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BOCC APPROVES MOA FOR MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL



Above, J. Bob Brueske spoke to the BOCC about the Montrose Veterans Memorial. Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-At the regular meeting of April 1, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) affirmed the County Manager contract with Joe Kerby, passed the state-mandated Wildfire Resiliency Code, and approved the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) between the City of Montrose, Montrose County, and the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition in support of the [Montrose Veterans Memorial](#).

All commissioners were present, with Commissioner Sean Pond attending virtually as he was sick.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church delivered the Invocation.

Leuthauser reminded that it was a big week for Pastors, as it was Easter Week, "...Not because a lot of people come to church, but because of what it means...for us it means that whatever problem we go through, our biggest problem, which is death, has

Continued pg 31

MPR SOLIDIFIES ITS IMPORTANCE IN MONTROSE COUNTY

By Sieglinde Carpenter

MPR Communications Coordinator

MONTROSE-In the summer of 2020, Montrose County Sheriff Gene R. Lillard and his staff were concerned about possible threats of civil unrest in our community. He put out "the word." Hundreds of local residents responded and MPR, Montrose Prepared Response, was formed. The mission was always simple: form an assembly prepared to support the basic needs of our community at a time of distress-- an arduous task.

Today, MPR, an outreach community program of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, operates strictly at the request and under the direction of the sheriff in the event of natural or civil emergencies on a local level. MPR volunteers are organized, trained, and prepared to come together to lend aid at the discretion of Sheriff Lillard by supporting him in his duties aligned with the US

Continued pg 9



MPR's intent has always been to encourage, train, and practice community preparedness, independent living and resilience. Participants are offered the opportunity to be trained in medical trauma response, hand-held radio communications, and food storage preparedness. Photo by Sieglinde Carpenter.



Cardboard Drive In

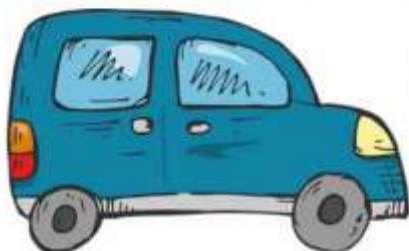
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT ON US 50 NORTH OF MONTROSE TO IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC SHIFT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Beginning April 14, traffic on US 50 north of Montrose will be shifted to a new westbound lane traffic alignment. The frontage road will remain closed, and crews will perform work on the frontage road and eastbound lanes on US 50 lanes.

Traffic utilizing the Frontage Road detour north of Montrose from Mile Post 89.7 to MP 90 will be shifted onto westbound lanes of US 50 into two-way, single-lane traffic. Traffic shifts will begin at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14. Access to 6300 Road will remain open to right turn only traffic and travelers can access the road via the intersection north of the closure. Travelers from the north can access 6300 Road via the intersection north of the Rexel store (see map right).

The traffic shift will maintain flowing traffic in both directions for the duration of the project.

These culvert replacements will accommodate higher accumulations of rainfall, lower the risks associated with flooding, help maintain the integrity of the roadway and help maintain safe driving conditions. The project is expected to complete in June 2026.

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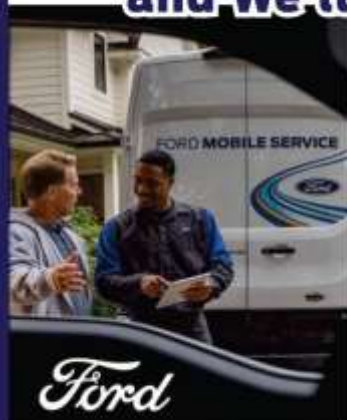
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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,

the Montrose Mirror



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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

“PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU”

Editor:

“Peace of the Lord be with you.” I wonder how many of us really contemplate the full meaning of this simple sentence and if we do spare a moment it can be amazing, humbling and joyful. Does this mean if we are at peace that we are weak especially to our adversaries? Quite the opposite, “peace through strength” because by God gifting us peace it brings strength, endur-

ance, wisdom, and a true sense of knowing joy and confidence that you will prevail even in the hardest of times. It gives us the ability to discern between good and evil and to stand strong in our beliefs and values especially in these divisive times. This gift also gives us an unimaginable joy, a sense of contentment and happiness; where you want to smile at everyone and say “how are you doing” or “have

a nice day”! And in turn, you are smiling too because it makes you happy. Try it and see what happens. Just a little thing but with such wonderful rewards. God is gifting us “peace” all we need to do is accept it.

If we accept His gift the transformation is immediate. In our upside down world, isn't that worth some thought?

Carol McBride

Family

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MPR SOLIDIFIES ITS IMPORTANCE IN MONTROSE COUNTY From pg 1

Constitution and our God-given liberties.

MPR's intent has always been to encourage, train, and practice community preparedness, independent living and resilience. Participants are offered the opportunity to be trained in medical trauma response, hand-held radio communications, and food storage preparedness. An assembly that is capable of responding to the requests of the Sheriff, it is a community prepared for difficult circumstances.


MPR actively supports and offers training for the Sheriff's Neighborhood Watch program. During the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) event in February, their Food Security Work Group were present and assisting in a variety of areas. Our community came

together to pack 115,992 meals that were shipped around the world to thousands of starving children. In exchange for our community volunteer service efforts, Montrose County received 7,776 MannaPack nutritional meals.

Last week, MPR's Food Security Work Group stepped up again. The dedicated efforts of this team have done their due diligence in addressing local and regional food supply risks and have implemented strategies to mitigate any possible food supply uncertainties. We are thankful to Sharing Ministries for providing their facility, and to Murdoch's and Home Depot for supplying buckets to get the work done. Several volunteers showed up to complete the task by labeling, numbering, sealing, and preparing these meals for local storage.

Montrose County is blessed beyond measure to have individuals and families come together in time of need to help support and strengthen our community. To learn more about MPR Montrose Prepared Response, link directly to <https://montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com/montrose-prepared-response-mpr/> or call 970-252-4023 the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. Stay informed and updated. Stay Connected.

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CORRECTION

In last week's issue, we misidentified the historic bell remaining on the grounds of the former City Hall. The bell that remains is a historic school bell. Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files (who was not involved in the sale of the historic building) took it upon herself to move the bell from the Troop Carrier the U.S.S. Montrose to the new City Hall, and that bell will be placed at the Veterans Memorial, Files said. Thank you Mayor Pro Tem Files for the information.





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MLS #829331 | 17823 6353 Rd. | STEVE ZAHNISER
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MLS #828752 & #828753 | Tbd 6360 Road Lots 1 & 2 | MARK COVINGTON
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“TRANSFORMING METAL WITH PRECISION” - WILL ROMERO OF WESTERN SLOPE WELDING AND CUSTOM FABRICATION



“Will the Welder” at work. Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-As more and more businesses choose to specialize, William Romero of Western Slope Welding & Custom Fabrication takes the opposite approach.

“I don't specialize in one thing. I do anything that comes through the door,” Romero said. “I like to do a little bit of everything! I do very good work, and I’m a real stickler of what goes out my doors.”

The company offers MIG, TIG, and ARC welding, including custom solutions. They bring high-quality craftsmanship to [residential, commercial, and industrial projects](#).

Before joining Western Slope Welding & Custom Fabrication, Romero lived and worked in Denver and Colorado Springs. He attended a four-year college course in Colorado Springs and has been a welder since 2004.

Romero joined the company when he moved to Montrose in 2012 and bought the business in 2019. He recently closed for a short time to have some surgery done, but has now reopened.

Although there are many repeat customers, Romero hopes to take on more work, grow the company, and hire more staff.



Images courtesy of William Romero.



“My goal is to help the community by hiring more people,” he said. The shop is located at 1891 Launa Drive, and is open six days a week, Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm, Friday from 8am to 3:30pm, and on Satur-

days from 8am to Noon. Romero will work on projects in the shop, and will travel to the client as well, with the company’s mobile welding unit. To learn more, visit the web site at <https://www.westernslopeswelding.com/>.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

INFORMATION RELEASE FROM MONTROSE COUNTY CORONER RICK FELLABAUM

Montrose County Coroner

MONTROSE-On March 24, visitors to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison reported spotting a body approximately 800 feet down from the Gunnison Point Overlook on the South Rim. Responding National Park Service Rangers climbed to the scene and determined the individual had no

signs of life. The decedent was placed into a body bag per the Montrose County Coroner’s Office request.

On March 25, the decedent was brought to a helipad and pronounced dead by a Montrose County Coroner’s Investigator and transported to Community Hospital in Grand Junction for an autopsy.

An autopsy was performed on March 27 and the decedent was positively identified as Paul J. Shallcross, a 40-year-old from the Denver area.

Next of kin have been notified of the incident.

The cause and manner are still under investigation at this time.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: CORRECTION

COLORADO OUTDOORS AND NON-PROFITS

Correction of the Rec District Payment in Lieu of Taxes Proposal

By David White

Last week, I penned an article about the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority's (MURA) Colorado Outdoors project across from the Montrose County Justice Center Complex wherein I covered the City Manager's aversion to allowing Non-Profit or Governmental organizations to site their facilities in Colorado Outdoors as these entities don't pay property taxes.

The lack of property tax revenue blows the payback model that urban renewal areas rely on to pay back the "investors" in these URA's.

After running off Montrose County and the Montrose School District from potentially buying the defunct medical building that is becoming an eyesore in Colorado Outdoors, the City Manager and the MURA Board cut a deal with the Montrose Recreation District to buy the building owned by yurt manufacturer Secret Creek.

In last week's Mirror, I stated:

"That flies in the face of the deal (dealing with a non-profit organization) they made with the Montrose Recreation Dis-

trict (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."

In speaking with a local elected official who read the article, they pointed out that the Rec District agreed to make a "Property Tax" (kind of) Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) but not for \$76,000, rather, they agreed to pay a total of \$38,000 per year in two (2) payments of \$19,000 each and not two (2) payments of \$38,000 each which is where I came up with a tax payment of \$76,000. Rather than being just \$10,000 short of what MURA would have

collected under my misunderstanding, MURA is actually in the red by \$48,000 for this tax year (it'll get worse as the value of the building increases). My apologies for the error.

I should have known better as governmental accounting, especially when it comes to this project, is flawed to begin with and the chances of the City and others of ever recovering the investment by taxpayers into Colorado Outdoors grows dimmer as the months pass. This Rec Center deal just makes it worse.

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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the montrose mirror

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COLORADO'S 3RD DISTRICT DESERVES STEADY, PRINCIPLED LEADERSHIP

Dear Editor:

Many voters in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District are demanding answers about what just happened in the CD3 primary and why.

Hope Scheppelman's campaign had real momentum. Her sudden decision to step aside at a critical moment does not happen without serious concerns behind the scenes. The people of CD-3 deserve the truth.

My understanding is that Congressman Jeff Hurd issued two ultimatums if Scheppelman won: resign his seat after the primary, potentially handing control to the minority or use his remaining seven months in office to oppose the America First agenda. This is deeply troubling. Why would a Republican congressman threaten to undermine the very priorities he was elected to advance?

The stakes could not be higher. The House majority is razor thin. One or two votes can determine whether key policies succeed or fail, that directly impacts Western and Southern Colorado, our energy sector, public lands, cost of living, and jobs.

Voters did not send someone to Washington to create chaos or hold the country's agenda hostage.

Congressman Hurd now faces a clear choice: stand with the people of this district and support policies that protect our economy and way of life or continue down a path of uncertainty and political gamesmanship.

Colorado's 3rd District deserves steady, principled leadership not threats, leverage, and uncertainty.

Shari Bjorklund, Grand Junction



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BOOBIES AND VAMPIRES

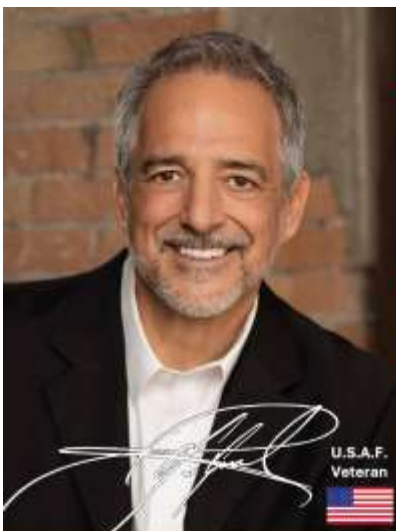
Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-What could these two possibly have in common? More than you would think! First, both live in the same location - the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos, a group of isolated islands about 600 miles west of mainland Ecuador, is well known to be the home of many strange and unusual creatures like Blue-footed Boobies and a vampire-like species that flits around these islands with an unusual diet of drinking the blood from their feathered neighbors. Why do Blue-footed boobies have such colorful feet? What vampire like creature feeds on the blood of unsuspecting victims?

There is no place like the Galapagos. These islands have immense importance to the continued development of evolutionary science. Likewise, and sadly, their importance to ecological restoration is vital. The Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Nic Korte who will speak about this incredible place, intertwining some of the research, the tragedies and the beauties of this remarkable archipelago. Nic Korte is a retired geochemist and lifelong birder. His trip to the Galapagos sparked study of the unique research and challenges that characterize these islands. The presentation will be April 9, 7 pm at the Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at www.blackcanyonaudubon.org.



Why do Blue-footed boobies have such colorful feet? Join The Black Canyon Audubon Society on April 9 to learn more. Courtesy photo.



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

THE ARROGANCE OF THE TECHIES IS FRUSTRATING

Editor:

Thank you for the story (3/30 p 56) disclosing Forest Service being open to public comment regarding their plans for the Uncompahgre plateau, GMUG project 68281. The arrogance of the techies is frustrating - other than a two page outline, details are only available if citizens open up their computers to invasions of "cookies" and who knows what other associated digital intrusions. Given the daily occurrences of problems with virus infestations as well as millions of data records stolen from both industry and government, including the recently revealed apparent theft of 8.3 MILLION data files with confidential personal information from Crime Stoppers, of both tipsters attempting to assist law enforcement and those accused without substantiation, and from law enforcement offices, including names, birth dates, addresses, social security numbers, passwords, etc., citizens have every reason to refuse to open their computers in such manner. Whether or not the Forest Service desires public input, public documents such as the related environmental impact documents should be available in readily accessible format, e.g. "pdf" files on the appropriate web site, without requiring exposing citizens' computers to potential malicious intrusions. Forest Service says documents are available as pdf at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/gmug/projects/68281>"

Richard Wojciechowski, Ouray county

A TESTIMONY OF WHAT AN HONEST AND KIND PERSON ADAM WOODEN IS

Editor:

Hello, this is Csilla Rodriguez and I included a FB post from Adam Wooden with his and his wife's permission. I have been Facebook friends with Jodi for years and I have grown to like her even though we only met in person only a handful of times. I admired her faith and the reverent woman I saw her to be. Then one day, about a year ago, I saw this post her husband wrote about her and I knew that everything I saw, thought and imagined about her was true....that she is the picture of a reverent woman. I also think that this is a testimony of what an honest and kind person Adam Wooden is, the kind of person we all would benefit from representing our town...and he happens to be running for City Council 🙏

"This is Adam, as I don't have a Facebook account to tell everyone how amazing Jodi is, I am logging onto her account to tell you all directly.

"Jodi is the funniest, yet most serious person I know. She loves adventure, not the rock climbing, adrenaline pumping type, but the seeing-a-mess-and-not-concerning-herself-with-what-it-looks-like type of adventure. She dives deep into the heart of the matter and brings joy, peace and spiritual discernment with her into the chaos. It doesn't matter if it is personal, political, relational or religious she will bring wisdom and truth. She is the boldest person I know, in that she will speak what she sees without worrying about the optics. She doesn't placate or appease, if she is saying it to you—it's because she truly means it. If it is encouragement, know it's true and be encouraged. If it is correction, take the advice and ponder it well. If it is funny know it is because it brings her joy. It's been 22+ years together and all this time she keeps growing and becoming more herself all the time. She learns new things, works in wildly different arenas, yet in everything she brings grace and encouragement to others to rise up and be better too. I know some people shy away from her because the reality she brings is potent, but honestly I enjoy the rawness. Every moment is so good to be with this woman who is real and honest, going beyond what anyone requires to bring a presence many pretend to have.

"It truly is divine destiny for me to be with Jodi and I am so thankful we've become a unit. I thank all of you that are our/her friends, we are blessed and enriched because of your interactions into our lives. We live in a kingdom better than this one, and that reality inspires us to leave this place better than we found it—and by better I mean we are amazingly enriching every life we come into contact with. From the mosquito she kills, to confronting the opposition in the air, to the baby she smothers with love, Jodi is a dynamic powerhouse and I so enjoy living with her.

"I'll get off her Facebook account now, but know I thoroughly enjoy Jodi and who she is."

Csilla Rodriguez, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAY CAUSE IRRITATION!

Editor:

Because America may now be a culture in decline do in large part to an increasing partisan divide, we're left with two choices – carnival barking, politically connect-

ed, crony capitalism, or the never successful, small-minded socialism with its simplistic answers to complex problems by the resource redistribution from those who've acquired it in a free society to

those who envy it.

Socialism relies on "experts" rather than markets to allocate resources. An approach that has underperformed capitalism in every nation and every time period where and when it has been tried. It sweetens the pot of economic failure by emphasizing "victimhood" status and group identity, always championed by someone who knows better than the "victims" what is best for them.

So, I'll choose capitalism – even the crony kind – as it still relies on competition; the only thing that keeps producers honest and gives consumers a fair shake through the very democratic free market buying power. In the end it produces wealth while socialism subdivides it. American capitalism, while certainly imperfect, can still be navigated with a positive work ethic, common sense, and a modicum of intelligence.

The so-called Trumpian Nightmare, be-moaned by those who've allowed politics to bore a hateful hole in their lives, also need to objectively realize that it could have been avoided had its first iteration not been followed by the Bidonian Border Debacle and the Kamalian Candidacy Catastrophe.

When the New Left makes any proposal to improve the human condition, it should come with a mandatory warning: "May cause irritation, pain, and tenderness in the area between the anus and genitals!"

Scott Rizzo, Montrose



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BOCC APPROVES MOA FOR MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL From pg 1

been answered, through Jesus' resurrection. And so, whatever we go through, we can have joy and we can have hope."

He prayed, "...Father we thank you for what you have done, and Jesus we praise you for your resurrection, and Lord I lift up our leaders, I lift up everyone who is working and serving in this room...no matter what difficulty we face, no matter what obstacle we go through, no matter how big the problem is, Lord, that we can have your joy. I pray through it that we would have hope, Lord that we would know, that in the end, in you, we win.

"...I just pray that you would bless them in the work, that you give them great wisdom, and that Lord they would be filled with laughter and joy this week, in Jesus' name, amen.

"Thank you Karl for always setting the tone," BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, "with a leadership message and a message that's meaningful."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public.

AGENDA CHANGES

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners Melissa Howie had no changes to the Meeting Agenda but said that the meeting would be paused twice for the taking of photographs.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, with Resolution No.9-2026 assigned to Item 10.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, voting to approve the renewal of the Lodging & Entertainment Liquor license for Montrose County Event Center, 1036 N. 7th Street, Montrose, CO 81401, by La Familia Gardens LLC, license #03-18345.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Human Resources Director Leslie Quon said that the candidate for the County

Manager Position (Joe Kerby) had signed the proposed employment agreement. Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the agreement.

Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood presented a proclamation declaring April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Montrose County. For the first time, the proclamation was read by staff (Tess Iniguez and Patsy Barrett) in both English and Spanish.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen expressed appreciation and reminded the public that there would be free screenings of the Mario Brothers movie in Montrose and of Zootopia on the West End. The proclamation was approved unanimously.

Afterward, Commissioners took time for photos.

The BOCC voted to approve a project partner agreement with Conservation Legacy for 2026 weed management services.

Also approved was Resolution 10-2026, to Authorize the Sheriff to Implement Fire Restrictions within Unincorporated Montrose County.

"We have some special visitors here," BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, as Finance Director Cindy Dunlap introduced the proposed MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) between the City of Montrose, Montrose County, and the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition in support of the Montrose Veterans Memorial.

Les Williams of the Veterans Memorial Coalition spoke first. "It's just really, really fun to be here today..." Williams said.

"...Thank you for what you have all done...it's just amazing how many people really want this thing...thank you for your time, your energy, and your leadership."

J. Bob Brueske spoke. "...It's been a really long road...I've been...Chairman of the Board since October of '21...a roller coaster ride, but we're finally seeing the whole thing go through. It's going to be pretty spectacular. The site is awesome...with the San Juans in the background...Thank you very much."

The Montrose VFW is working to get information about the Veterans Memorial in the national magazine, Brueske said.

Lance Bach spoke. "...It says a lot about the community...I dare there isn't a person in this room who doesn't have a family member that's a veteran, if not yourself a veteran...it's going to be a place of real meaning...it's a wonderful thing for us and thank you all."

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen, Vice Chair Kirstin Copeland, and Commissioner Sean Pond commented as well. Hansen thanked those who have worked to bring the Memorial to fruition, as did Pond.

Copeland said, "Listening to that list of donors, it reflects...that this community honors the folks that have served and have died for their country. It is amazing and good to see it come to fruition."

The meeting was paused for photographs.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

After noting that it was an unfunded mandate from the State of Colorado that will place additional financial, administrative, and enforcement burdens on the County, and after it had been continued from previous meetings and had been the subject of extensive discussion, Commissioners voted to approve Resolution 11-2026, regarding the Wildfire Resiliency Code [AA26-002].

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said that while there was good intent, the Wildfire Resiliency Code was "perhaps a little onerous in terms of implementation."

The BOCC voted to approve the Amended Plat Lot 2 and 3 Summer Time Minor Subdivision [AM26-001] proposal to relocate the access and utility easement for the benefit of Lots 2 and 3 at Parcels 349336301002 and 349336301003.

Also approved was the Oker Mackenzie Replat - Extension [EXT26-001] proposal to extend the time period of a Replat application at Parcel 376536200026.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP 4-6-26- BY CLIFF DODGE



The Red Hawks prepare for battle. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

VARSITY BASEBALL

DISCOVERY CANYON THUNDER 19, RED HAWKS 4

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks Baseball Team ran into a buzz saw last Saturday as the Discovery Canyon Thunder pounded out double digit base hits en-route to a 19-4 victory. The Thunder gave up a single run to Montrose in the top of the first inning but plated four runs in their half of the inning. Things just got more difficult as the Thunder scored a total of 15 additional runs in the next three at bats. The Red Hawks pushed across three runs in the Fourth Inning but the tide had turned and the outcome was decided.

The Red Hawks managed three runs in the four inning contest. Chazz Miller led the Red Hawks with two base hits. Zander Buehrle was the only other Red Hawk to come up with a base hit. The Red Hawks were issued two bases on balls, had one strike out and left two runnings on the basepaths. Trent Hatch started on the mound for the Red Hawks and was roughed up for 10 runs in his one inning of work. Chase Gleason, Wes Rhodes and Zander January also had base hits.

RED HAWKS 9, FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 8

The Montrose Red Hawks Baseball Team got back into the win column Tuesday as they defeated the Fruita-Monument Wildcats 9-8 in an extra inning affair. This game was a close-knit affair from begin-

ning to end as the Red Hawks prevailed 9-8 in 8 innings. The game was tied 2-2 after two innings of play. The Wildcats then scored six runs to lead 8-3 after five innings of play.

The Red Hawks then came alive and scored a single run in the sixth inning and closed out the contest by scoring four runs in the seventh inning and the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning to claim the victory.

The Red Hawks scored their nine runs on 11 base hits. Chazz Miller led the Montrose offensive attack with two base hits, a triple and a home run. Trevor Hatch and Brennan Barnett pitched in with two hits each and Cade Saunders, Ryan Pankey, Chase Gleason and Zander January each added to the hit column. The Red Hawks received three bases on balls, struck out four times, and left eight base runners stranded.

FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 13, RED HAWKS 3

The Montrose Red Hawks traveled up north to take on the Fruita-Monument Wildcats for the second game in a row, this time on their turf. The Red Hawks bunched all of their scoring into the top of the Third Inning as the visitors pushed across three runs. The Wildcats proved to be equal opportunity scorers as they scored 13 runs over the next four innings to claim the win. The Wildcats led 6-3 heading into the Fifth Inning as they scored seven runs to ice the victory. The Red Hawks scored their three runs on five

base hits. Chazz Miller led the hit parade for the Red Hawks with two ringing doubles while Ryan Pankey also contributed a two-bagger of his own. The Red Hawks were handed four bases on balls and left runners on the basepaths.

The Red Hawks' season record now stands at four victories against seven losses. The league record now stands at one win and one loss. Next up for the Red Hawks will be a doubleheader on Tuesday, April 7 as the Bayfield Wolverines come to town. First pitch is scheduled for 2 pm.

VARSITY SOCCER SCOREBOARD

DURANGO DEMONS 2, RED HAWKS 1 MONTROSE RED HAWKS 1, WILDCATS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks record currently stands at four wins, two losses and two ties. The league record stands at 2-2-1.

VARSITY LACROSSE SCOREBOARD: BOYS:

DURANGO DEMONS 5 RED HAWKS 4

The boys overall record this season is 0-8. Their league record stands at 0-7. The next action for the boys' team will be versus the Summit Tigers.

GIRLS:

MULLEN MUSTANGS 15, RED HAWKS 0 TELLURIDE MINERS 14, RED HAWKS 0

The Montrose Girls Lacrosse Team's record stands at 0-wins and eight losses. Their league action stands at 0-4. Their next action will be against the Grand Junction Tigers.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MY CANDID TALKS WITH VOTERS ACROSS MONTROSE

Editor:

As I campaigned around town, I discussed important issues with voters. Several topics consistently stood out in these conversations.

Key Concerns from Voters

- City Council term limits: What are the current limits and where should they be set?
- Taxation without representation, particularly regarding the Rec District and city business owners.
- Financial responsibility: Are our tax dollars being used wisely?
- The "good old boy" system: Who receives incentives and why?
- Supporting the unhoused: How do we help the city's most vulnerable residents without raising taxes?
- Government responsiveness: City government and government in general simply do not listen to the people.

When I share ideas to increase voter participation, the common reaction is that they sound like common sense. I agree. Voters face too many elections, sometimes several per year. This creates exhaustion. People have busy lives and cannot dedicate full time to tracking every local issue and election.

Aligning Elections for Better Participation: We should move our municipal elections to align with the congressional election cycle rather than holding separate April elections every other year. This adjustment would boost participation and save the city money as a welcome bonus.

Why Government Must Listen: Another popular topic is the widespread feeling

that government at every level does not listen. I agree with this concern, which is a major reason I decided to run for City Council. True representatives must listen, but not just to respond. They must listen to understand the concerns of those they serve.

In a Republic, citizens elect officials to be their voice. This system allows people to live their lives knowing their interests are protected. However, if representatives fail to listen with understanding, they stop serving effectively as that voice. A foundation of trust requires that officials hear and consider the people's concerns. While we may not agree on every issue, it is essential that every voice matters. Disagreement is natural, and views evolve with new information.

Reining in Public Debt and Senseless Spending: Our public debt situation is complex but results mainly from a lack of planning. Government buildings are typically designed for up to 25 years of use. Yet our wastewater plant is 42 years old and the public works facility is more than 60 years old. Little forethought went into budgeting for their replacement or upgrade.

The wastewater plant upgrade followed a state demand. While some blame an unfunded mandate, the reality is that no money was reserved over 42 years. This led to \$41 million in bonds, with total project costs around \$80 million after debt service.

The public works facility presents an even clearer case of poor decisions. In 2006, previous council members showed fore-

sight by purchasing 35 acres north of town for the future facility. Instead, the current council and city manager chose a new site near the river. This involved clearing large old trees and adding massive amounts of fill dirt. The project costs approximately \$77 million (about \$23 million above the cost of the facility itself due to the purchase of new land and the prep work), with total taxpayer costs reaching about \$150 million when debt service is included.

Then there are the *alleyway murals at \$25,000 to \$50,000* each and *roundabout statues that block your view of other vehicles* at up to *an eye-watering \$50,000* with installation. These are not a wise use of taxpayer dollars. City government should focus on infrastructure improvements and long-term planning for those needs. While each expenditure on its own may not seem large, the total determines whether we can pay for needed infrastructure without borrowing or at least reduce the amount needed.

Our city deserves strong leadership willing to make tough decisions that are in the best interest of the taxpayers and the wise use of their money. **Thank you** for your trust and your vote for **Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"**, on **Tuesday April 7th**. **Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"** **Michael is a father of 5, grandfather of 3, USAF Veteran, recording artist, entrepreneur, Editor of USA Liberty Report, passionate about Freedom, Liberty, the founders' genius of the Constitution and current Candidate for Montrose City Council.**



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!



Michelle Klippert

Broker Associate

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY ANNOUNCES HIRING OF COUNTY MANAGER JOE KERBY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Montrose County has officially hired Joe Kerby as its next County Manager following a unanimous vote by the Board of County Commissioners. Kerby will begin his role on June 15.

Kerby brings more than 24 years of direct city and county management experience and over four decades of public sector leadership. He previously served as Montrose County Manager from 2006 to 2009 and has held leadership roles in communities across Colorado and Oregon, including La Plata County, the City of Delta, and Douglas County. Most recently, he has served as County Manager for Jefferson County.

The position was advertised nationally and attracted 52 applicants. The selection process included nine initial phone interviews, four rounds of interviews with commissioners, and a final interview. Commissioners Sue Hansen, Sean Pond, and Kirstin Copeland unanimously approved Kerby's employment agreement, reflecting strong confidence in his leadership and familiarity with the community.

"The Board was unanimous in its decision to hire Joe Kerby, recognizing his proven leadership and deep understanding of Montrose County and its needs," said Board of County Commissioners Chair Sue Hansen.

Kerby expressed enthusiasm about returning to Montrose County. "I am honored and excited to return to Montrose County and serve this community once again," said Kerby. "This is a place that means a great deal to me, and I look forward to working with the Board, staff, and community to continue building a strong future."

For more information about Montrose County, visit www.montrosecounty.net.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CEDAR POINT HEALTH WELCOMES NEW CEO ANITA SHEPHERD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Cedar Point Health is excited to announce in October of 2025 we hired our new CEO, Anita Shepherd. Anita is a healthcare and finance executive with more than 25 years of experience leading physician groups, specialty practices, and healthcare organizations through transformative growth and operational excellence. As a Certified Public Accountant and accomplished senior leader, Anita has held key roles including Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Director of Finance, and Practice Administrator. A Florida native and graduate of Florida Southern College, Anita's credentials include a Bachelor of Science in Business—Finance and licensure as a Certified Public Accountant. Her professional contributions include service on numerous healthcare advisory boards and economic development committees across Florida and Washington, D.C., reflecting her long-standing commitment to improving healthcare delivery and community well-being.

In a short period of time, Anita has hit the ground running to create meaningful change to support a thriving primary care practice in an ever-changing health care landscape. Replacing CPH's 12 year running CEO, Anita's addition to the leadership team is like she has always been here. As Cedar Point Health creates a new strategy to support patients, providers and 200 staff members, Anita has been instrumental in a new and evolving organization structure. Anita is excited to become part of the community, understand patient needs and help continue to support CPH being a best place to work.



Cedar Point Health CEO Anita Shepherd. Courtesy photo.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA JOINS SOUTHWEST POWER POOL TO STRATEGICALLY MANAGE LONG-TERM ENERGY COSTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) joined the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) on April 1, alongside several other utilities and energy providers, as part of a broader expansion of the regional transmission organization. By joining SPP, DMEA becomes part of a regional transmission organization (RTO). An RTO helps manage the flow of electricity across a large, multi-state grid. It works by matching electricity supply with demand in real time and selecting the most efficient power sources. Being part of SPP gives DMEA access to a broader network of energy resources, helping ensure open, fair access to transmission for utilities and energy providers. This strategic step also improves electric reliability and reduces the risk of outages—especially during extreme weather or high-demand periods.

“Joining SPP is an investment in the future reliability and resilience of our system,” said Jack Johnston, CEO of DMEA. “Access to a wider pool of resources helps ensure we can continue to meet our members’ needs. This is another important tool in our toolbox for achieving long-term cost stability.”

SPP coordinates electricity across a multi-state footprint, helping utilities balance supply and demand more efficiently. For DMEA, participation will provide long-term cost benefits by dispatching the lowest-cost available resources across the region.

DMEA emphasized that while the move offers long-term benefits, it also comes with costs. Participation in SPP includes meeting larger regional resource adequacy requirements, which ensure sufficient, reliable generation is available to serve members during peak demand and extreme conditions. These requirements will increase costs in the near term.

“As with any major decision, there are trade-offs,” Johnston said. “We recognize there may be near-term cost impacts, particularly as we meet new reliability and resource requirements, but over time, members can expect peace of mind during widespread storms or extreme demand and access to a broader mix of energy resources. We are confident that joining SPP positions DMEA to better manage those investments and deliver long-term value.”

DMEA will remain locally governed by its member-elected board. Additionally, DMEA will continue its partnership with Guzman Energy, which remains the cooperative’s primary wholesale power supplier. While Guzman provides the electricity, SPP helps coordinate how that electricity—and power from other sources—moves across the grid in real time. For more information about SPP, please visit spp.org.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SUMMER AIR SERVICE FEATURES NEW LAX FLIGHTS TO MTJ *Overall Capacity Is Up with Several Additions and Increases*

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE/MONTROSE— Air service for the upcoming summer season is expanding with new routes, increased frequencies and larger aircraft, contributing to an overall rise in capacity.

United Airlines will introduce new Saturday only service between Los Angeles (LAX) and Montrose (MTJ), operating from May 23 through September 19. In addition, United’s Chicago (ORD–MTJ) route will increase to five days per week, up from two weekly flights last summer, with service running from May 21 through September 21.

“The added service from LA and Chicago this summer makes it even easier for travelers to access the region, while also giv-

ing local residents more flexibility when planning their trips,” said Matt Skinner, CEO of Colorado Flights.

United will also enhance its Houston (IAH–MTJ) service, operating daily flights from May 21 through August 10, followed by twice-weekly service from August 11 through September 23.

Core routes will remain strong, with United and Southwest continuing multiple daily flights from Denver, alongside American Airlines’ service from Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW). Southwest will also maintain its Saturday service from Dallas Love Field (DAL).

Capacity will see an additional boost this spring, as both American and United deploy larger mainline aircraft from DFW

and Denver routes through April and May, and Southwest will operate its Denver route daily, up from five days weekly last year. This shift is expected to deliver a 20% increase in overall seat capacity in April and a 40% increase in May.

With some mid-summer aircraft adjustments still ongoing, total seasonal capacity is currently projected to increase by approximately 5% compared to last year. These enhancements underscore continued demand for regional air access and provide travelers with more options and flexibility throughout the summer season.

For full flight schedules and booking links, visit www.coloradoflights.org/summer.

-www.coloradoflights.org

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE AT JIG ROAD AND 5880 ROAD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Public Works has implemented a full road closure on Jig Road at 5880 Road beginning April 3, due to a broken water line. Repairs are expected to continue through April 7, 2026. The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association is conducting the repair work approximately 1,500 feet west of 5880 Road. For more information, please contact Richard Rivera at 970-209-7204.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CURECANTI MEDICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2026 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES *Scholarships available for health science students and professionals*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— For the 31st year, the Curecanti Medical Society is accepting scholarship applications to support individuals pursuing education or training in health-related fields. Nurses, medical students, therapists, hospital or clinic employees, and others working in related fields are encouraged to apply. These scholarships support the development of a strong local health care workforce. The Curecanti Medical Society is composed of physicians from the Montrose and Gunnison counties who are dedicated to expanding access to healthcare services. The organization is part of the Colorado Medical Society, and providing scholarships is one way it advances its mission.

Scholarship recipients will be selected by the Curecanti Medical Society’s Scholarship Committee. Preference will be given to applicants from the Montrose and Gunnison regions who intend to return to their communities to use their training. Applications are accepted through May 8, 2026, and recipients will be announced in mid-May.

To apply, visit montrosehealth.com/curecanti to submit an online application or download a printable form. For questions, contact Beth Miller at bmiller@montrosehealth.com.

ing access to healthcare services. The organization is part of the Colorado Medical Society, and providing scholarships is one way it advances its mission.

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8TH ANNUAL BOOT STOMP EVENT *Event helps raise funds for patients at San Juan Cancer Center*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Montrose Regional Health Foundation (MRHF) will host the eighth annual Boot Stomp on Friday, June 5, at Storm King Mountain Ranch, 70777 Buckhorn Road.

The fundraiser, which benefits patients at the San Juan Cancer Center through the Caring Friends Fund, will take place from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.

The event will feature music by Exit 42, as well as live and silent auctions, prizes for the best cowboy “bling” outfit, and more.

Tickets are \$100 each, or \$1,000 for a table of 10. Attendance is limited to 200 guests, and early reservations are encouraged. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, including:

- Gold Buckle Level:** \$10,000, table for 10 with dinner and hosted bar, individual patron recognition, and premium stage acknowledgment
- Silver Spur Level:** \$5,000, table for 10 with dinner and hosted bar, stage acknowledgment
- Bronze Boot Level:** \$2,500, tickets for 8 with dinner and cash bar, stage acknowledgment
- Two-Step Level:** \$1,000, tickets for 4 with dinner and cash bar, stage acknowledgment

For more information, contact Kelly Anderson, executive director of the MRH Foundation at 970-240-7396 or email kanderson@montrosehealth.com. To learn more or purchase tickets, visit montrosehealth.com/



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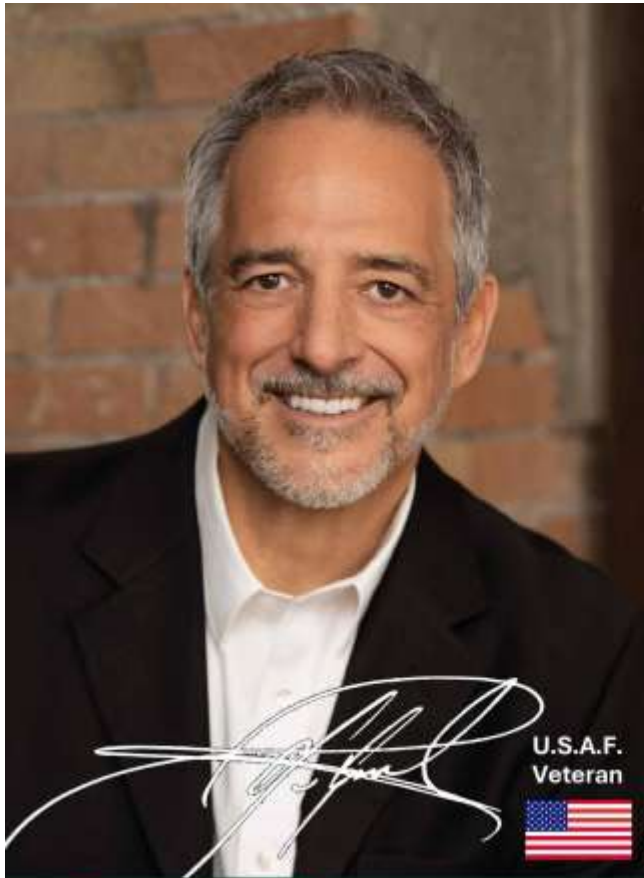
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT: LEADERSHIP TRANSITION COMMUNICATION

Dear Community Partners,

The Board of Directors of the Montrose Recreation District (MRD), is writing to inform you of an important leadership transition.

After careful consideration, the Board decided not to renew the contract of our Executive Director, Mari Steinbach. This decision follows thoughtful evaluation and discussion regarding the District's current needs and future direction. We appreciate the service and contributions that have been made during this season of leadership and wish her well in future endeavors.

We recognize that strong partnerships are essential to the success of MRD and to the community we serve. Please be assured that the Board is committed to ensuring a smooth and stable transition. An

interim leadership plan is being implemented to maintain continuity of operations, programs, services, and collaborative initiatives. Our focus remains on delivering high-quality recreation opportunities and advancing the projects and priorities that benefit our community.

Fortunately, the Montrose Recreation District has a strong operational team in Deputy Director Jeremy Master, Recreation Services Superintendent Justin Mashburn, and Maintenance Superintendent Mike (Miguel) Lopez. The position for a new Executive Director was posted on March 27th and will remain open for 30 days. You can view and share the job posting here:

<https://montroserec.apscareerportal.com/jobs/3333526>

We are committed to keeping our partners informed and engaged throughout this transition. If you have been collaborating with a staff member on a particular project, that will remain the same. A Board member may accompany staff to important project meetings as needed.

We value the relationships we have built with each of you and are grateful for your continued partnership. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Board directly at mrd-board@montroserec.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Montrose Recreation District and the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sharrow

*President, Board of Directors
Montrose Recreation District*

SUPERINTENDENT STEPHENSON IS CREATING FEAR AMONG EMPLOYEES AND PARENTS

Editor:

Dr. Stephenson sent a letter to the families of Montrose County School District informing them of budget issues and declining enrollment. This was followed by an MCSD Community Survey on Facilities Strategy to all parents seeking their input for the 2026-2027 school year budget. What is important to know is that neither did the School Board initiate this survey or letter; nor was it approved by them; this was done solely by Superintendent Stephenson. On a side note, I did not receive the survey, though I pay taxes to support our District, and I wonder if other taxpayers who do not have children in the District received one. I had to seek out the survey in order to take it.

Dr. Stephenson begins the letter with phrases such as "challenging budget environment," "significant shortfall," and "declining enrollment;" all of these means less funding. This raises a red flag to District employees, both teachers and administrators, and concerns are surfacing about whether or not their future employment is at risk.

The survey asks whether or not the District should raise funding through local tax increases (mill levy override), operate more efficiently or reduce programs and services. With our burgeoning administration, we could easily trim staff, thus reduce costs. [Article on increasing school staff nationwide: <https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/why-public-schools-have-more-staff-fewer-students-5974210>] Operating more efficiently would be a no-brainer answer.

Should they merge schools to better use staff, programs and facilities? If schools were merged, the obvious outcome would be larger class sizes, a decrease in quality of academic programs, overcrowding, to name a few.

This survey seems to be designed to cause emotional responses and potential distress. Questions might arise such as: Will my child be farther away from home? Will her education be affected by more students in the classroom? Will the quality of her education be impacted?

The survey lists the schools to which people are connected. It is interesting that

Olathe Elementary School was left out (at least on my survey).

It is important to know that the Board has not met to discuss next year's budget as of this writing. This survey has caused many teachers to fear losing their jobs. The repercussions of this letter and survey have caused teachers to be in tears because of the potential changes Dr. Stephenson is suggesting before the Board has addressed it.

Apparently, as a result of the survey, I heard that the school principals met together and were told they each had to cut five positions. Concerns and fear have permeated District employees, and I don't blame them. The guillotine is above their heads and they are not sure whether the blade will be released.

Dr. Stephenson keeps forgetting that she is under the Board's authority (probably because she was used to previous Boards rubber-stamping her wishes), and an employee of the Board, but now she has undermined the Board, and there should be consequences.

Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

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Continued next pg

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Montrose Education Foundation 2026 Teacher of the Year Recipients, \$10,000 Impact Award Recipients



\$10,000 Impact Award—L to R: Deann Balash (MEF), Meghan Waschbusch and Chris Thompson (CTMS). Courtesy photo.



Teacher of the Year recipients L to R: Joy Robinson (OMHS), Leslie Maddox (CMS) and Valerie Hansen (JES). Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Education Foundation, Inc. (MEF) hosted its annual Educator Appreciation Reception on Thursday, April 2, 2026, for all Montrose County School District (MCSD) staff. The event was held at the Montrose Pavilion and served as a small token of sincere appreciation for the hard work and dedication of every MCSD team member.

During the reception, MEF was honored to announce the 2026 Teacher of the Year recipients and present the \$10,000 Impact Award. The **MEF Impact Award** is presented to teachers who are either past *Teacher of the Year* recipients or current *Teacher of the Year* candidates. Eligible educators submit an innovative and impactful idea designed to benefit their schools and students. Each year, **one outstanding project** is selected to receive the

award.

The 2026 Impact Award was awarded to Chris Thompson and Meghan Waschbusch at Centennial Middle School for their VEX Robotics Program. The project will expand the Robotics Class by creating an afterschool robotics program for middle schoolers.

The program would provide weekly sessions that allow additional students to participate in VEX Robotics and prepare for competitions. In addition, the program will offer bi-weekly afterschool robotics sessions for elementary students, providing an earlier exposure to engineering design and robotics.

The Montrose Education Foundation Teacher of the Year Program recognizes licensed classroom teachers for the significant contributions they make to their schools, district and their community. Each year, nominations are submitted by parents, students, colleagues and community members. The nomination period opens in October and closes in mid-November. One hundred sixty-one teachers were nominated and recognized in November

2025 during American Education Week. Each received a lapel pin and a certificate in recognition of their dedication to education. During this time, the MEF also shows appreciation for the entire staff by providing baskets of apples to schools throughout the district. Ten outstanding educators completed the candidate essay questionnaire, which is based on the Colorado Teacher of the Year standards, making them eligible for further consideration. From this group, three level recipients—Elementary, Middle, and High School—were selected. Each received a \$500 check from Alpine Bank to use in their classrooms, and MEF presented them with a crystal trophy in recognition of their achievement. Congratulations to the following 2026 Teacher of the Year recipients. The quotes are from their application about what their teaching philosophy

is.

Elementary School Recipient – Valerie Hansen - Johnson Elementary School; “My philosophy of education focuses on the whole child – socially, emotionally, and academically. When students are in a classroom space where they feel safe and supported, they are ALL able to grow and thrive.”

Middle School Recipient – Leslie Maddox - Columbine Middle School; “All students can learn in an environment focused on building relationships, mutual respect, and high expectations. Mistakes provide opportunities for growth and should be used to encourage reflection on learning.”

High School Recipient – Joy Robinson - Olathe Middle and High School; “Through creative and critical innovation, high expectations, passion, and a focus on productive struggle, resilience, and equity, I aim to empower students to succeed academically while developing confidence, adaptability, and lifelong learning skills.”

The MEF would like to thank our platinum sponsors: the City of Montrose, Buck and Marsha Miller, and the Blythe Group. We also want to extend a huge thank you to Brianna Skarka and Joshua Skarka, the 2026 Montrose’s Got Talent grand prize winners, for providing such incredible entertainment at the reception. The Montrose’s Got Talent competition, along with the generous support of our sponsors, is how the foundation raises the funds necessary to support teachers throughout the Montrose and Olathe communities. The MEF is comprised of community members dedicated to making a positive impact on our local education system, guided by their mission: “Education is Our Future.”

Current board members include Deann Balash, Melissa Byrnes, Patricia Cummings, Kathy Flower, Sandy Head, Jody Hovde, Buck Miller, Alice Murphy, Carrie Stephenson and Mikayla Unruh.

For more information about the foundation, our programs, how to become a board member, or how to make a donation, please visit montroseeducationfoundation.org or contact us at montroseeducationfoundation22@gmail.com.

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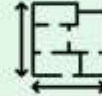
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OPINION/EDITORIAL LETTERS

NO KINGS FUNDED BY PRO-COMMUNIST GROUPS

Editor:

The recent “No Kings” gatherings in Montrose and Paonia were a source of amusement in that they only seem to confirm that Democrats are the Kings of Hypocrisy. I share the concern of the retired school teacher who chose to highlight the deaths of Iranian teachers and children in an apparent airstrike a month ago. If that occurred, that is a tragedy that must be remembered. Let's also give proper attention to the 30,000+ unarmed civilians that were confirmed to be gunned down in the streets in January by the Iranian tyrants. They had to use the fire department to wash the blood off the streets. Let's also talk about Saleh Mohammadi, the 19-year-old champion wrestler who protested in Iran and was publicly hanged with two other people in March. Also, Atefah Saleh who was also hanged by the Iranian regime. Her crime? She was the victim of rape. If we are interested in something other than just deceiving the gullible and confusing people, we might want to point out that if the school airstrike occurred, it was obviously a tragic accident versus the calculated cold-blooded murder of Iranian citizens. These “No-Kings” protests only give Democrats something to feel good about when they can't legitimately win at the ballot box. That's all they have.

No Kings? That “movement” is a sham, funded by many pro-Communist groups, to the tune of at least \$3 billion --- meaning that the movement is driven by those who apparently want a dictatorship similar to those of Stalin, Mao, and Kim Jong-un. Any Republican president is a “king” in the eyes of power-hungry leftists. Any Democrat, no matter how tyrannical, is a great benevolent leader, no matter their policy disasters. Trump, in fact, more than any recent president, is fighting for the middle class. He is doing everything possible to reduce the size of the government with lowered taxes and reduced regulations. That is the opposite of what a king would do. Likewise for gun control. Democrats want more power and money for a more powerful government, which is ex-

actly what dictators would do. Most “No Kings” protesters are totally befuddled when asked to give an example of how Trump is acting like a dictator. They ignore, or are completely ignorant of, a long list of actions taken by Obama and Biden that were both dictatorial and destructive to this nation. I could fill this page with examples, but I'll just mention a few.

Obama used the IRS to violate the constitutional rights of his political opponents in the Tea Party. He illegally spied on millions of Americans. The Obama era NSA admits to years of illegal searches on Americans. Obama repeatedly said the Constitution didn't allow him to unilaterally change immigration law, but proceeded to do just that. Biden refused to abide by his oath of office when he refused to enforce immigration laws passed by Congress — opening our borders to an invasion. Obama dictatorially ordered the Justice department to drop an investigation into drug-running terrorists to appease Iran. Obama and Biden signed on to the Iran nuclear agreement that did nothing to slow their development of nuclear weapons, with no Congressional approval. Instead, Obama sent Iran billions in cash which they used to continue terrorizing the rest of the world. Obama went to war with Libya and other nations, and his CIA actually used “double tap” missile attacks to intentionally increase “collateral damage” of first responders and other civilians. Both Biden and Obama illegally used the entire weight of the deep state, including the DOJ and FBI, to target Catholics, parents, Trump supporters, and especially Trump himself. The list goes on.

Trump has been in office now a total of a little over five years. That is the sum total of his political career. Chuck Schumer, 46 years — longer than Stalin. Nancy Pelosi, 39 years — longer than Henry VIII. Maxine Walters, 35 years — longer than Mussolini. Bernie Sanders, 35 years — triple Hitler's reign. Trump won a free and fair election as the 47th president. He went through a presidential primary against two formidable Republican candidates, before taking

on two Democrat nominees in the general election; Biden and Harris. Harris was the Democrat “nominee” because the party powerbrokers pushed a sitting President out when they could no longer hide his senility. That decision was based on the fact the Biden-Harris campaign had raised more than \$350 million. With that money being nontransferable to another candidate not named Biden or Harris, only Harris could be installed as the nominee. Installed is the key word. Democrats could have opted for another primary to give voters a say, but money talks. If that sounds downright Soviet to you, it should. Providing Democrat voters with a fair primary process was never a consideration. Trump won the popular vote, the electoral vote, and every swing state, and he is more popular at this point in his presidency than Obama, but Trump is the dictator?

Meanwhile, the “No Kings” protests continue with their imagined grievances, most of which are not factually based. They want to negate election results, but insist that Trump should be in prison for trying to overthrow the government. They still claim Biden was of sound mind, but that Trump has lost his marbles. They ignore all of Epstein's serious ties to Clinton and other powerful Democrats, but insist that Trump did something terrible. They call for “hate speech” and “misinformation” to be prosecuted as crimes, while denouncing Trump's supposed attacks on free speech. This week Nancy Pelosi is claiming on national television that Republicans are going to try to change votes through hacking in the mid-term elections — after the entire Democrat apparatus went apoplectic over any Republican attempt to enact any sort of voter integrity laws. The “No Kings” people want so badly to be taken seriously, but that is difficult given overwhelming evidence that they are the Kings of Hypocrisy. We are supposed to take their hurt feelings seriously, but their rhetoric and messages simply make no sense.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BEGINS PLANNING FOR 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR AMID STATE BUDGET CHALLENGES AND DECLINING ENROLLMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County School District (MCSD) has begun its annual planning process for the 2026–2027 school year, navigating a challenging financial landscape shaped by statewide budget uncertainty and continued declines in student enrollment.

Across Colorado, school districts are preparing for potential impacts from a projected state budget shortfall. While final funding decisions will not be made until the Colorado School Finance Act is approved in May, early indications suggest districts should plan for flat funding at best.

At the same time, MCSD, like many districts across the state, is experiencing declining enrollment due to lower birth rates and expanded school choice options. Because public school funding is directly tied to student enrollment, this decline is expected to result in reduced overall revenue for the district.

Based on current projections, MCSD is planning for a potential budget shortfall ranging from approximately \$1.5 million to \$5.4 million. These estimates remain preliminary and will be refined as additional information becomes available from the state.

“During times like this, it is critical that our decisions remain grounded in what we value most,” said Superintendent Dr. Carrie Stephenson. “Our guiding principle is clear: we must adjust to declining enrollment and state funding realities while protecting classroom learning and teacher compensation.”

To address these challenges, the district is exploring a range of options to ensure responsible stewardship of public resources while maintaining a strong educational experience for students.

As part of its annual process, MCSD is already adjusting staffing levels to align with enrollment. District leaders emphasized that these adjustments are consistent with past practice and are not expected to significantly increase class sizes.

These steps are part of a broader effort to ensure long-term stability.

“This is about making sure our district is on solid footing not just this year, but for the years ahead, so we can continue delivering a strong education for our students,” Stephenson said.

In addition to staffing adjustments, the district has reached a point where it must also examine long-term facility use. This includes exploring potential school consolidation and boundary adjustments as en-

rollment trends continue to impact building utilization.

To support this work, MCSD has engaged a professional demographer to analyze enrollment patterns, facility capacity, and potential scenarios. This analysis is in its initial phase and no decisions have been made.

The district will present additional information during the regular Board of Education meeting on April 14, 2026, including:

- Updated budget and enrollment projections

- Staffing adjustments currently underway
- Additional cost-saving measures
- Findings from the demographer related to potential school consolidation and boundary changes

This meeting will serve as an important step in the Board’s decision-making process.

MCSD remains committed to a thoughtful, transparent approach as it navigates these challenges, with a continued focus on students, staff, and the broader community.

Community members are encouraged to attend or listen to the April 14 Board of Education meeting. Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks as the planning process continues.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE CITY OF MONTROSE PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS AT IT AGAIN *Tooting Their Own Horn at Taxpayer Expense*

By David White

Not content to shell out tens of thousands of dollars of your tax dollars by paying staff member Will Woody (the City's Public Information Officer) or former Assistant City Manager Rob Joseph's "Montrose Lifestyle" business to inform the citizenry and others of what is happening at the City as well as their contracted "Business Development Officer" Anthony Russo (head of the Development and Revitalization Team – aka "DART"), City Manager Bill Bell and presumably this "team" have decided to use your dollars to advertise their accomplishments via a "Pay-to-Play" marketing scheme on top of all of the giveaways to paint the town green with your money.

Prompting this missive is a social media post by the City on Saturday, April 5, 2026, wherein they state the following in their media news release about the City being featured in *Business View Magazine*:

[City of Montrose Colorado Government nstorSpoeddc24ceMtm9c3m1tr6uetPha-9i:1Yy1s82l1_h7a_082c18m91](https://www.cityofmontrose.com/newsroom/2026/04/05/city-of-montrose-colorado-government-nstorSpoeddc24ceMtm9c3m1tr6uetPha-9i:1Yy1s82l1_h7a_082c18m91)

Big things are happening in Montrose! Business View Magazine has released an expose on Montrose in its latest issue. Dive into the full article to learn more:

businessviewmagazine.com/civil-municipal/mar-2026/69/

New hotels, expanded housing, vibrant downtown spaces, and even a city-supported childcare center are all part of a larger vision for our community's future.

Key Topics Covered in the Article:

- Downtown revitalization, including the Rathbone Hotel and historic preservation efforts
- New restaurants, nightlife, and local business development
- City-funded improvements (infrastructure, murals, and business support programs)
- Housing expansion (market-rate, affordable, and mixed-use developments)

- Economic growth and attracting new businesses

- Tourism and hotel development to meet increasing demand

- Major infrastructure projects (roads, utilities, public works)

- New city-supported childcare facility opening in 2026

- Support for arts and culture, including community theater partnerships

- Long-term planning to manage growth and maintain quality of life

[Montrose Lifestyle](#) [Visit Montrose Montrose DART](#) [Montrose Recreation District](#) [Colorado Outdoors](#)

So, *Business View Magazine* has released an exposé on Montrose? I've never heard of them, but maybe you have. That would be great if they weren't a pay-to-play publication relying on businesses or governmental entities to propagandize their products or communities without an "organic" origin. Simply put, this is a taxpayer paid for puff piece and from what I've learned, not the first time your tax dollars have been spent on this questionable publication.

The Boise, Idaho based digital marketing and website development firm "Rise Visible" has an excellent piece on their website titled "The Dangers of Pay-to-Play" that's worth reading. Click this link to read: (<https://risevisible.com/the-dangers-of-pay-to-play-publications-and-press-in-marketing>).

In a nutshell, they offer the following information:

"A pay-to-play publication is a magazine, or blog, or another type of feature that offers the opportunity for you to be featured if you pay them. It is a marketing tactic that involves paying publications and press in order to get your product or service featured, reviewed, or highlighted. They will typically charge you a fee, but some may charge in other ways, such as requiring you to buy ad space. Although there are some pay-to-play publi-

cations that are actually legitimate – most are not so we will focus on the majority in this blog."

"These pieces are not unbiased and do not have the same standards as legitimate publications. You can't trust them. They are not reliable, and they certainly aren't reputable. Pay-to-play publications are also not worth the money, as they won't help you get more clients or customers or generate leads."

The bottom line is that the Minister of Propaganda (aka, the City Manager) continues to give the taxpayers the big middle finger with this kind of "in your face" boasting about how his Fascist form of governing in conjunction with the current City Council is somehow going to fly in the long run as a wise use of your money.

Boasting about spending in excess of \$1.5 million dollars on the restoration of the Rathbone Hotel; \$150,000++ for a City/Government **employee only** daycare; swapping public land (without a vote by the public) so that the Magic Circle Theater (a favorite organization of our resident public thespian, aka the City Manager) could have the land under the building they own given to them by you and me; millions spent on the Colorado Outdoors project as well as hundreds of thousands on downtown murals and commercial kitchens in downtown restaurants and others. Meddling in private businesses. Paying for private parking lots and landscaping. The list is too numerous and the dollars too many to count, however, most have been covered in previous articles that have appeared in *The Montrose Mirror*.

For a City of roughly 22,500 residents, the extravagant spending that has put us over \$100,000,000 in debt for the next 40-50 years is just beyond the pale and to brag about it is just reckless. And it's going to get worse. As reported in last week's *Montrose Mirror*, plans are afoot to create a "Downtown Urban Renewal District" as

CITY OF MONTROSE PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS AT IT AGAIN

From previous pg

a part of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority's governing structure. All to enable the "good ole boys" that are buying up downtown real estate to feed at the public trough in the weeks and months ahead. More commercial kitchen and building façade improvement grants are in the works folks. Throw in asbestos removal, remodeling of buildings and much more and you'll see money spent that will never come back to the taxpayers.

All I can say is that for this behavior to stop, you, the reader, **need to VOTE in**

tomorrow's Municipal Election! April 7, 2026, will be a pivotal day for the City of Montrose.

The most viable and "on the record" candidates for City Council committed to making these needed fiscal changes to curb the freewheeling spending by the City are **Michael Badagliacco, Adam Wooden and Ed Ulibarri. PLEASE VOTE!** Without a drastic change in the deficit spending that's been going on for years, Montrose will find itself in a not so nice place should the local, state and national economies take the proverbial crap! It's

time to put the brakes on!

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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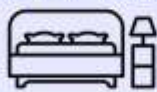
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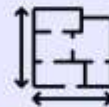
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KATHLEEN M. TABOR *February 13, 1947-April 1, 2026*



Kathleen cartwheeled into the arms of Jesus with a resounding shout of, "Yeah God!" on April 1, 2026. Kathleen was born February 13, 1947 to John Edward and

Peggy Moynihan McCaffrey, the eldest of their five children and a fourth generation Montrose native. She attended Oak Grove Elementary School and graduated from Montrose High School in 1965. She was married to her high school sweetheart, David Tabor, on August 19, 1966 and they would have celebrated their 60th-wedding anniversary in August.

David and Kathleen were blessed with four children and in 1977 embarked on a life's journey of Christian Missions, initially with Youth with a Mission. With YWAM they served in Hawaii, Australia and Papua New Guinea. Upon returning to Montrose in 1997, they founded and lead Solid Rock Foundation Ministries, a youth and family ministry. Kathleen traveled to 36 nations teaching, counselling and mentoring. She led King's Kids, and later Audience of One. Discipling and taking youth teams on Summer Mission trips most often with their children and grandchildren from to 1988

through 2015. She will be remembered for living her life out loud, loving fiercely, nights awake praying, hundreds of hair-cuts, making bridesmaids and wedding dresses and feeding everyone she loved.

Kathleen is survived by her husband, David Tabor, four children, nineteen grandchildren, six great grandchildren. Lisa (Lance) Rediger, (Daniel, Michael, Jeremy, Katelyn, Jordan and Shannon) Jordan (Karen) Tabor, (Anna, Rachel, Lydia, Hope and Megan) Megan (Geoff) Ila (Teira, Jamie, Shae and Tayne) and John (Daniella) Tabor (Jasmine, Natasha, Tyrone and Yates) and her four siblings, Patti (Chuck) Wagner, Margaret McCaffrey, Ed McCaffrey and Anne (Tim) Gibbins and hundreds of spiritual sons and daughters both in the USA and abroad.

A memorial service will be held at Grace Community Church, 11 am, Wednesday, April 8, 2026. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to HopeWest Hospice.



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

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SHAKIRA BERG

July 19, 1976 – March 27, 2026



SHAKIRA BERG passed away at her home in Montrose Colorado on March 27, 2026. Shakira was born in Montrose Colorado to MaRia Gallegos and Robert Wilson on July 19, 1976, she was named Shakira Seyson Wilson. Shakira grew up in Montrose and attended Elementary, Middle, and Highschool in Montrose. She graduated Montrose Highschool in 1994. She then attended The University of Northern Colorado in Greeley Colorado graduating in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in criminal psychology.

Shakira was a lover of all animals and never met one she didn't want to take home. She loved books and at last count had over 400 books in her home. She enjoyed traveling with her children and collected unicorns.

She is survived her mother MaRia Moxley-Mann of Nevada; children, Hal Berg and Aidan Paider both of Montrose; sister Meydo (Bob) Cooling of Montrose. Shakira is also survived by many nieces and nephews she adored; Lauren (Ben) Axell of Wrightstown Wisconsin, Emma Cooling (Hank Dougherty) of Fort Collins Colorado, Raevyn (Edgar) Carrasco of Grand Junction Colorado, Sophia Cooling of Montrose, Wyatt Cooling of Montrose. Along with great nieces and nephews; Isla, Callahan, and Oliver Axell, Donovan and Santiago Carrasco.

At this time the family is planning a Celebration of Life at a later date.

Condolences can be sent to 3401 Valley way Montrose Colorado 81401

MARY ELLA ENGLISH

July 31, 1927 – March 22, 2026

MARYELLA (GEORGE) ENGLISH, passed away peacefully at home March 22, 2026 with her family by her side.

MaryElla was born on July 31, 1927, the third of 13 children of George George and Catherine Elizabeth Sittner George. She spent her entire life in Montrose, Colorado, where she attended Oak Grove Elementary School and graduated from Montrose County High School in 1945.

While growing up MaryElla worked on the family farm along side her father and older brother, Harold. She worked the fields with a team of horses before the family had a tractor. She often joked that she "should have been a boy!"

MaryElla married Tony English in 1946 and together they farmed in Montrose and raised their family. They enjoyed farming together for next 41 years until Tony passed unexpectedly on February 26, 1987, and MaryElla remained on the farm for the next 26 years managing its operations.

MaryElla enjoyed all types of sports. She played on the Co-op women's softball team in the sixties and seventies where she was the team catcher. She made many lifelong friendships. She also enjoyed over 40 years of bowling on the local women's bowling league where she also made many friends and was an inspiration to many of the girls who were much younger than her. She continued to bowl until she was over 98 years old.

In 2013 she sold her farm and moved to town where she enjoyed her new home. Her new neighbors looked after her and she considered many of them like family.

Mary Ella is survived by her three children: Bill (Kathy) English of Delta; Kathy (Ron) Holman of Mesa, AZ; and Chuck English of Montrose. Also surviving are her four grandchildren, Jon English, Lynn English, Kendra Holman and Dustin Holman and six great-grandchildren: Hailey McWhirter, Natalie McWhirter, Peyton Fellet, Landon Fellet, Jessalyn English, and Katie Holman. Surviving siblings are Herb George of Montrose, Dorothy Story of Aztec, New Mexico, Shirley Toothman of West Coving, California, Alice Crane of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Jeanette Ammons of Goodyear, Arizona. She was preceded in death by both her parents and brothers and sisters: Harold George, Irene Schleich, Norma Gottfried, Kay Sanderson, John George, William George and baby MaryLou George.

Graveside Service was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Cedar Cemetery.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

REBECCA "BECKY" SUSANNE DUCE *March 17, 1965- March 20, 2026*

REBECCA (BECKY) SUSANNE DUCE passed away on March 20, 2026. She was born in Denver, Colorado on March 17, 1965 to Earl and Carolyn Peeples and her older brothers David and Tom.

The family built their cabin in Pleasant Valley and moved from the Boulder area to Ridgway permanently in 1979 where Becky and David both finished high school. Becky met Steve in Ridgway and they went snowmobiling up Owl Creek Pass as their first date. Even though Steve lost her off of the back of the snowmobile multiple times that day, the rest was history and they were married in September of 1988.

Becky enjoyed the outdoors and loved animals. She told stories about exploring the Ridgway and Dallas Divide area on horseback as a teenager and young adult. She was an accomplished photographer and worked at the llama ranch in Ridgway in her twenties, taking many photos of their show llamas and helping care for the animals. She even had her own mischievous alpaca named RayBan.

While Becky didn't enjoy actually hunting very much, she loved her community of hunters from Colorado, Wisconsin and Minnesota who came to visit and hunt with Steve and the kids each fall. She cooked many of her famous hunting camp meals year after year for all to enjoy and opened her home to all who visited.

Although hunting wasn't her thing, Becky loved fishing and was happiest when sitting on the dock in Wisconsin at the family's Tippy Canoe fishcamp with sun-

flower seeds, a beer and a fishing pole waiting for the elusive Northern Pike to strike. One of her proudest and happiest moments was catching the big one with Grandpa Wayne lending a hand.

Becky and her mom Carolyn enjoyed painting, canning, sewing and crafting together and they often shared that love with their friends by teaching them how. Becky gifted all of her crafts and goods to friends and family. Her party mix, elk jerky and special bloody mary mix were legendary. Friends and relatives were often gifted handmade baby blankets and Christmas ornaments. We hope those fortunate enough to enjoy Becky's talents, will look back and remember our mom's generosity.

Becky's joy in life were her kids and kids in general. She hated sports but loved watching them when her kids were playing and watched all of the kids games. She once had an entire hotel bar of strangers watching Eva's basketball team playing in the NCAA tournament. She became an avid fan of the Paralympics after watching Heidi compete in Sochi. She loved collecting the challenge coins that Steven would gift her. Although she never became a grandma in the traditional way, all of the children of friends and relatives adored Aunt B or Bebe as she was called and will treasure the time they spent in her care.

Becky was preceded in death by her parents Earl and Carolyn and her parents in law Wayne and Carole Duce. She is survived by her husband Steve, her kids Eva



(Darian), Heidi (Scott) and Steven (Nora), her brothers David (Brenda) and Tom (Debbie) and nieces, nephews and extended family spread across the country and her beloved mini-Aussie, Scrubby.

In lieu of flowers we encourage you to donate to the Shriners Children's Hospital or Special Olympics Colorado in honor of Becky.

Less formally, you can also channel your inner Becky by making a meal or a homemade gift for someone who could use a smile or a helping hand.

The family will host a Celebration of Life on Saturday, May 23rd at the Duce House at 7700 HWY 62 starting at 2pm. Bring an app, side or dessert to share along with your best Becky memories. Please carpool if you can.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DEAN MARTINSON

November 6, 1944 – January 31, 2026



ington, where he graduated from Walla Walla University in 1966 with a degree in chemistry. He furthered his education at Loma Linda University in California obtaining a Master's Degree in Chemistry.

After graduation Dean taught nursing chemistry at San Bernardino and Loma Linda Universities. He always had a love of the outdoors, so his next job took him to Alaska where he worked as a game warden. Dean loved telling tales about being shot at by unhappy fishermen. He then moved to California where he worked with a friend, Bob Keeney, doing construction. Bob introduced him to his cousin, Sharlene Haigh, who became the love of his life. Dean and Sharlene were married on September 7, 1969. They were married 56 years prior to Dean's passing.

DEAN MARTINSON, 81, died unexpectedly January 31, 2026, from sepsis complications, at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Dean was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota to Leonard and Adelyn Martinson on November 6, 1944. He grew up in Gentry, Arkansas with his mother, Adelyn Ammon and older brother, Wally. The family moved over the years to Blackberry, Minnesota; Jamestown, North Dakota, and Milo, Oregon. He graduated from Milo Academy where he was senior class president. Dean moved to Walla Walla, Wash-

Dean and Sharlene eventually moved to Ft. Collins, Colorado, where Dean continued working in construction. Their final move took them to Montrose, Colorado. Dean worked in construction management for twenty-five years including a job in Hawaii. He and Sharlene designed and built a home for their family. In 1995, Dean created Martinson Concrete Construction, and his concrete work included jobs for Colorado Park Service and the towns of Gunnison, Crested Butte, Ridgeway, Ouray, Olathe, and Montrose.

Dean had a great love for family and

friends. His two children, James and Amy, were the apple of his eye. He was known for his compassion, humor and his easy way of engaging anyone in conversation. Dean's hobbies included camping, riding motorcycles, fly fishing, skiing, boating, and hunting.

After his retirement, he and Sharlene enjoyed traveling and collecting Indian rugs, jewelry, and artifacts. He especially loved his Harley, Indian motorcycle, and Corvette.

Dean was preceded in death by his mother Adelyn Ammon, stepfather, Ted Ammon; stepbrother, Jerry Ammon. He is survived by wife, Sharlene, and children James Martinson, Amy King and her husband, Tadd King; grandchildren Declan, Avery, and Calan King; brother, Wally Martinson and wife, Lynne; half-brother, Perry Martinson and wife, Julie; half-sister, Jill Redekopp and husband, Jeff; stepbrother Don Ammon and wife, Sharon; stepsister, Nancy Tucker and husband, Gordon, step sister-in-law Zella Ammon; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held June 27, 2026, at the Martinson home.

Those who wish to remember Dean may make gifts to a charity of their choice or to St. Mary's Foundation, P.O. Box 1628, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-9826. Mark donation for Rose Hill Apartments.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KAREN VEE BELL BARNEY ***August 8, 1943 — March 24, 2026***



KAREN VEE BELL BARNEY was born August 8, 1943, in Payson, Utah, to Klar H. Bell and Mary Leora Johnson. After a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease, she departed this earth peacefully on March 24, 2026, surrounded by her loving family while under the care of Valley Manor and Senior Community Care of Colorado Pace program.

Karen will be remembered for her gentle spirit, generous heart, and unwavering devotion to those she loved. Her life was a beautiful tribute of kindness, connection, and the joy found in both simple moments and lifelong passions. Throughout her life she dedicated herself to homemaking and her family. She was proud to work at K-mart for over 20 years alongside her many friends and colleges until she retired to enjoy her passions and relationships. She will be deeply missed and forever felt in our hearts by all who knew and loved her. Karen shared a remarkable 65-year marriage with her beloved husband, Wayne Barney. Together, they built a life of adventure and unconditional love with their family and friends.

She is survived by her devoted husband Wayne, and their children Robyn Meeks, Shelly (Mike) Pilling, and James Barney. Her grandchildren are Kassidy (Will) Spencer, Derek (Elena) Meeks, Austin Meeks, Gabrielle (Dylan) Pilling, Shalyn (Zac) Bryner, Ryan Myers, Cazz (Carson) Davis, Andrew (Melissa) Barney, 14 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild, and 4 loving sisters. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and one grandson, James Kyle Barney.

A celebration of life will be held on her birthday, August 8, 2026. The location and time will be determined later. We, as a family, are eternally grateful for the compassionate care she received from Valley Manor and Community Care of Colorado Pace program in Montrose, CO. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Volunteers of America.

RONALD "RON" GENE WING

RONALD "RON" GENE WING, passed away in his home in Olathe on March 28, 2026. He is preceded in death by his parents, Merl and Irene Wing, nine siblings (Bob, Lloyd, Eileen, Wanda, Dwight, Melvin, Ken, Don (twin), and Diane), and two (twin) great granddaughters.

Ron is survived by the love of his life, Lori Wing, whom he was married to for 64 years. Ron and Lori had three children, Rick (Kristen) Wing, Lisa Wing and Penny (Brad) Harris. Ron was also a grandpa to 9 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 2 great great-grandchildren. Ron was also an uncle, cousin and friend to many, many others.

Ron was a 1958 graduate of Olathe High School. He served in the United States Air Force for 4 years immediately after graduating from high school. Anyone that knew Ron would describe him as a hard worker, a skilled carpenter, a prankster and extraordinarily ornery.

Ron, as stated, was revered as husband, dad, grandpa, son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. He is also revered as a great man.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to HopeWest Hospice, 725 S. 4th Street, Montrose, CO, 81401.



ISSUE 568 April 6, 2026

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – WORKING MEMORY



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.

Greetings Mirrorites!

OLATHE-I recently hosted a farm intern who was delightful in many ways. Hard-working and congenial, I was nevertheless troubled by this person's extremely poor working memory. Verbal instructions were forgotten in less than 30 minutes. This characteristic bothered this young person as well, but she was a smart phone addict and felt that even though the two personality features were interconnected, as a smart phone addict, she felt helpless to change anything for the better.

This person was raised in urban and suburban metropolitan areas in France. Although her parents were big fans of nature, time spent outdoors was limited and generally confined to a built environment until her late teen years. Reflecting on this, I wondered if other Gen Z folks have



similar issues and whether exposure to greenspace and a feeling of connectedness to nature can help with cognitive functioning in children, particularly working memory.

Working memory is what allows people to temporarily hold and manipulate information. It acts as a mental workspace, where learning, reasoning, comprehension, and problem-solving get to play together. In children and adolescents, working memory is especially critical as it underpins the development of a wide range of cognitive skills and academic competencies. Working memory capacity improves with age, peaking in late adolescence. It's comprised of various compo-

nents, including the phonological loop, which is responsible for processing verbal information, allowing children and adolescents to remember and manipulate words and numbers. In researching this topic, I began to wonder if lack of green space as a child had hindered my intern's development of this particular brain function.

I found a study that indicated that children raised in rural poverty had better working memory/verbal instruction retention skills than children raised in urban poverty. This begs the question, did the rural kids have slightly better skills because of surrounding nature, even if it was not planned and designed to be restorative and gorgeous? Does excessive screen

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – WORKING MEMORY *From previous pg*

time make the problems worse?

To examine the first question, even crappy greenery beats no greenery. And even indoor greenery is better than no greenery. One cool study from 2024 showed that

“... working memory might be optimized in 25–36% indoor vegetation density. The study also found significant sex differences: females showed more substantial improvements in working memory with increased exposure to indoor nature density than males.”

Fun factoids for sure, and nice to know for those in the house plant industry, because honestly, that’s a lot of plants! From 0 to 36 plants in one year can take considerable time, effort and money. But your memory and that of your kids will be awesome!

What about the second query concerning screen time? A review of 186 studies looked at the association between screen time, green time, and psychological outcomes in children and adolescents. High levels of screen time were associated with unfavorable outcomes (depression, anxiety, stress, poor self-regulation), and green time was associated with favorable outcomes (positive mental health, cognitive functioning, academic achievement). Some evidence indicates that green time could buffer negative consequences of

high screen time. *Oswald et al., 2020. Psychological impacts of “screen time” and “green time” for children and adolescents: A systematic scoping review.*

We know that outdoor play in green spaces enhances working memory. According to the University of Chicago Press, excessive smartphone use severely impairs working memory and cognitive function by constantly dividing attention, causing information overload, and inducing “brain rot”—a state of reduced mental focus. Chronic usage leads to poorer memory encoding and reduced gray matter in the prefrontal cortex, often causing lower cognitive capacity even when the device is just present but not in use.

Further proof, or at least academic support (since researchers are never supposed to use the ‘p’ word) comes from Japan where screen time, outdoor play habits and subsequent neurodevelopmental outcomes of 885 children (age 2-4 years) were examined. Findings revealed that two-year-olds with more than one hour a day of screen time had significantly lower scores for communication and daily living skills at age four. Fortunately, for children with higher screen times, outdoor play lessened some of the adverse effects associated with screen use.

OK, so greenspace exposure improves

working memory, screen time retards it. What if a child has access to too much screen time, too little nature, and as an adult with mild ADHD, is a smart phone addict? The answer seems plain, the odds of that young adult being able to retain verbal information for very long is a pretty long shot.

The good news is, the more dosage the young adult person has with time in nature, the more the negative effects of screentime on working memory are reversed. Although the science is a bit murky on this account, there are a number of studies that indicate that green scenes, either indoors or outdoors, restore both fatigued attention and working memory. Hong Kong researchers found that if you take your phone or laptop with you outdoors, you are shooting your working memory in the foot (How to Waste a Break), so leave the electronics behind.

So the next time you or someone close to you seems to have a memory like Swiss cheese, get outside into a local park, the mountains, or at least stare at some houseplants for a while and see if you don’t eventually find that your memory is the envy of the neighborhood, at any age! *Thanks for the memories, The Mindful Naturalist*



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Montrose Mirror



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FULLERTON & FRIEL RETURN APRIL 11 TO BLUECORN CAFE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Gitcha Records artists (and Montrose's own) AJ Fullerton & Jake Friel are returning to the Bluecorn Cafe in Montrose Saturday, April 11 to release their second full-length duo record "Fullerton & Friel Vol.2", a collection of breezy country blues jaunts on acoustic guitar and harmonica. Joining them will be Denver-based labelmates Heavy Diamond Ring. Lead by Sarah Anderson & Paul DeHaven, the ensemble features a fresh take on modern Americana and folk rock. Doors are at 6:30, and the show begins at 7:30pm. Tickets available at <https://bluecorn.simpletix.com/>.



Heavy Diamond Ring, left. Friel & Fullerton right. Courtesy photos.

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PUTT - PUTT



The building on the corner of Main and Selig in Montrose housed the offices of Joseph Selig and was used as the county courthouse. The miniature golf course was located to the rear of this building, with the entrance on South First Street. Photo courtesy of the Montrose County Historical Society Museum.

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-September 3, 1929 is widely recognized as the day the American stock market reached a peak and then began a steady decline, sending the country into what is now known as The Great Depression by late October. The depression was a significant challenge to the will and courage of every American, but that will and courage had been deeply implanted in the typical American.

There was another date that instilled so much belief in the grit of the United States; that date being April 19, 1775, when the "shot heard around the world" began the American Revolution. The confidence in this country and its determination to succeed meant that, ultimately, it would meet a world war head-on and keep the nation together. The Great Depression was just another challenge and the men and women of America rose to the call for action.

In his book, *Since Yesterday*, published in 1939, Fredrick Allen called attention to one response to the upcoming hard time that might come as a surprise. In the second chapter Allen wrote:

There were other diversions aplenty to

take people's minds off the Depression. There was, for instance, the \$125,000,000 boom in miniature golf. People had been saying that what the country needed was a new industry, well here it was in travesty. Garnet Carters campaign to establish miniature golf in Florida during the winter of 1929-1930 had been so sensationally successful that by the summer hundreds of thousands of Americans were parking their sedans by half-acre roadside courses and earnestly knocking golf balls on cottonseed greenswards, through little mouse holes in wooden barricades, over little bridges and through drainpipes, while the proprietors of these new playgrounds listened happily to the tinkle of the cash register and decided to go into even bigger business in 1931-to lease the field across the way and establish a driving range, with buckets of balls and a squad of local boys as retrievers (armed with beach umbrellas against the white ball slices and hooks).

The newfound diversion of hitting golf balls through "little mouse holes" was not confined to Florida. The phenomena spread across the country. Before 1930 came to an end, an estimated 40 towns in

Colorado had miniature courses. The *Rocky Mountain News* in Denver hosted a well-attended tournament in July of that year. As the days began getting cooler, the promoters of the new entertainment began looking at a way to keep it going during the winter months. A *United Press* article, published in several newspapers, declared, "MINIATURE GOLF BUSY SEEKING WINTER HOMES." The article went on to predict that the result of finding indoor accommodations could result in the activity being even more popular as a winter pastime.

The City of Montrose was not to be left out. In mid-June of 1930, a short article on June 17 in the *Montrose Daily Press* informed the readers that a man named R. R. Mardal of New Mexico had traveled over 1,000 miles in search of a town that did not have a miniature golf course. He found what he wanted in Montrose and immediately began making arrangements to bring Montrose into the ever-growing pastime. Within a few days, Mardal had found a perfect location in the lots behind the old courthouse on the corner of South First and Selig. The old courthouse faced Main Street on Selig and had housed the offices of Hugo Selig along with an indoor skating rink. On the very day of the article, the Montrose City Council granted a license to the new enterprise and work began the next day. The licensing was announced in the June 21st issue of the paper. Interestingly, on the same day the *Press* also printed an article that originally was published in Oklahoma City. That article pointed out that, not everyone in the towns with the courses agreed with them being established. The article pointed out that Oklahoma District Judge Wyley had declared "miniature golf to be a "public nuisance." In particular, the judge issued an injunction to prohibit the building of such courses in residential areas. He said, "People are entitled to a peaceful and quiet possession of their homes." Similar things were happening in Delta. By the first of July, Delta had two new courses and Montrose was opening theirs. This is the *Montrose Daily Press* article on

PUTT - PUTT From previous pg

that day:

HERE TIS (sic) THE NEWEST AND GREATEST RECREATION OF ALL TIME Montrose has its Miniature Course at South First and Selig Ave., back of old Court House. Open this evening at 6 p.m. Everybody invited to be present and partake in the Fun Montrose Miniature Golf Club.

The next day, the Press reported that a large crowd had attended the grand opening and that the course remained open well into the night, thanks to an abundance of electric lights. On July 10, 1930 an ad appeared along the entire width of the front page. It read: Play Golf Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. FREE of CHARGE Be Our Guests - MONTROSE MINIATURE GOLF COURSE.

By the end of the year, it was apparent that the courses were becoming popular around the entire state. In Gunnison, the college sororities and fraternities engaged in a miniature golf tournament that resulted in a play-by-play account in the college newspaper, *The Top of the World*. The article described that the golfers had to shoot over a pond and other challenging hazards. The competition was brisk. The paper ended its report by declaring, " For the most part the matches were close and it was only after the final hole had been played that the winners were announced." Just three years later, the same publication was calling miniature golf courses a "repudiated fad."

The proliferation of the small courses attracted several private entrepreneurs. one of which was J. W. Hoke of Palisade. Hoke was a real estate and insurance broker and a resident of Mesa County since about 1909. He announced the construction of the golf course in August of 1930, and used it successfully as an attraction to his real estate business for several years. He died in 1943.

Miniature golf courses came and went for many years and some still exist. Montrose has been home to at least two other courses over the decades, and Ouray was the home of a very popular course near the Ouray Hot Springs Pool well into the 1960s, but they never again had the economic impact attributed to those of the 1930s.



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The Satisfied Self

THE SATISFIED SELF: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER — AND WHERE WE GO NEXT



By Gia Pirelli

Over the past several weeks, we've explored something that many women feel but rarely name. Not lack of discipline. Not lack of ambition. But depletion. The kind that makes even the best goals and intentions difficult to sustain.

We talked about calm — not as a personality trait, but as capacity. We explored how the nervous system shapes everything from energy and movement to communication and decision-making. We looked at rest, not as collapse, but as restoration. We moved through reinvention, the in-between season, and the steady action that follows clarity.

Individually, these ideas matter. Collectively, they point to something deeper. They point to a way of living that is not driven by force or fantasy.

If there has been a common thread through this series, it's this:

You function differently when you feel safe in your body. Period. When the nervous system is regulated:

- your thinking becomes clearer
 - your energy stabilizes
 - your reactions soften
 - your decisions become more aligned
- You don't need to push as hard to get results. You don't abandon yourself under pressure. You move through your life with more steadiness and less friction.

This is not self-improvement in the traditional sense. It's self-connection. And it's the thing that slowly erodes in adulthood through pressure, responsibility, doubt, and projection.

What we've been talking about — regulation, breath, movement, presence, self-awareness — isn't new. It's ancient.

It's the foundation of a practice that has existed for thousands of years, long before it became synonymous with stretching classes and workout studios. Or Or-

ange County moms wearing Lululemon. That practice is yoga.

In modern culture, yoga is often reduced to poses — flexibility, strength, balance. (Or as some offshoot "religion" with multi-armed goddesses and mystical messaging.) Neither is accurate.

And while the physical practice is valuable, it is only one aspect of a much larger system. Traditional yoga is a philosophy and a framework for how to live.

It includes what are known as the eight limbs of yoga — a path that guides not only how we move, but how we think, behave, relate, and respond to life.

Without going too far into theory, these eight limbs include:

- ethical guidelines for how we interact with others
- personal practices that cultivate discipline and self-awareness
- the physical postures (asana) most people are familiar with
- breathwork (pranayama)
- concentration, meditation, and deeper states of awareness—as well as de-concentration and the ability to let go.

In other words, *yoga is not something you do for an hour*. It is something you practice, constantly, in how you live. It permeates every area of your life. And maybe now more than ever, this is what most of us need to maintain balance and motivation.

Everything we've explored in this series — nervous system regulation, sustainable energy, presence, resilience — is embedded within this framework.

Yoga teaches:

- how to meet stress without immediate reaction
 - how to stay steady when things don't go your way
 - how to create strength without tension
 - how to soften without collapsing
- It teaches you how to breathe when life applies pressure. How to meet resistance with softness. How to move when you feel stuck. How to stay connected to yourself

in the middle of challenge.

This is not abstract. It is deeply practical. Understanding these ideas intellectually is one thing. Experiencing them in your body is something else entirely. This is where the physical practice of yoga becomes powerful — not because of how it looks, but because of how it *feels* and what it *teaches*.

When you hold a posture and continue to breathe, you are practicing staying present under stress. When you move slowly and deliberately, you are retraining your pace. When you notice resistance without reacting to it, you are building capacity.

Over time, these lessons carry into your life.

You pause instead of reacting.

You respond instead of rushing.

You hold steadiness in situations that once overwhelmed you.

The practice becomes the training ground.

As we move into the next series, we're going to explore yoga more deeply — not just as movement, but as a philosophy of living.

We'll talk about:

- the eight limbs in a way that feels relevant, not theoretical
- how breath shapes your emotional and physical state
- how to work with resistance instead of against it
- how softness and strength coexist
- how to bring these principles into everyday life

This won't be about mastering poses. It will be about understanding yourself more fully — and moving through your life with greater awareness, steadiness, and ease. If this series has resonated with you, then you've already felt the shift — even in small ways.

A little more awareness.

A little more steadiness.

A little more space between reaction and response.

Yoga simply gives structure to that experience.

THE SATISFIED SELF: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER – AND WHERE WE GO NEXT FROM PREVIOUS PG

It offers a way to practice it, consistently, in your body.

As we move into the next phase, consider this an invitation — not to change who you are, but to deepen your relationship with yourself.

Because the goal was never just to feel better for a moment. It was to learn how to live in a way that supports you.

Byline

Gia Pirelli is a yoga and Pilates teacher and sound healing practitioner specializing in nervous system regulation, reinvention, and embodied wellbeing. She writes The Satisfied Self as a space for women navigating growth, strength, and sustainable ambition. She offers private sessions as well as monthly group sound journeys for nervous system regulation and mental rest. In addition to her studio classes and workshops, she will begin offering outdoor yoga classes in the park this summer. Learn more at <https://www.giapirelli.com> Follow her on socials: https://www.instagram.com/gia_pirelli or <https://www.facebook.com/giapirelli>

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MCA HOSTS YOUTH INVITATIONAL ART EXHIBIT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) is proud to host our annual Youth Invitational Art Exhibit in the Cottonwood Room from March 17 – May 8. MCA invited young artists to showcase their art. The public is invited to see the artwork of the talented youth during regular business hours at MCA located at 205 E Main Street in Montrose.

“There were no limits set for the theme of this show,” said MCA Board Member Jen Wolfe.

“We invited students from all over the school district to participate, and we encourage the young people to submit whatever art speaks to them. We were thrilled and very impressed with the talent in the area.”

Former MCA Board Member and artist Jill Myers judged the exhibit and said, “As an artist and an art teacher I was excited to see so much creativity and diversity of mediums in the works of art. Congratulations to the students who expressed their ideas in color and shapes, line and form. Thanks also to the many teachers who instructed them in the elements of art and taught them techniques to help the students achieve their goals, and who helped us facilitate submitting the students’ art for the exhibit.”

The Award Ceremony took place on March 25. The youth were judged in three categories (elementary, middle and high school levels). First place winners received a ribbon and a \$100 Art Box of supplies to help them continue creating. Second place winners in each category received a ribbon and a \$50 Art Box. Each level also had several honorable mention awards and every student received a certificate of achievement and a participation ribbon along with the thanks of the MCA Board



Selections of the artwork submitted to the Youth Invitational from young artists all over the

of Directors.

Elementary School Winners were:

- First Place – Ariadne Turtura, 4th grade, Johnson Elementary
- Second Place – Alexis Crawford, 3rd grade, Cottonwood Elementary
- Honorable Mention – Norah Garza, 1st grade, Cottonwood Elementary
- Honorable Mention – Emerson Ploussard, 5th grade, Johnson Elementary
- Honorable Mention – Josey Flickinger, 4th grade, Outer Range School

Middle School winners were:

- First Place – Alex Cruz, 7th grade, Olathe Middle School
- Second Place – Neftali Trujillo, 6th grade, Olathe Middle School
- Honorable Mention – Anica Wood, 7th grade, Olathe Middle School

High School winners were:

- First Place – Josephine Wagner, Olathe Middle School – Art 1 class
- Second Place – Holly Thompson, 10th grade, Montrose High School
- Special Award – Olivia Rosentreter, 12th grade, Montrose High School
- Honorable Mention – Sydney Glover, Olathe Middle School – Art 1 class
- Honorable Mention – California Ybarra, 11th grade, Montrose High School

- Honorable Mention – Daniella Paredes, Independent Study, Olathe Middle School
- Honorable Mention – Brooklyn Kolb, 11th grade, Montrose High School

In addition to prizes for art submitted, MCA also asked students to fill out a questionnaire. MCA asked them about what inspires their art, how it makes them feel, etc. Five students were selected for their unique insight into their art and how they feel about it — each was awarded a \$50 Art Box.

Questionnaire Winners were:

- Norah Garza, 1st grade, Cottonwood Elementary
- Lanah Knape, 5th grade, Olathe Elementary
- McKenzie Cox, 5th grade, Olathe Elementary
- Mark Vigil, 10th grade, Montrose High School
- Brooklyn Kolb, 11th grade, Montrose High School
- Nyah Green, 12th grade, Montrose High School

The exhibit was made possible with the support from the City of Montrose, as well as a grant from the Montrose Community Foundation.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BANSHEE TREE TO OPEN FOR MARCH FOURTH AT MONTROSE AMPHITHEATRE APRIL 14

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In anticipation of their forthcoming sophomore album, *Bad Luck* (4.17.2026), celebrated Denver, CO independent band **Banshee Tree** will embark on a tour opening for March Fourth.

An eclectic collection featuring eight songs that blur any boundaries that lie between indie rock, jazz, roots, and psychedelic pop, with an accessible touch of the avant-garde, *Bad Luck* will be released on April 17. A bold and expansive statement from a band that has spent nearly a decade forging their signature style through live performances and experimentation, *Bad Luck* represents a fully realized work from Banshee Tree.

An indie psychedelic pop/rock band with sharply-written songs, jazz-inspired guitar arrangements, saxophone textures, and grooves that nod to the dance floor, they've spent nearly a decade evolving their sound. That fusion reaches a new peak with *Bad Luck*, a restless and unapologetically diverse

album that captures a celebrated band chasing down new horizons. For years, Banshee Tree's evolution took place not in the recording studio, but onstage. A weekly residency at a speakeasy in Boulder, Colorado, gave the musicians an opportunity to reach beyond their origins as a swing band, while the addition of new members — including veterans of Denver's funk and punk-rock scenes — helped broaden the group's influences. Banshee Tree began gigging in other cities, too, busking with street performers in New Orleans and sharing late-night jam sessions with bands in the Pacific Northwest. Before long, their fusion of acoustic and electric styles had grown so wide that Banshee Tree could play virtually anywhere: dubstep festivals in California, EDM bills in Colorado, and bluegrass shows with genre-benders like Leftover Salmon and The Infamous Stringdusters. To create *Bad Luck* — the band's most fully-realized record to date, arriving five years after their self-titled debut — Banshee Tree combined those strengths as a live act with an emphasis on lyrical depth and a newfound willingness to experiment in the recording studio.



The excellent Banshee Tree will release their sophomore album, *Bad Luck* on April 17. To listen to [them click here](#). Courtesy photo.

NEW HORIZONS BAND TO PERFORM APRIL 8 AT SENIOR CENTER

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The New Horizons Band of Montrose will present a concert at the Montrose Senior Center, Wednesday, April 8 at 10:45 am, 1800 Pavilion Drive, 81401.

This FREE performance will feature music from the concert band's Winter/Spring session, part of the 50+ Activities of the Montrose Recreation District.

Created in Feb 2022, the New Horizons Band of Montrose is a concert band with 25 members. It is organized in partnership with the New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA), founded in 1991 to encourage music making for those 50+. According to NHIMA founder Dr. Roy Ernst, "Playing music in groups supports good mental and physical health, besides being an unending source of joy."



Threads of Discovery
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GREEN BOX ARTS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 18TH ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL AND AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION

Special to Art & Sol

GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS- Following a 2025 season that generated 62.4 million in media reach and widespread national coverage for Patrick Shearn’s large-scale aerial installation [Off the Beaten Path](#), Green Box announces its 18th Annual Arts Festival, running July 4–19, 2026, in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado.

Last summer’s installation sparked what KOAA described as a “visitor surge” as the mountain arts experience went viral while Denver’s Westword reported, “Thousands Flock to Green Mountain Falls for Viral Art Installation.” The breakthrough moment elevated Green Box’s national profile and marked a pivotal point in the organization’s growth.

Now entering its 18th year, Green Box builds on that momentum with its most ambitious season to date, unveiling five new visual art installations, presenting major performing arts events including Oklahoma City Ballet, and launching a multi-day America250 celebration beginning July 4. The Festival opens July 4 with a sweeping, town-wide celebration channeling classic Americana against a Rocky Mountain backdrop. An old-fashioned Independence Day parade winds through town with community groups, horses, classic vehicles, and musical ensembles.

The day continues with a community lunch, nostalgic pie contest, and a lively block party featuring Telluride Bluegrass winners [Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light](#), Cary Morin & Ghost Dog, and Jeremy Mohny & His Orchestra. As a tribute to America’s semiquincentennial, the [National Museum of WWII Aviation](#) will conduct a ceremonial flyover of historic WWII-era fighter aircraft. The evening concludes with the beloved Water Lantern Launch at Gazebo Lake, as hundreds gather in a ring of light and reflection.

With ticketed events ranging from \$5–\$15 and dozens of free offerings, including concerts, hikes, family theatre, guided art walks, and healing arts programming, Green Box continues its commitment to accessible contemporary arts. Beyond performances and installations, the Festival expands its educational offerings with hands-on classes led by regional artists, including silversmithing, cyanotype photography, botanically dyed silk, documentary filmmaking, ikebana, visual arts, and select culinary workshops. From immersive literary sound experiences and cabaret-style concerts to open-air yoga and art encounters woven throughout town, the Festival transforms the entire mountain community into a vibrant interdisciplinary arts campus where art and nature collide.

The 18th Annual Green Box Arts Festival runs July 4–19, 2026. For tickets and full schedule: greenboxarts.org

About Green Box

Founded in 2009 in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, Green Box has grown into a year-round incubator of multidisciplinary visual and performing arts. Anchored by its annual summer arts Festival, Green Box engages residents and visitors from Colorado and around the world through an active Artist-in-Residence program, arts education initiatives, public art installations, and immersive experiences set against the natural beauty of the Pike National Forest.

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Spine & Pain Center

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

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,

office@ccfmontrose.net,

www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

Contact Information: Office Phone 970

249 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com,

www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Pastor Ian Hyde

Services Sunday: Worship 10:30

AM, Discipleship Hour: 9:30

AM. Discipleship Hour has classes across

all age groups. Nursery for children UN-

DER 3 is available during Worship and Dis-

cipleship Hour. Youth Night (6-12th

grade): Tuesdays, 6:30 PM. Weeknight

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 6:30

PM. Mission Statement: Montrose First

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose

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

12PM

Contact: 970-249-4732, [in-](mailto:in-form@fpcmontrose.com)

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

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,

We strive to encourage, challenge and

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all

no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

Contact Information: 970-249-3716,

office@montroseumc.org, [\[roseumc.org\]\(http://roseumc.org\)](http://mont-</p>
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Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

youtube.com/@rosemontbaptistchurch

facebook.com/RosemontBaptist

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

Worship Service Time: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at 10:45 AM.

We also have small groups we call L.I.F.E. Groups for all ages on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.

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

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

We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community.

Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable.

We love meeting new people no matter where they are at in life .

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

Mirror:

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

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Premier Sponsor:

Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

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

Fiesta Guadalajara
Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442





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✉ Realtor@PegEvanoika.com

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EASTER WEEKEND PETTING ZOO!



At left, a mini cow at the Petting Zoo. Above, llamas. Photos by Gail Marvel.



Christ's Church of the Valley (Independent Christian Church) welcomed community members to the Risen Lamb Petting Farm on Saturday, April 4. Attendees took the path of Jesus from the manger to the empty tomb. Photos by Gail Marvel.



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 7-On Tuesday April 7, 5pm at Hispanic Affairs Project (504 N 1st) Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to promote environmental protection. All Welcome info 970-765-9095.

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.

MIRROR IMAGES: SIGNS OF THE SEASON



Above, a sprig of fresh asparagus is a taste of spring. Photo by B. Slate.



Reflecting the sun, a tulip emerges. Photo by B. Slate.



Lilac in bloom. Photo by B. Slate.

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