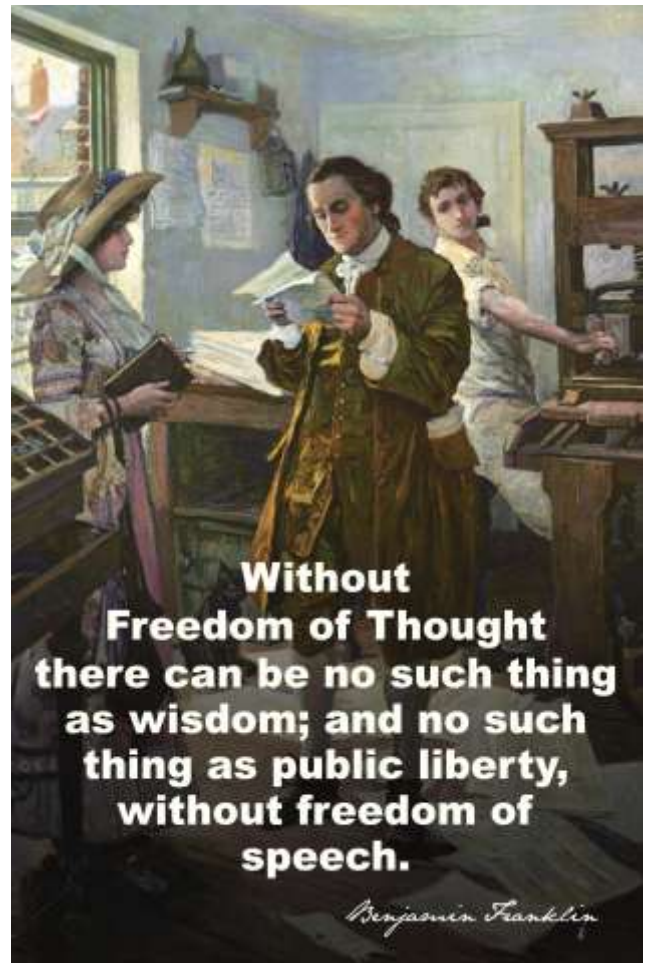
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MOST AMERICANS WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT BUSINESS-AS-USUAL POLITICS

Editor:

As anyone remotely aware of current events knows, another innocent young woman was brutally murdered by an illegal immigrant with a long criminal record but out on the streets because sanctuary cities don't want to jail violent thugs. This was yet another murder at the hands of a known violent illegal alien who was welcomed into this country by the Biden Administration and released again and again to commit crimes with impunity. This time it was in Chicago; the victim 18-year-old Loyola University student Sheridan Gorman, a name you won't hear from Democrat politicians or the liberal media. Chicago mayor Johnson refused the opportunity to apologize to the victim's family. That same week Johnson announced his opposition to putting murderers in prison. Governor Pritzker announced his opposition to immigration enforcement, and even refused to turn over Gorman's murderer to ICE. The Democrat city alderman posted a video essentially blaming the victim for being in the wrong place (she wasn't). Another name Democrat's won't say is Richard Williams. He is the 83-year-old veteran and grandfather who passed away this week from his injuries after another illegal with 15 prior arrests arbitrarily shoved him onto a NYC subway track. No word, of course, from Marxist mayor Mamdani. To give you an idea of how liberals think, after reporting on Gorman's murder, the Loyola school newspaper issued an apology to the murderer for calling him an illegal immigrant – worrying more about the thug than the life of their fellow student. Let that sink in. One only has to listen to Democrat Sen. Murphy of Connecticut to understand fully how far gone Democrats are: “The people we care about the most are illegal migrants.”

When illegals commit murder and rape, Democrats are only concerned about people being “racist.” rather than being concerned about the actual murderers and rapists. When transgenders disproportionately commit mass murder, Democrats are only concerned about people being “transphobic.” When Islamists commit terrorism, the left's concern is only for

people being “Islamophobic.” They never care about the victims, and certainly don't care about this country. They only care about their own narrative. Democrats can't govern. They are on the wrong side of every issue important to Americans and they have no workable policies. Blue states are a disaster, functionally insolvent, and riddled with fraud. Dems wholeheartedly supported Biden's wide-open border that ushered in 20 million unvetted third world illegals, because they need them to regain political power – plain and simple. Democrats hate ICE because it deports their illegal voter base. They hate DOGE because it caught payments to their illegal voting base. They hate the Save America Act because it stops their illegal voting base from voting. Liberals are losing and they know it. They are desperately inflicting as much pain on American citizens as possible, and attempting to shift the blame onto Republicans: “This is what happens when Republicans are in charge.” A current example: Democrats are straight up sabotaging TSA pay and turning airports into chaos just to shield their beloved illegals from ICE enforcement. Screw TSA agents being overworked and overwhelmed and their families missing paychecks – they have to protect their future voters at all costs! This is all Democrats are going to do until the November elections -- inflict as much pain on the country as they can, and try to blame Republicans. This is their strategy and they aren't even being subtle about it. That strategy is shockingly stupid and totally corrupt, but it is all they have.

Meanwhile, the “No Kings” faithful will have their little protests to try to reinforce their narrative that all the pain and suffering is the Republican's fault. Unlike Sheridan Gorman and Richard Williams, they will then all go home at the end of the day because, despite their best efforts, we still live in a country that allows free speech. Of course, none of their cute little signs will protest their deaths. Likewise for Saleh Mohammadi, the 19-year-old champion wrestler and his two companions just publicly hanged by the Iranian regime for protesting. Or, how about 16-year-old

Atefah Sahaleeh who was also hanged by the Iranian regime? Her crime? She was raped. These people will never be able to return to their families. Why? Because they lived their lives under real authoritarianism, not the made-up kind that exists only in the minds of liberals. Not only will you not see any “No Kings” people protesting their deaths, you will actually see them protesting sane actions taken against the very real tyrants responsible for their deaths.

The “No Kings” protesters will never admit it, but they hate Donald Trump because he rejected all of the “experts” and brought in outsiders to fix the havoc and damage wreaked by those “experts” – most of whom were Democrats. At this point, we have Democrats doing everything possible to sabotage the vitally necessary reversal of Democrat failures. Everything you see the Democrats doing at this time can be understood through that prism. It's very similar to what is happening with Nick Shirley in Governor Newsom's California. Shirley called out Newsom this week: “How sick does a governor have to be to say that the kid exposing the fraud is the bad person versus the fraudsters that are stealing the money?” Newsom is attacking the messenger while the real crooks loot California. Democrats want to destroy Trump, but what they don't understand is that it is now larger than Trump. The majority of Americans were searching for someone willing and strong enough to fight the corruption and preserve our freedoms. They found that in Donald Trump and are now totally awakened and motivated. Most Americans will no longer accept business-as-usual politics. They no longer have to choose between the ugliness of America-hating liberals and back-stabbing RHINOs. Democrats can have their little protests and smear Trump all they want. They can do all the cheerleading for illegals and real tyrants they want. America is now totally aware that Democrats have betrayed their country in their blind quest for power, and recognize their ridiculous antics for what they are: poor political theater.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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RED HAWKS SPORTS WITH CLIFF DODGE

VARSITY BASEBALL:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 13, RIFLE BEARS 12

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Rifle Bears and the Montrose Red Hawks spent last Saturday afternoon scoring multiple runs through eight innings, with the Red Hawks finally prevailing 13 to 12. The Red Hawks wasted little time in establishing their offense as they pushed across 3 runs in the bottom of the first inning. The Bears then produced 4 runs of their own in the top of the second inning and added a single run in the top of the third inning to increase their lead to 5-3.

Both teams added a run in the sixth inning and then the bats started to boom. The Bears increased their lead to 6-3, but were unable to hold the lead. The Red Hawks scored 4 times in their half of the inning to lead 8-6. The eighth inning was pivotal as the Bears scored 4 times to increase their lead to 12-8. The Red Hawks then laced up their hitting shoes and pushed across 5 runs for a final score of 13 to 12 in favor of the Red Hawks.

Chazz Miller led the Red Hawks hit parade as he went 3 for 3 and knocked in 5 runs. Jayce England had two hits in the ball game and also scored a pair of runs. Trevor Hatch, Cade Saunders, Ryan Pankey, Zander Buehrle, Connor Jennings, Wes Rhodes and Co-han Sauter all contributed base hits to the 11-hit attack. The Red Hawks walked five times in the game and went down on strikes seven times.

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ PANTHERS 17, RED HAWKS 15

The Montrose Red Hawks hit the road last Tuesday and took on the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers in far Southwestern Colorado. Both teams brought their big bats and used them liberally. The Panthers scored 5 times in the first two innings before the Red Hawks were able to push 2 runs across in the top of the third inning. The Red Hawks really started to roll in the fourth inning as they scored 5 times and then plated 8 more runs in the fifth inning. The Panthers, not to be outdone, scored 12 times in the final three frames to take a 17-15 victory over the Red Hawks. The visitors scored their 15 runs on 12 hits that included 2 doubles and 13 singles. The Red Hawks received five bases on balls and struck out three times while stealing five bases. The Red Hawks stranded 3 base runners while committing multiple errors in the field.

DELTA PANTHERS 10, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1

The neighbors to the north, the Delta Panthers, came calling last Thursday and outscored the home team by the score of 10 to 1. The Panthers wasted no time in establishing their dominance as they scored 5 runs in the top of the first frame. The Panthers continued to score and tallied 5 additional runs throughout the seven-inning affair. The Red Hawks managed to push across a single run in their half of the final inning, making the score 10-1 in favor of the Panthers.

The Red Hawks managed only four base hits and a single run. Chazz Miller scored the Red Hawks' only run while Brennan Barnett, Chase Gleason, Conner Jennings and Wes Rhoades accounted for the Red Hawks' 4 base knocks. The Red Hawks had one base on balls and struck out 17 times while leaving five runners on base.

VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE:

TELLURIDE MINERS 14, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 4

The Red Hawks Boys Lacrosse Team suffered its fifth defeat of the young season last Wednesday as they fell to the home-standing Telluride Miners 14 to 4. The Miners established control of the game in the first quarter of play as they scored 6 times in the opening frame and added 6 more goals compared with only 2 goals for the Red Hawks. Both the Miners and the Red Hawks each scored twice in the final two quarters.

The Red Hawk's Senior Maverick Powers led all Red Hawk scorers as he found the back of the net three times. Freshman Wyatt McPhail also scored for the Red Hawks while another freshman, Jack Payne, was credited with an assist. Senior Goaltender Patrick Alvarez faced 32 enemy shots and saved 18.

Next up for the Lacrosse team will be a match with the Durango Demons on Tuesday, March 31 at the Columbine Junior High School pitch. First faceoff will be at 4pm.

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE:

FRUITA-MONUMENT 14, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks Girls Lacrosse Team suffered its sixth straight defeat at the hands of the Fruita-Monument Wildcats on Friday, March 27 by the score of 14 to 1. The loss dropped the girls' lacrosse record to 0-6 overall and 0-3 in league action. The Mullen Mustangs come calling next Monday with first faceoff scheduled for 4pm.

CO-ED TRACK & FIELD:

The Montrose Co-Ed Track and Field team traveled to the North Fork and continued their solid track and field performance. There were 23 high schools that participated in the competition. The following is a look at the Montrose Red Hawks who participated and placed in the competition.

RED HAWKS SPORTS WITH CLIFF DODGE From previous pg

The Montrose Co-Ed Track and Field team traveled to the North Fork and continued their solid track and field performance. There were 23 high schools that participated in the competition. The following is a look at the Montrose Red Hawks who participated and placed in the competition.

GIRLS

100-meter dash	1 st	Marisha Lutz	13.20 second
	4 th	Emarie Simpson	13.44 seconds
200-meter dash	8 th	Naomi Lokey	29.18 seconds
800-meter run	5 th	Millie Crane	2:34.57 seconds
1600-meter run	7 th	Naomi McGarry	5:49.34 seconds
4x100-meter relay	1 st	Montrose	51.95 seconds
4x200-meter relay	1 st	Montrose	1:48.51 seconds
4x800-meter relay	3 rd	Montrose	10:39.00 seconds
High Jump	5th	Makenna Cline	4.6.00 feet
Triple Jump	6th	Hope Stephens	30:7.50 feet
Discus	2nd	Makenna Cline	100 feet 7 inches
Shot Put	5 th	Tanner Bielak	29 feet, 8 inches

BOYS:

100-meter dash	3 rd	Deklan Woodden	11:41 seconds
200-meter dash	3 rd	Cutter Travers	23.53 seconds
400-meter dash	1 st	Josiah Graff	52.04 Seconds
3200-meter run	5 th	Conner Quaid	11:34.60 seconds
300-meter hurdles	6 th	Lucas Hesse	46.33 seconds
4x199 meter relay	2 nd	Montrose	44.29 seconds
4x200 meter relay	3 rd	Montrose	1:32.02 seconds
4x400 meter relay	3 rd	Montrose	3:46.04 seconds
4x800meter relay	3 rd	Montrose	9:10.74 seconds
Shot Put	3 rd	Easton Jessop	45 feet 10 inches

RED HAWKS BOYS LA CROSSE



The Red Hawks prepare to take on the Telluride Miners. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

HOW DID MONTROSE BECOME THE WORST CITY IN COLORADO FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSECURITY?

Editor:

In June 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson* that municipalities may enforce laws prohibiting camping or sleeping on public property, even if shelter space is unavailable. The majority opinion claims camping bans are not designed to discriminate against homeless people and that penalties target the conduct of unauthorized camping instead of the status of the person performing the conduct (*Oregon v. Johnson*, 2024). Under this logic, a college student camping on public lands that exceeds the allotted timeframe should be equally penalized to the homeless person and vice versa. However, the conduct of unauthorized camping is overwhelmingly performed by unsheltered people for the purposes of survival, so the penalties disproportionately affect them. The effectuated outcomes of this ruling far-exceed stated authorial intentions. The *City of Grants Pass* ruling sets a new and critical precedent in municipal homeless legislation and allows municipalities like the City of Montrose to opt into the abandonment of entire insecurely housed subpopulations within the constituency—all of which has direct implications for the morbidity and mortality rates of the poorest of the poor (Chang et al., 2021).

In a confirming response to the *City of Grants Pass* ruling, the City of Montrose quickly passed Ordinance 2670 in November 2024, which is designed to ban camping and sleeping on public property. Camping on private property also has time limitations in our jurisdiction. We were able to compare Ordinance 2670 to Colorado Revised Statutes and 33 other Colorado municipal ordinances seeking to regulate similar conduct. The municipalities reviewed were based on comparable censuses. According to our findings, **Montrose is the only city using a three-offense penalty structure and mandatory jail sentencing for unauthorized camping.** The first penalty is a \$100.00 fine—which few low-income people will be able to pay. The second penalty is the possibility of jail left to the discretion of Montrose Municipal Court, and the third penalty is a mandatory minimum of 10 days in jail. There is

no discernible cap on the penalty cycle. All other Colorado municipalities reviewed simply have a single penalty structure that includes the possibility of fines or jail typical of other civil infractions. **Ordinance 2670 applies to all city zones, which essentially makes it illegal to be homeless in our town.** Independent review of other Colorado municipal codes seeking to regulate unauthorized camping is encouraged.

The City of Montrose Municipal Court began live-streaming its court proceedings and became a “court of record” as of last week, and that remediation occurred only after being pressured to do so with the creation of recent state legislation. **According to Colorado Freedom Fund, our court was one of very few municipal courts that had remained a “court not of record” and was likely the only court in the state that sentenced people to jail as a “court not of record” (Tabachnik 1). Being a “court of non-record” means limited written, audio, or visual recordings of court proceedings are kept, and a court must meet criteria in its practices to become a court of record. The historical lack of live-streaming of court proceedings for virtual observation is also a limitation of transparency. As a volunteer court-watcher that attends court proceedings in-person, I have witnessed a homeless visibly frail man in his late 60’s receive no defense counsel while being sentenced to jail for camping.** I’ve witnessed an older indigent man with a walker be fined the \$100.00 penalty. I’ve witnessed a homeless defendant with traumatic brain injury and schizophrenia diagnoses have closed door plea negotiations that included the possibility of jail with the prosecuting city attorney. This occurred outside the courtroom at city hall with no defense counsel present. According to one of our local public defenders, one of her homeless clients undergoing chemotherapy has been multiply cited for no other reason than being homeless. This same defense attorney reports minimal referrals for court-appointed counsel (Tabachnik 3). **This is a significant infringement on the constitutional right to defense. In fact, the practices of Montrose Municipal Court were so poor in**

maintaining basic legal standards that our city was the cornerstone case study used to substantiate House Bill 26-1134, “Fairness and Transparency in Municipal Court,” a recent state bill that is now being reviewed for approval by the Colorado Senate. The bill is designed to ensure livestream is available for court proceedings and independent indigent defense is provided for a defendant charged with a municipal code violation for which there is a possible sentence of incarceration.

The City of Montrose is in the process of amending its land development regulations to include emergency shelters. A small shelter already exists, yet the city does not facilitate grants or provide minimal funding for it, making the shelter’s capacity to open each winter season precarious. Given the lack of material support for the existing shelter, the passage of a municipal land amendment that includes emergency sheltering is symbolic and merely legalizes the current shelter as an ad hoc intervention. There are no movements from the city to begin materially supporting the current shelter, and **in the past five years, city management has denied at least three attempts to create an adequate year-round emergency shelter with case management for the growing need.** To compare, the neighboring municipalities of Delta and Grand Junction actively help to fund their respective low-barrier resource centers and shelters by way of grants and funding.

The City of Montrose recently facilitated a task force with community stakeholders to identify low-income and permanent supportive housing as interventions, but the phased implementation of this requires aligned funding, which can take years. In the meantime, the city continuously enforces its camping ban, even in the winter months.

The cycle of being continuously cited, fined and jailed creates an unlivable circumstance for unsheltered people that camp, especially if the shelter is full. It has an expulsive effect that pushes them out of city boundaries and into increasingly isolated, remote and hazardous areas removed from immediate access to vital services, including warmth, emergency

HOW DID MONTROSE BECOME THE WORST CITY IN COLORADO FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSECURITY? From previous pg

and other medical care, crisis support, detox and access to medications and mental health management. It exacerbates the likelihood of hypothermia, hyperthermia and dehydration, especially in a rural context like Montrose. Unsheltered people need to live near organized human society with goods and services to survive like everyone else. **Staying close to town and utilizing basic necessities against the elements like camping gear are life-preserving actions, especially for those that may be older and compromised.** Forcible abatement also mitigates the potential of the individual to stabilize and attend to higher order tasks beyond day-to-day survival. **The combination of imposing the severest penalties possible, denying basic resources like adequate emergency shelter, and limiting transparency and due process protections in municipal court—essentially allows our city to expel and banish the majority of our local homeless population.**

Individuals that are chronically homeless are a subset population that constitute some of the most vulnerable within our society. Chronic and severe health, mental health and substance use disorders; traumatic brain injury and cognitive and developmental impairment are disproportionately represented within this population (University of Denver Center for Housing and Homelessness Research, 2021), as are older adults and veterans experiencing moral injury, PTSD and other co-morbidities (*Oregon v. Johnson*, 2024). Serial traumatization from sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and neglect over the life course is disproportionately represented among people experiencing chronic homelessness. Trauma is often a precursor to mental health and substance use disorders, but not always, as some mental health concerns stem predominately from predisposition (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

Recovery, as it is presently understood and will likely continue to evolve with ongoing research, is best achieved using the individual's own internal resources, motivations and reasons for change (Miller & Rollnick, 2013). It has to work for

the person, and it cannot be forced any more than genuine faith, value systems, personal affinities, or changes to physical health behaviors can be forced onto a person. It is well-known in addiction treatment that the use of coercion does not work to achieve permanent sobriety. If force, court-ordered treatment and "making conditions difficult enough" to the extent people actually pursue treatment worked in a sustained way for everyone, we would have solved substance addiction a long time ago. Recovery is often a process, and relapse is common, but certainly not inevitable (Prochaska, DiClemente & Norcross, 1992). Recovery is self-defined, as some individuals will achieve permanent sobriety—which is how recovery is traditionally conceptualized—while others will be able to maintain cyclical sobriety. Recovery also pertains to mental health symptoms, as some individuals will achieve a permanent reduction or elimination of symptoms and maintain social and occupational functioning, while others will cycle in both of those spheres.

People deserve support in the task of self-actualization and to achieve the restoration to wholeness that is always possible (Walsh, 2013). We know that safe, consistent and supportive human relationships are foundational to recovery (Mate & Mate, 2024). Recovery is a highly individualized task specific to the person, but it's usually achieved in the context of supportive others. This does not mean that people with unmanaged disorders cannot be expected to be accountable and responsible to the society, and are without moral culpability, but again, these expectations are usually achieved in the supported recovery process (Miller & Rollnick, 2013).

In response to the expulsive effect of the city's camping ban, the First United Methodist Church of Montrose opened its doors to unsheltered people last winter season. The church employed the principles of harm reduction, which is a public health approach prioritized in the policies and practices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Harm reduction supports treatment and focuses primarily on reducing the potential adverse consequences associated with substance use (Carter, Miller & Hall, 2012). Harm reduction follows the overarching philosophy that keeping people "alive and preventing irreparable damage is a higher priority than achieving abstinence from substances in the short term" (Carter, Miller & Hall, 2012, p. 113). Even if a person is not in active recovery and treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, it's critical to preserve the person's life. It means the valuation of the life of a person is not contingent on permanent sobriety or the pursuit of recovery—which is a tenet of both harm reduction and many people of faith. Harm reduction does not guarantee the preservation of life, but it seeks to preserve life to the greatest extent possible. The church offered a stable place with warmth to keep people from freezing to death and a responsive social structure that prevented two potentially fatal overdoses. In return, the City of Montrose issued daily zoning violation citations to the church, which had it been pursued, would have exceeded \$80,000 in fines. The church is currently on a 12-month probationary period.

City management regularly collects survey data from the Montrose constituency, and as early as 2017, homelessness has been flagged as a concern (City of Montrose, 2024, 2:07:43). We are nearly a decade in since the initial reporting of this thematic concern. **If homeless encampments within city parks and church properties are concerning, the larger question should be raised as to why city management has chosen to opt into a severely reactive stance that emphasizes expulsion—instead of responding to actual constituent need in a timely manner and planning accordingly.** The City of Montrose has been the subject of multiple statewide news articles as it relates to city management's singularly unique severity towards homelessness—all of which has been covered by CPR, KKCO 11 News, *The Denver Post* and others. According to our

HOW DID MONTROSE BECOME THE WORST CITY IN COLORADO FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSECURITY? *From previous pg*

local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and qualitative surveys, there are approximately 170-220 literally homeless individuals in Montrose, and the majority of them are from our city or have close familial ties. It's a necessary and addressable issue that pertains to our constituents. Please research this information and incorporate it into the larger portrait of city council candidates vying for consideration within this General Municipal Election cycle. **Election day is Tuesday, April 7th. You can register to vote and complete a ballot as late as election day.** You can do so by registering at the Montrose County offices at 317 S. 2nd St. Bring your driver's license or a utility bill to indicate you have lived in Montrose for at least 22 days. Most candidates have websites detailing respective platforms.

There are two incumbents and eight new city council candidates. It's encouraged to hold each of these ten potential candidates to account and ask them how they plan to address what is the most critical social issue of our community's current period.

Jennifer Jones, MSW

Jennifer.Jones484@alumni.du.edu

Please email for a list of citations.



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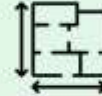
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

GUEST COLUMNIST - TROOPER TIPS

What Driving Was Like Before Smart Phones

By Trooper Hunter Mathews

COLORADO— To some, driving is impossible without a playlist of your favorite songs or podcasts to skip through because you're trying to find the "right one." I remember when I was a kid, riding with my grandparents and listening to the same cassette tapes over and over again. Fast forward to when I was a teenager, when the iPod was a staple with the AUX chord, and you had to pay for every single song, so you didn't mind what was playing; you were just happy not to have to listen to your grandparents' music on repeat.

The point is, driving nowadays is full of different distractions. You're not opening a cassette tape box or getting tangled up in an AUX chord; instead, you are messing with your phone, changing the music, or texting your "besty" and this causes you to take your eyes off the road for a fraction of time. During that split second, you can be traveling hundreds of feet, depending on the speed, and if the car in front of you slams on the brakes, you're going to be asking yourself, "Why didn't I just let that song play?" instead of being able to stop safely.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. During the month, I challenge everyone to change their driving behavior by putting the phone down, letting the song play, and letting the text wait, because everyone wants to get to where they are going safely. Use the month to make safe driving a habit for you and the generation to come.

TROOPER TIPS

Author Trooper Hunter Mathews is a trooper with the Colorado State Patrol, currently assigned to the Public Affairs Unit. He began his career as a Trooper in Troop 3A - Greeley, before transferring to the Public Information Officer position in June 2025. Trooper Tips is a proactive monthly column intended to provide awareness and educational information to the public. These columns will highlight safety tips, changes to the law, or general information that can be important to roadway users' everyday lives.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG OPENS COMMENT PERIOD FOR HAZARDOUS FUELS AND RESILIENCY PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD— The Norwood and Ouray Ranger Districts of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests seek public comment on the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the South Uncompahgre Hazardous Fuels and Ecological Resiliency (SUHFER) project. The 30-day comment period will begin March 26.

The SUHFER Project area encompasses approximately 267,300 acres — 245,093 acres of National Forest System land — on the Uncompahgre Plateau and the Naturita Division in Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties. All treatments are proposed for National Forest Service lands to reduce wild-fire risk, improve resilience to drought, disease and insects, and enhance big game and Gunnison sage-grouse habitat.

How to submit comments

Individuals and organizations must submit timely, written, site-specific comments that include their name, address and signature to remain eligible to object. Anonymous comments are accepted but will not result in direct follow-up.

Submission methods include:

Email (preferred): comments@rocky@mountain@gmug@usda.gov (text, HTML, PDF, Microsoft Office format attachments accepted)

Mail: Norwood Ranger District, Attn: Megan Eno, 1150 Forest St, Norwood, CO 81423

In-person drop-off: Norwood Ranger District, Wed – Fri, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Key Proposed Actions

Silvicultural treatments: Using Resist/Accept/Direct and conditioned-based strategies, treatments may include commercial and non-commercial harvest using ground-based equipment. 20,000 – 50,000 acres have been identified for treatment over the life of the project

Hazardous fuels reduction: Targeted along roads, powerlines and wildland/urban interface zones, including prescribed burns, pile burning, chipping, mastication and hand thinning. A 71,000-acre Hazard Fuels Mitigation Zone has been identified.

Wildlife habitat improvements: Up to 8,000 acres in pinyon/juniper and 5,000 acres in sagebrush are targeted for treatment to enhance big game and Gunnison sage-grouse habitat.

Draft EA and supporting documents are available online: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/gmug/projects/68281>.

For questions, contact Jonathan Tucker at 970-573-1876 or jonathan.tucker@usda.gov.

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REGIONALNEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE NO KINGS 3 EVENT PART OF HISTORY *Biggest Single Day of Protests in American History*



Courtesy photos Montrose-Ouray County Indivisible

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – On Saturday, March 28, 2026, almost 2,000 local Montrose, Ridgway, Ouray and surrounding area residents came together along with over 8 million Americans across the country in a nationwide day of nonviolent protest at the third No Kings National Day of non-violent action. There were almost 3,300 events planned nationwide and some internationally.

Protestors gathered in front of Montrose County's recently beautifully renovated old county courthouse now Montrose County government offices. The event centered around the theme "I AM A HUMAN" which was updated and a historical reference to "I AM A MAN." "I AM A MAN" is a declaration of civil rights, of independence and against oppression. It has been used for: Black Lives Matter; Sí Se Puede (Yes We Can); Say Their Names; Vote; I Can't Breathe, the Memphis sanitation strike in 1968 and many more movements.

Community member Ron Meecham, aka "The Old Man", spoke at the event in defense of and in support of, the LGBTQIA community. "Nowhere is it more dangerous for LGBTQIA children than at our public schools. White Christian nationalists are running public school boards across America. They want to use our public taxpayer dollars to fund private white Christian nationalist schools," said Meecham. "They want to ban literature that teaches children of the dangers of authoritarianism, theocracies and individuality. But they also want to ban books that would help children learn to love and accept themselves."

Local Indivisible leader Holly Speaks shared after the event, "Our movement is growing. We are connecting with new people and getting them engaged in everyday activism and helping our neighbors." Speaks added, "We had a baby in a stroller at her first protest today and parents were carrying a sign that said 'Babies Over Bombs'. That was just ONE of the MANY powerful messages we want our community and members of government to hear from us."

The event included singing by local choir San Juan Voices of Resistance, DJ Erik Valdez and a "giving table" for nonperishable food items that will be locally donated. No Kings is a mass, nonviolent movement that has already mobilized millions — from over five million participants on June 14, 2025 to over 7 million people joining 2,700+ events across all 50 states and the District of Columbia on October 18, 2025 — and is growing as communities unite to reject authoritarian power grabs and defend dignity and freedom.

The No Kings coalition organized the non-violent protests across the country with other large organizations including the ACLU, American Federation of Teachers, Common Defense, 50501, Human Rights Campaign, Indivisible, League of Conservation Voters, MoveOn, National Nurses United, Public Citizen, SEIU, among others. A full list of partners can be seen at <https://www.nokings.org/partners>.

For a full list of participating cities, event details, and spokespeople available for interviews, visit www.NoKings.org or contact media@nokings.org.

OPINION/EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

THE DOMINOES ARE FALLING IN DOWNTOWN MONTROSE

The Plan to Declare Downtown Montrose Blighted...Who Benefits? Clue: Not You!

By David White

Does downtown Montrose look blighted after millions of taxpayer dollars have been poured into it? Of course it does if you plan to make a boatload of money off of having it declared as such.

Grants obtained from the State of Colorado and others, with help from Downtown Colorado, Inc., Main Street USA, the Colorado Historical Society and others. Giveaways by the Montrose Development and Revitalization Team (DART - <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/669/Development-and-Revitalization-Team-DART>) using local tax dollars and much more have been ongoing for several years now to revamp our downtown. And yet, we still have a blight problem (aka, not enough lipstick on the pig)?

Now coming into focus we find that your Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) led by Executive Director and City Manager Bill Bell along with his international globetrotting Economic Development guru Anthony Russo (a contracted City employee paid thousands of dollars per month) and your inept City Council (aka, MURA's Board of Commissioners along with some token community members sitting on the Board) plan to help their buddies from the Colorado Outdoors project debacle bring their "magic" to Downtown Montrose.

Before we get to the plans for downtown Montrose, let's take the back roads to get there.

At the end of the March 22, 2023 meeting of the MURA Board of Commissioners, County Assessor Brad Hughes voiced concerns as to how the Urban Renewal Authority was going to pay back the millions of dollars in borrowed money owed the taxpayers of the City of Montrose for the development taking place in the Colorado Outdoors Project which began in 2017. Executive Director Bell stated the following: **"We invest more in development than paying the City back. The City doesn't need the repayment as bad as the**

community needs the investment." REAL-LY? (Montrose Mirror, March 27, 2023 – Pgs. 30-31)

The City doesn't need the repayment? Nope. We need to raise your water rates, your sewer and trash rates along with a myriad of other hidden increases in fees and rates to cover the lack of repayment. Don't forget too, the City Council approved borrowing millions of dollars from the reserve fund that the City's Water Department had on hand to partially finance the Colorado Outdoors project along with floating Certificates of Participation (COPS which are similar to bonds but are a work around in order to issue debt without a public vote and which also require collateral – in the City's case, they "hocked" the Pavilion and the historic City Hall, which, since they sold that building, they transferred the collateral to the City Animal Shelter and adjacent Brown Center buildings until the debt is paid in 2042).

Two years ago, as some of you reading this may recall, the backers of the medical building then under construction in the MURA Colorado Outdoors project pulled the plug on the construction leaving local contractors to fend for themselves in what has turned out to be a tangled web of lawsuits and countersuits. All the while this was imploding, Mr. Bell and Company sashayed away from any responsibility for the debacle.

Not only did the MURA Board Commissioners allow the project to flounder without assisting local contractors and mediating a way out of what has, ironically, become a blighted piece of real estate in Colorado Outdoors, they made it radioactive! At the March 11, 2026 meeting of the MURA Board of Commissioners, when the subject of finding anyone to purchase the defunct medial building regardless if that entity is a for profit or not for profit corporation arose, Executive Director Bell stated: **"We don't recruit non-profits for coming into the URA. We have discouraged the County and the School District from**

looking at the (partially constructed) medical building." Again, REALLY?

That flies in the face of the deal they made with the Montrose Recreation District (a governmental non-profit) to allow them to purchase the Secret Creek (formerly Colorado Yurt) building for \$7.5 million in Colorado Outdoors. Even though they're a non-profit/quasi-governmental entity and don't pay property taxes, they "agreed" to pay "property taxes" (a payment in lieu of taxes) of \$76,000 which will presumably roll into the Urban Renewal Authority's coffers and which is \$10,000 less than Secret Creek paid in 2025 property taxes and does not include personal property taxes the County had been collecting from Secret Creek.

From a legal perspective, I'm inclined to say that Mr. Bell may have engaged in what appears to be **"tortious interference"** meaning that he has **INTENTIONALLY** steered potential buyers for the defunct and now blighted property where the partially built medical building sits, away from negotiating a purchase of it for purely selfish reasons, yet was willing to strike a deal (as a 3rd party) with the Recreation District and Secret Creek. What the heck!?

And so, the pattern of inside dealing and helping "friends" out is being parlayed into giving us a Downtown Urban Renewal District where property taxes now being paid by owners will instead flow into the URA. At the December 10, 2025, MURA Board meeting, it was disclosed that the "City Council" had been discussing with Boulder, CO attorney Paul Benedietti the creation of an **"additional project area to support downtown revitalization efforts."** This is code for a "pocket" urban renewal area.

The hodgepodge boundaries of this new URA would **NOT INCLUDE** the trailer parks on West Main Street but would include the old Bullock Power Plant. Both are blighted but the trailer park isn't included because Bell and

Continued next pg

THE DOMINOES ARE FALLING IN DOWNTOWN MONTROSE *From previous pg*

Russo say that not including them in a new URA is being proposed so as **“to avoid incentivizing displacement or unintended gentrification”** of the area. That’s code for saying that improvements or investments in a neighborhood, often aimed at revitalization or sustainability, inadvertently lead to rising property values and rents, displacing lower-income residents. So, let’s let folks continue to live in squalor? Something’s not right here. I’m not sure how the lipstick is going to work here, which has been their goal.

Regardless, this is a developing story, but the players involved in this new URA look very familiar according to sources. They include Doug and David Drago (of Colorado Outdoors fame); downtown business and real estate owners such as Dee Coram (Coffee Trader); Ray Blanchard (Ray’s Corner Café); City Council candidate Kevin Clay; Anthony Russo (he bought the old Hunter’s Barbershop building at 22 N. Uncompahgre); the Mexican American Development Association (MADA) who purchased 25 & 27 N. Cascade and had the property designated as “historic” as part of it was the original Montrose Post Office AND, such a designations gives the

URA and MADA more leverage to obtain grant money for rehabbing the buildings); John & Alia Eyres (Typhoon Properties – who own the historic Montrose City Hall and other former City property as well as the former Daily Bread building). There are others, but you get the picture.

After dropping over \$3,000,000 to “revitalize” West Main Street last summer (\$2M was reimbursed by the Colorado Department of Transportation); roughly \$6,000,000 spent for the rest of Main Street from Townsend to San Juan Avenue for water line replacement and asphalt overlays; hundreds of thousands spent on façade improvements, commercial kitchens, window replacements, building murals, hotels, City Hall remodels and much more, your City Council is still driving ahead with what will no doubt be another story of a need to fix “blight” with this new urban renewal designation for downtown. The problem is that it’s all being rigged by Russo and Bell with little to no oversight by the City Council who are completely feckless and unable to look into matters in depth.

When it’s all said and done, a few individuals will fare very well with their

“investments” into this new project area. The rest of us? Not so much.

For a realistic analysis of these Urban Renewal Authorities, take a minute to look at the findings of the Independence Institute in a publication of theirs titled: ***The Empty Promise and Untold Cost of Urban Renewal in Colorado*** (<https://i2i.org/the-empty-promise-and-untold-cost-of-urban-renewal-in-colorado/>)

I’m all for making the community better but there’s got to be a recognition of the fact that you can’t spend your way there with monumental debt. It just won’t work in the long run. For this reason, and many others, it’s time to bring some fresh ideas and individuals to the City Council dais. April 7th will be here soon. Please vote for positive change and financial transparency.

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.



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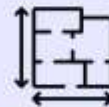
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

PAULYN NORMA SINNER

December 10, 1933 – March 25, 2026



PAULYN NORMA UNDERWOOD was born December 10, 1933 in Hot Springs, New Mexico, a small town that would change its name to Truth Or Consequences several years later. Polly, as she liked to be called, moved with her family to Hatch, New Mexico, where she attended school and graduated from Hatch High School in

1950. While growing up in Hatch she worked in the family's grocery store and picked cotton on the family farm.

In 1950 her family moved to Montrose, the first of several dozen Underwoods who would migrate from New Mexico and Texas to the Uncompahgre Valley in the years to come. She became a teller at First National Bank during the day and sold tickets at the Fox Theater in the evenings. While working at the theater she met local attorney Dan King, whom she would marry in 1957. Dan became County Judge and they raised four boys in an old stone home on North Third Street.

When Judge King died in 1974, Polly began working at Montrose County School District in various roles including secretary at Montrose Junior High and at Centennial Middle, and library aide at Columbine Middle. In the early 1980s, she became a funeral director at Crippin Funeral Home, a job she would hold for over 20 years. She always said that was the most meaningful job she ever had because she helped families in their time of need.

In 1986, Polly married local machinist

Albert Sinner. Polly and Al traveled extensively in their retirements, visiting her children and his and enjoying time spent with her 10 grandchildren and four step-grandchildren. Polly loved collecting antiques and spent much of her time in service of others, particularly the elderly. She was always happy, pleasant, and kind.

Polly was preceded in death by her first husband, Dan, her second husband, Al, her father, Elmer, her mother, Audie, her sister, Maudie, and her son, Paul. She has three surviving sons and four daughters-in-law: Paul's wife, Sandy, of New York City; John and his wife, Helen, of Eagle, Colorado; Chris and his wife Kelley, of Nashville, Tennessee; and Mike and his wife, Amy of Parker, Colorado. She has 10 grandchildren: Paul's daughters Jessie and Amalia; John's children Danielle, John Michael, and Erika; Chris' children Connor and Roxy; and Mike's children Bryan, Katie, and Sydney. She also has one great-grand daughter, Emilia.

Caring mother. Committed spouse. Loyal friend. Avid reader. Staunch Democrat. Chocolate lover. A life well-lived.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DELLA FERN COOPER *June 28, 1939 — March 23, 2026*



DELLA FERN COOPER, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, passed away on Monday, March 23, 2026, surrounded by her family.

Della was born on June 28, 1939, in Villa Grove, Colorado, to John and Juanita (Mingus) Nye. She was the oldest of two children and spent her early years in the San Luis Valley before her family moved to Olathe, where she graduated from high school in 1957.

On July 26, 1957, Della married the love of her life, Jerry Cooper. Together they built a life rooted in farming and ranching in Coal Creek, raising their three children: Gary, Penny, and J.D. Della and Jerry were known as a fun-loving couple who cherished time spent playing Pitch and dancing together.

Della had a deep love for the western way of life. She enjoyed riding horses and barrel racing, and over the years she contributed her talents to the rodeo community by flagging, timing, and announcing team ropings. She was also known for her excellent tambourine playing.

Throughout her life, Della worked in a variety of roles, including at the telephone company, Gibson's Pharmacy, Hausman's Pharmacy, Chandler's Western Wear, and as a bartender at the Montrose Elks Lodge.

Della was an outgoing woman with a contagious laugh who treasured her friendships. She loved watching the Denver Broncos and the Cowboy Channel, and nothing

brought her more joy than watching her children and grandchildren perform—whether in the arena or on stage. In later years, her great-grandchildren became the light of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Juanita Nye; her brother, Ronnie Nye; her grandson, Travis Duane; and her husband, Jerry Cooper.

Della is survived by her son Gary (Kathy) Cooper; her daughter Penny Cooper; and her son J.D. (Melanie) Cooper. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Gina Cooper; Cole (Nicole) Cooper; Jessica Johnson; Danny (Jamie) Wicburg; Garrett Cooper; and Jaden Cooper. She leaves behind seven great-grandchildren: Tinley and Remi Cooper; Haylee and Raylee Ramsey; and Cash, Lennon, and Cal Wicburg.

Services will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at Montrose Christian Church, 2351 Sunnyside Road, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to HopeWest.

Della will be remembered for her warmth, laughter, and the deep love she had for her family and friends. Her legacy lives on in all who knew and loved her.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

NANCY BUHRENDORF GRINDLAY *April 18, 1936 — March 22, 2026*

NANCY BUHRENDORF GRINDLAY, born April 18, 1936, in Bronx, New York, passed away peacefully on March 22, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer. She leaves behind a legacy of love, dedication, and joyful living.

Nancy graduated from Wheelock College with a degree in early childhood education, a calling that reflected her nurturing spirit and deep care for others. She went on to teach for over 25 years in Fairfax County, Virginia, where she touched countless young lives with her patience, kindness, and encouragement. Her impact as an educator lives on in the many students she guided and inspired.

A woman of warmth and vibrant energy, Nancy embraced life fully. She was a devoted member of P.E.O., valuing its mission and the friendships she built through it. She delighted in playing mahjonn with friends and found great joy in ballroom dancing, where her grace and enthusiasm

lit up every room.

Nancy shared a remarkable 64-year marriage with her beloved husband, Alexander Grindlay. Together they built a life grounded in love, partnership, and family.

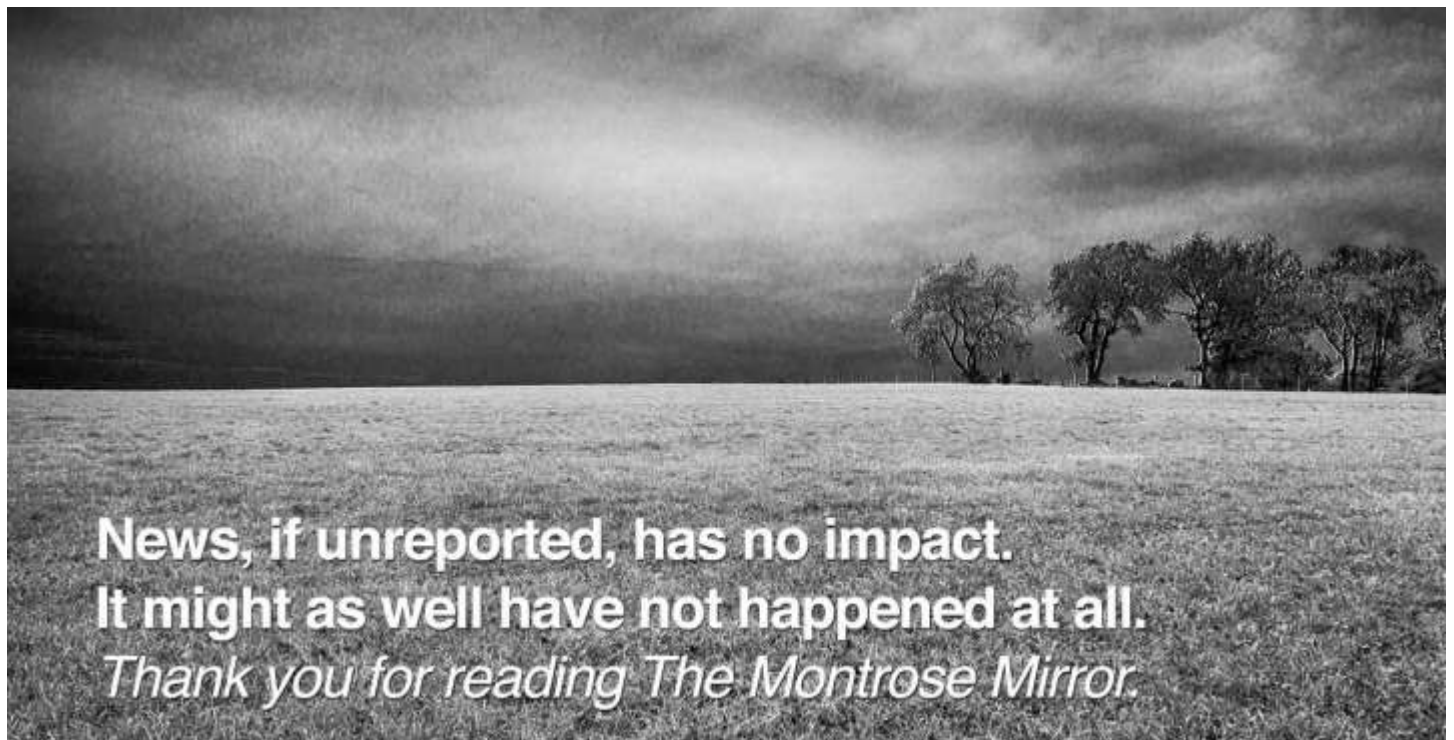
She is survived by her brother, Fred Buhrendorf Jr.; her three daughters, Nancy Grindlay, Elizabeth Walton, and Amy Iozzo; and her cherished grandsons, Garrett, Wesley, and Ethan, who brought her endless pride and happiness.

Nancy will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her generous heart, and her unwavering devotion to those she loved. Her life was a beautiful testament to kindness, connection, and the joy found in both simple moments and lifelong passions. She will be deeply missed and forever held in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Funeral services for Nancy will be held on Friday, April 10, at 11:00am at St Stephen's Anglican Church, 2504 Sunnyside



Rd, Montrose. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to HopeWest Hospice, 3090 N. 12th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81506



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It might as well have not happened at all.
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DONALD EUGENE BAILEY

March 22, 1954 — March 12, 2026



DON BAILEY peacefully made the transition to his heavenly home on March 12th surrounded by his loving family at his Montrose residence. He is a beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Son, Brother, Uncle, Cousin, Mentor and Friend. Don is survived by his wife of 29 years Ellen (Dunger) Bailey, and his children; Son Noel Bailey (his wife Laura, their children Kaolin & Juniper) of Waitsfield, VT, and Daughter Ann (Bailey) Crockett (her husband Micah, their son Oliver) of Montrose, CO, as well as his Stepson Kyle Klingenberg, (his wife Maria and their son Tobias) of Littleton, CO, and Stepdaughter Amanda Klingenberg (and her sons Julian & Jax) of Ft. Smith, AK. His surviving siblings are his sister Nancy Kulesa, of Anderson, IN, brother Bob Bailey, (Mary) of Longmont, CO, and brother Steve Bailey, (Kathy) of Decatur, IL. Don was preceded in death by his father Reverend Thomas Bailey, mother Mary Ann (Shaw) Bailey, and brother David Bailey. Don was born March 22, 1954 in Delta, Colorado. His father's ministry moved the family around to various places including Montrose, where Don went to high school, and later

graduated from Canon City High School in 1972. After trying his hand at ranching and home improvement, he traveled to the Chicago area and at the age of 21 became a licensed real estate agent and purchased his first properties. After moving back to Montrose in 1980, he met and married Beasie Whaley and they became a family along with her daughters Melinda, Celeste & Brenda Miller. They welcomed their son Noel in 1981, and despite separating, they remained close friends and a part of the family throughout Don's life. Don started Spring Creek Home Improvements in 1982, but in 1987 he realized his passion for real estate and obtained his Colorado license. He worked with various brokerages in Montrose including Coldwell Banker, Keinholtz-Miller, RE/MAX, Montrose Real Estate Group and Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. Don loved his real estate career, especially the people he connected with along the way. His favorite listings were high country parcels where he could walk the land and feel close to God. In May 1997, Don met Ellen at a Telluride festival, and it was true love at first sight. They were married in August of 1997, and this union produced one child, their daughter Ann, in 1999. Forever dedicated, Ellen was Don's personal assistant and partner in their real estate business through the entirety of their marriage. As a pioneer and leader, Don was involved in many organizations in his lifetime including Kiwanis, Redcoats, Chamber of Commerce, Gallerya Youth Center, Whole Life Network, Dances of Universal Peace, KVNF public radio, Montrose Association of Realtors, Colorado Association of Realtors, and Horsefly Volunteer Fire Protection. Don enjoyed numerous hobbies over the years, from adventurous activities such as flying solo, skydiving, scuba diving, water sports, alpine skiing, sailing, biking, running, hiking, 4wheeling and motorcycle riding, to more

casual ventures including boating, fishing, hunting, camping, bodybuilding, Pilates and reading, and embracing his artistic side through woodworking, playing the piano, singing, drumming and painting. Above all, he was drawn to meditation, self-improvement and spiritual awakening. While having a firm Christian foundation he was an eager student of life and seeker of truth, curious to discover more about the Great Mysteries of Life, he delved into traditional and esoteric wisdom teachings from various cultures and held many sacred ceremonies. Don often said, "Our children are our greatest teachers." He was very proud of his children - they brought so much joy into his life. During the last few years, he was able to experience being a grandfather and had lots of fun playing with his grandchildren, who doted on their Papa. He delighted in the simple pleasures of life, sharing meals with family and friends, walking along the beach or in a forest, watching a sunset, feeling the sun on his cheeks or a warm breeze on a fresh spring day. An authentic and genuine person who was loving, kind, thoughtful, generous and witty, Don was a deep thinker with big ideas and a huge moral compass who liked to put chaos into order. Don encouraged everyone to "Be Yourself", "Know Thyself", and "Keep it Simple" and was a big proponent of "Quality of Life" and "Living in the Moment". Frequently, Don would pray for those in need of food and donated often to Sharing Ministries food bank. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the local food bank.

There will be a Celebration of Life service held for Don at Crippin Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 1:00 pm. While attending the service, please honor Don by wearing colorful clothing, nautical attire, or whatever makes you most comfortable, as he would have wanted.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

NORMAN STANLEY GIBBS *July 3, 1935 — March 17, 2026*

NORMAN STANLEY GIBBS, Age 90, passed away peacefully on March 17th, 2026 in Montrose Colorado.

Born July 3rd, 1935 in Montrose, CO, Norman lived a life marked by dedication to his profession and his family. He pursued his education at Montrose High School, and later attended college at Colorado State University where he earned his degree in veterinary medicine.

As a large animal vet, his work took him across the world where he lived and practiced his profession internationally in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Ghana, where he was able to contribute his expertise to both farmers and animals in a variety of cultures.

Those who knew him remember his strong work ethic, adventurous spirit, and his never ending studies into improving veterinary science using both Western Medicine as well as a holistic approach.

He was married to his beloved wife Nadine, who preceded him in death, as did their daughter, Shelly. He is survived by his son Spencer (Deedee Gibbs), his Grandchildren: Isaac Gibbs, Hannah Holloway, and Emma Nation. He lived to greet four Great-Grand Children into the world: Cecelia (Cici), Daniel, Isaiah, and Simon; all of whom who he loved very much.



RAMONA JEAN GALLEGOS *October 16, 1938 — March 21, 2026*



RAMONA JEAN GALLEGOS 87, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully at her home on March 21, 2026.

Ramona was born on October 16, 1938 to Harold and Neva Bathhurst of Fruita Colorado. She lived a life centered on family, love, and quiet strength. She will be remembered for her kindness, resilience, and the deep care she showed to those around her.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Arnold Gallegos whom she shared many years of marriage and companionship. She also leaves behind a loving family, including her five children: Susie Huffman of Grand Junction, Colorado; Sandy Bradford of Aurora, Colorado; Valerie Brannon of Tuscola, Texas; Bill Irwin of Lewisville, North Carolina; and Ronald Gallegos of Grand Junction, Colorado.

Ramona's legacy continues through her 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, all of whom brought her immense pride and joy.

She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who knew her. Her memory will live on in the hearts of those she loved.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

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ISSUE 567 March 30, 2026

ART & SOL

MENUDOS-THE OTHER HALF OF THE TEAM

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With the recent resurgence of Menudo's delicious burritos, many in Montrose are pleased to see the return of Brian Beltran to the local restaurant scene.

This time around, Beltran is working with another industry veteran, one whose extensive background in the food and beverage business is belied by his youth--Dennis Martin. Martin has also been creating videos and running the [Menudo's Facebook page](#), in addition to helping in the kitchen and manning the cash register.

"I'm more than excited," Martin said. "I've been a food guy all my life."

Born in Albuquerque, Martin arrived in Montrose with his family when he was in the fourth grade. By age 18 he was running a McDonald's, and was transferred to West Texas, where the franchise he ran earned the "fastest drive-through in the State" honor. Martin went on to work for the Sunray Park and Casino in Farmington, and later for Culver's here in Montrose. Cooking and serving delicious food is something that runs in the blood, he said. "If you know how to cook, you can make something great--if you were to ask me where I learned most of my cooking, it was through family, but mainly my aunts and Grandma. They were always in the kitchen making the house smell fabulous. "I always wanted to do my own thing myself," Martin said. "And a friend decided to add a little bit of both of our flavor to the game, being Chicano from two



Above, Dennis Martin and Brian Beltran at MADA. At right, Dennis Martin. Courtesy photos

different sides of the mountains. We made it happen and we are what people enjoy today--Menudo's burritos and more."

Since re-opening, Menudo's burritos and tamales have been available at several locations in Montrose, including Blair's Truck Stop and Looney Bean. The team can be found on the weekends serving at the Mexican American Development Association (MADA) kitchen at 17 North 6th Street.

"It's picking up, little by little," Beltran said, adding that without a kitchen of their own, the hours and menu offerings are still limited. "We're keeping it good and keeping it fast—we've got quite a few new customers and lots of our old customers—and we're trying to get to Ridgeway and Olathe too.

"It's been exciting," he said. Beltran is very grateful to have Martin as



part of the team, as the skills and energy that Martin brings to the enterprise have been invaluable. "We both love to make food," Martin said. "And I love bringing that Chicano style Mexican food to the table."

Menudo's hours at the MADA kitchen are on Saturdays from 8am to 1pm, and Sundays from 8am to around 12:50pm. Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/menudos970>

A FRESH POINT OF VIEW-MY JOURNEY OF SOUND, AND WINE!

By Jack Switzer

MONTROSE-Last Sunday evening I was sitting in the LaNoue Dubois Winery's parking lot, preparing to participate in Gia Pirelli's Sound Journey event. I was in my truck, hand on the keys to pull them out of the ignition, as I watched a group of women enter the venue. I didn't think too much of it until I entered the room myself, and realized I was the only twenty something year old man in the room. I felt suddenly out of my depth.

It must've shown on my face because someone approached me immediately to help me settle in. I picked a mat and set my shoes aside--it's nice to let the dogs out every now and again. The coolness of the floor under my feet helped to set an atmosphere too.

Unsure of what to do with myself, I took in my surroundings and decided to try some wine, since I'm old enough anyhow. It was great! I saw Gia had set up singing bowls and some small gongs, and she had what looked to be a tongue drum. I'd

seen these instruments on social media before but had never thought about their purposes from a health perspective, why would I?

Gia's website gave me more information on the practice though, and she herself went further in depth before the session started.

Once it came time for us to sit on our mats and begin, I realized I was still full of energy from running around all day and didn't think it'd be easy for me to find my way into a relaxed headspace. However, Gia immediately set the tone of the session by guiding us through breathing and meditative techniques. I laid back and let my eyes drift shut, listening to the sounds of the beach drum.

Thoughts came and went and before I knew it, I was totally relaxed. Time was passing but not in a way that felt oppressive, as sounds drifted by and then vanished. I wasn't totally conscious of every intentional sound and rhythm change Gia made. Part of me would've liked to just sit

up and watch her work, but the experience she provided was wonderful.

Afterwards, Gia answered any questions people had and gave us chocolate! She instructed everyone to go home and see how they feel with a night's rest, and it really did make a difference for me the next morning.

Following the Sound Journey, I was also privy to tasting LaNoue DuBois' latest batches of Roche, New York Muscat, and other incredible flavors from their most recent season.

The wines were really incredible, and hopefully that means something coming from a beer guy. I look forward to tasting some more.



Jack Switzer.
Courtesy photo.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

UTAH'S NANCY TAKACS FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ONLINE READING SERIES APRIL 7

Special to Art & Sol

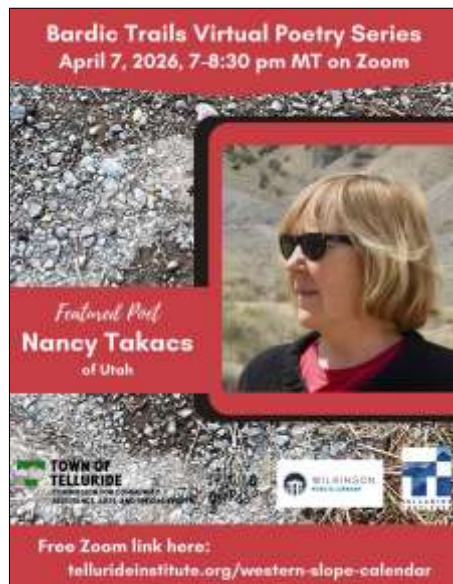
TELLURIDE- Poet and fiber artist Nancy Takacs of Utah will be the featured performer for the Telluride Institute's first Tuesday Talking Gourds' Bardic Trails virtual stories & poems series Tuesday April 7th at 7 pm MST.

"Nancy is a marvelous reader with long experience writing and sharing her poetry," said Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes. "We are delighted to be able to feature her during National Poetry Month."

With an MFA from the Iowa Writer's Workshop, Takacs is an emerita professor at Utah State University Eastern and a former wilderness studies instructor. She is the inaugural Poet Laureate of Helper City, Utah and the originator of The Steamboat Mountain Reading Series in that city. She currently teaches poetry writing privately and has held a free poetry workshop for 11 years at the CC Senior Center. She has been an artist-in-the schools, as well as in prisons. Her newest book *Dearest Water* is available from Mayapple Press (2022). Her other books include *The Worrier: poems* (Univ. of Mass. Press, 2017), *Red Voice* (Finishing Line Press, 2016), *Blue Patina* (Blue Begonia Press, 2015), *Juniper* (Limberlost Press, 2012); *Wild Animals* (Outlaw Artists Press, 2008), *Preserves* (City Art Press, 2004), and *Pale Blue Wings* (Limberlost Press, 2001).

She is the recipient of The Juniper Prize, was a Finalist for the National Poetry Series, a runner-up for *The Missouri Review* Editor's Prize, won a Pushcart Prize, The Sherwin Howard Poetry Prize, the 2018 15 Bytes Poetry Prize, the 2016 15 Bytes Poetry Prize, *The Nation/Discovery* Award, and the book-length Poetry Award from the Utah Arts Council.

Her poems appear in *The Baltimore Review*, *Cider Press Review*, *About Place*, *On the Seawall*, *Exit 13*, *Sugar House Review*, *Nomad*, *Sundress Best Dressed*, *The Harvard Review*, *Missouri Review*, *The Carolina Quarterly*, *West Branch*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Terrain*, *2River*, *Kestrel*, *Hayden's*



Ferry Review, *Nimrod*, *Weber*, *Verse Daily*, and many other literary journals.

For those that like prompts, we are suggesting "Spring in a Time of War," 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.

OTHER APRIL PROGRAMS

Talking Gourds continues its collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm for the West End Stories & Poems



series. Librarian Leslie Ament and Goodtimes will host Jami Allred discussing "Lights in the Sky" on Thursday, April 9. Telluride's Wilkinson Public Library and Talking Gourds have started a live Stories & Poems series at the library's Magazine Room on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:15 pm. The free series began in December with Montrose metaphysical poet Tracy Lightsey. In January we had Montrose storyteller Tanya Ishikawa. In February we had poet/writer Karen Bellerose and musician Bob Beer – both of Telluride's Lawson Hill neighborhood. In March we had poet Mary Hearing of Rico and storyteller Vicki Phelps of Telluride. On April 21st Joan Shapiro of Ridgway will be our Featured Lyricist and Talking Gourds Assistant Scot Rasor will facilitate. Participants are encouraged to bring a poem or story to share.

The international Fischer Prize poetry contest and the Colorado-focused Cantor Prize poetry contest both open for submission on April 1st. Deadline for the 2026 contests will be Aug. 31.

For more information, visit the Telluride Institute Talking Gourds website: tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds



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The Satisfied Self

THE SATISFIED SELF: WHAT COMES AFTER CLARITY



By Gia Pirelli

Clarity is often treated as the finish line. We wait for it. We search for it. We believe that once we “figure things out,” everything will fall into place — decisions will be obvious, action will feel easy, and momentum will carry us forward. But in reality, clarity is not the end of the process. *It’s the beginning of a different one.* It’s a threshold. Because once you see yourself and your life more clearly, you can no longer un-see what feels cloudy or misaligned. The doors of your perception have been squeegied.

And that’s where the real work begins. Clarity rarely arrives with a single dramatic moment. More often, it is a slow evolution that creeps in and expands. You begin to recognize what you want—even if it scares you. You acknowledge what no longer works—even if you’re not yet willing to act on it. You feel the truth of something blossoming in your heart and mind. Maybe something you may have avoided naming before.

At first, it feels relieving, a little exciting, and then...unsettling. Because clarity removes ambiguity — and with it, the ability to stay comfortably undecided. You now have a choice to make.

Not necessarily all at once. But you must take decisive action, one way or another. Move forward, lean into fear; or stay put, remain in homeostasis. Whether you’re ready or not. Someone once told me that “ready is not a feeling. It’s a *decision*. And you make it or you don’t.”

Many women are highly intuitive. They sense shifts early. They understand themselves deeply. But translating that awareness into action is where things often stall. Not because of a lack of discipline. Not because of lack of desire. But because action introduces *consequence*. Changing direction disrupts (perceived) stabil-

ity. Setting boundaries may affect relationships. Pursuing something new may require starting over. Letting go might mean grieving what once mattered.

The nervous system reads these as risk. So even when the mind is clear, the body hesitates. This is where most conversations about growth fall short. Mindset is important. Initiative is imperative. But where is the bridge? What comes after the arrival of insight?

Moving from clarity into action requires capacity. And by capacity, I mean the ability to tolerate uncertainty, stay grounded while making scary decisions, take steps without immediate validation, and hold discomfort without panic or retreat.

Pressure seldom creates capacity. Capacity comes from steadiness, and expansion. It grows through small, clear decisions. It builds over time with confidence and decisiveness.

After clarity, the goal isn’t to overhaul your life overnight. It’s to begin making clean decisions — choices that align with what you now know to be true. Choices that align with who you wish to become. Perhaps little things, like declining something that no longer fits, adjusting how you spend your time, introducing a new practice into your day, or taking one small step toward a different direction. Each decision reinforces alignment. And alignment, together with consistency, builds momentum. All of it requires intention, measured action, and the absence of urgency.

Why? Urgency creates pressure. Pressure creates reactivity. Reactivity leads to decisions that replicate old patterns. Steady action, on the other hand, allows you to move forward while staying connected to yourself. You don’t need to rush. You need to remain consistent. There is a difference.

Every meaningful shift requires energy. Breaking old patterns and creating new ones requires neural plasticity. This is why physical and nervous system support be-

comes essential during this phase. Movement that stabilizes rather than depletes. Breath that slows rather than accelerates. Moments of stillness that allow integration. Practices that bring you back into your body when your mind begins to spiral.

Confidence builds as you act in alignment with that new direction — step by step, decision by decision. Over time, and through consistent action, you stop questioning every move. You stop looking outward for confirmation or permission. You begin to trust your own timing.

Not because everything is certain — but because you’ve proven to yourself that you can move forward without abandoning yourself. The momentum that follows clarity feels soft and steady, as opposed to the kind driven by urgency or pressure. It doesn’t feel frantic or loud. It feels grounded. It feels honest. It feels like something you can safely stand on.

You begin engaging with your life differently — not reacting, not avoiding, but choosing. Not through perfection, but through participation. And with each choice, you reinforce the person you are becoming. It is the process of becoming. Much like in the child’s tale “The Velvet-teen Rabbit.” If you recall the story, it was a favorite of mine. The rabbit becomes real in the end, but has to endure a deep level of vulnerability. He has to experience the willingness to be broken and worn down in the transformation. He moves from a pretend state into a genuine, lived-in existence. “It doesn’t happen all at once...You become. It takes a long time.” “Once you are Real, you can’t become unreal again. It lasts for always.”

Clarity invites you into that process. It asks you to begin. To take the next step with equal parts awareness and uncertainty. To move forward without rushing. To trust that alignment, practiced consistently, leads somewhere meaningful.

Because once you see clearly, you don’t need to force the path.

You only need to walk it.

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- Enclosed Playground with Zipline
- Basketball and Pickleball Courts
- Community Center
- Dog Agility Parks
- Pet & Family Friendly

970-615-9412

manager@thehiddenlakecommunity.com

Open: Monday-Saturday, 8AM-5PM

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose,
 CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

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

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out
 soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, 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, Mont-

rose, 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 welcom-

ing, 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 Edu-

cation & 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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✉ Realtor@PegEvanoika.com

🌐 The_RES.com



CENTURY 21.
ELEVATED REAL ESTATE

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH-3rd Wednesday of every month at 6pm, the Montrose County Neighborhood Watch meets at the Sheriff's Office at 1200 N Grand Ave

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.

MONTHLY

April 1-The Montrose County Historical Museum will present a program by celebrated local author, Elaine Hale Jones on Wednesday, April 1 at 7pm in the Pioneer Room at Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Jones will discuss her most recent publication "LANDSCAPES LOST; Pioneering Ventures into Uncharted Waters, The Gunnison Tunnel Story." Please use the smaller door to the left of the main doors. The venue will be open by 6:30. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be provided.

April 4-David Starr opens for the Wood Brothers At the Avalon Theatre in Grand Junction on Sat. April 4 | 8pm Acoustic with Erik Stucky, 645 Main St. Grand Junction. Tickets & Show Info [here](#).

April 4-9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource **4 Hillcrest Plaza Way**, Montrose. Social time is at 9, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments and a program. Book Pillows with Kim Lindel For more information: Paula millsappscoui@gmail.com or Cheryl [970-462-3849](tel:970-462-3849) Visitors are always welcome.

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

April 9-Thursday, April 9, 7 p.m. Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Nic Korte, who will present "The Galapagos Islands - Boobies and Vampires." He will discuss the evolutionary history of many of the unique species on these amazing volcanic islands off the coast of Ecuador from Darwin's first discoveries to present day habitat and species restoration efforts. The Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubonsociety.org.

April 12-Montrose Community Band Concert-Destination America. Montrose Pavilion. From 3-4:30pm.

April 14-Erin Easton will offer an intro to mindfulness class beginning April 14 at the Montrose Rec Center. It teaches what mindfulness is, the basic practices, and how to use it in your daily life.

April 18-The 2026 Citizens Police Academy will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Montrose Police Department, with lunch provided. For more information, residents can visit the Montrose Police Department (www.montrosepd.com) or call 970-252-5215. For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.

April 23-Book reading and talk by Erin Easton at the Montrose Library on April 23 at 6:45pm for her new book, Disentangled: Mindfully Freeing Ourselves from Emotional Abuse.

NO KINGS PROTEST RETURNS TO MONTROSE



Photos of Saturday's No Kings March in Downtown Montrose are by B. Slate.

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