



ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION



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© Issue No. 689 May 11, 2026

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COUNCIL APPROVES VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION



With therapy dogs in attendance, Council issued a proclamation in support of National Therapy Animal Day. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, May 6 began with two proclamations, as well as a number of comments from the public. All councilors were present for the meeting.

Mayor Michael Badagliacco called the meeting to order and led in saying the pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri had no changes to the meeting agenda.

PROCLAMATIONS

Council heard a proclamation in support of Mental Health Awareness Month. Accepting the proclamation was Sarah Curtis of Tri County Health Network.

The second proclamation was in support of National Therapy Animal Day, which was April 30. Joining Council were several human and canine members of the Morningstar Therapy Dogs group, who have been making a difference in Montrose since 2003.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

[Continued pg 29](#)

MURA EXPENSES TO DATE TOTAL \$16M

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The May 6 Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) meeting was called to order by Board President David Reed. The order of business included the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call, public comment, and approval of March 11, 2026, minutes. All board members were present in person; there was no public comment, and the minutes were approved.

The 24 people in attendance included Montrose County Commissioners Sue Hansen and Kirstin Copeland, Colorado Outdoors Developer David Drago, and city staff. This was the first MURA meeting for newly elected City Council members Mayor Michael Badagliacco and Councilman Adam Woodden.

Election of Officers:

City Manager/MURA Executive Director Bill Bell gave a brief overview of the

[Continued pg 17](#)



Newly elected City of Montrose Mayor Michael Badagliacco and Councilman Adam Woodden attended their first Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) meeting on May 6. Photo by Gail Marvel.

[Montrose County Continues Amendment to Zoning Reqs for Temporary Workforce Housing!](#)

[Column by Gia Pirelli: The Satisfied Self!](#)

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

[Find Grace on South Park Avenue!](#)



Mindfulness Matters

Thursday, May 14 - 6:45 PM
Montrose Library Meeting Room

Erin Easton, the Founder of New Leaf Coaching and a Mindfulness Based Health and Life Coach, will present a 2-hour class introducing the practice of mindfulness. We will learn about the habitual reactions created in the mind and how mindful awareness can bring more peace, purpose, and intention to our lives.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOYAN PRESENTS BRING ON THE SUMMER YOUTH FESTIVAL!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Saturday, May 30, from 11 am – 4 pm, Friends of Youth and Nature presents the Bring on the Summer Youth Festival! Join Friends of Youth and Nature at Riverbottom Park and get a taste of summer programs offered in our community for kids and families. We also have a very special guest...**Wilder!** Meet your kids amazing outdoor friend – half yeti and half mountain goat. Wilder is on a mission to help children discover all the magic awaiting them just outside the door! There will be pie and watermelon eating contest, gelly ball games, relay races, paddles on the river, duck races, yard games, bubbles, and a nature mystery box. MRD is hosting soccer and basketball skills clinics, strider bike instruction and more! Finesse is providing free youth haircuts (more info/schedule of events at www.foyan.org).

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,

the Montrose Mirror



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

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Publisher: Harry Switzer

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

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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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BECKER'S NAMES MRH CEO JEFF MENGENHAUSEN TO 2026 RURAL HOSPITAL CEO LIST *National recognition highlights leadership in rural healthcare*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) CEO Jeff Mengenhausen was recently named to Becker’s 2026 list of 146 Rural Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs to Know. Becker’s Hospital Review editors researched and accepted nominations for the annual list. Mengenhausen has appeared on the list each year since 2022.

“It’s an honor to be recognized again by Becker’s Healthcare,” Mengenhausen said. “Rural health systems play a vital role in the wellbeing of their communities, and I’m proud of the work we’re doing at MRH to expand services and ensure patients can receive excellent care close to home. The true credit goes to our incredible caregivers and the community we serve.”



Montrose Regional Health (MRH) CEO Jeff Mengenhausen
Courtesy photo.

Montrose Regional Health provides care across western Colorado through its hospital, outpatient clinics, specialty services, and regional care

network. MRH is also one of the region’s largest employers, with more than 1,000 caregivers supporting the health and wellbeing of the community.

To view the full 2026 list of Rural Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs to Know, visit <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-management-administration/146-rural-hospital-and-health-system-presidents-and-ceos-to-know-2026/>.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, passions and curiosities Tuesday, June 2. Ignite begins at 7:30 pm at the Canyon Creek Bed and Breakfast (Backyard patio, 820 East Main). Beverages will be available. Check ignitemontrose.org for a list of topics and presenters.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE — Community members, parents, caregivers, educators, youth-serving professionals, organizational leaders, educators, healthcare providers, nonprofit staff, and anyone invested in building healthier, more resilient communities are invited to attend a virtual training, on Wednesday, May 13 from 5:30 – 7 PM, with Resilient Colorado. The training focuses on Healthy Kids Colorado Survey results and Protective Factors. This interactive training centers on a powerful and hopeful message: resilience can be taught, and it plays a critical role in strengthening individuals, organizations, and entire communities.

Participants will gain practical, easy-to-apply tools grounded in evidence-based protective factors that support mental health, well-being, and long-term success. Drawing on research around Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) and Positive Adult Experiences (PAEs), the session will explore what helps young people not just survive adversity, but truly thrive. This training is relevant for parents, caregivers, educators, healthcare providers, nonprofit staff, and anyone invested in building healthier, more resilient communities.

Please register in advance here. (Registration is required) After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email with event details, a Zoom link (for virtual attendees), and an option to add the event to their calendar. Zoom links are unique to each registrant and should not be shared. Event Details: Date: May 13, 2025 Time: 5:30–7 p.m. Virtual Location via ZOOM

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MONTROSE COUNTY CONTINUES AMENDMENT TO ZONING REGS FOR TEMPORARY WORKFORCE HOUSING TO MAY 20



BOCC Chair Sue Hansen and BOCC Vice Chair Kirstin Copeland were present for the regular meeting of May 6. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) gathered for a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 6. BOCC Chair Sue Hansen called the meeting to order, BOCC Vice Chair Kirstin Copeland led in saying the pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Sean Pond was absent. Reverend Garrett Agajanian of St. Stephen's Anglican Church delivered the Invocation. Before beginning, Agajanian invited everyone to the National Day of Prayer on May 7. Agajanian said, "Please join me in prayer. Heavenly Father this morning I thank you for the freedoms that we have as Americans and the blessings and the privileges that we enjoy here in Western Colorado. I pray that those blessings would be sustained here in our community. Lord, I pray for this assembled council this morning,

I'm asking that you graciously would grant them wisdom and sound judgment in the decisions that they make. I pray for the agenda set before us today. Give an assurance of what would please you and benefit those who live and work here in Montrose County.

"Lord, we thank you for the rain..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA CHANGES

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved, with Resolution No. 12-2026 assigned to Item three, Resolution No. 13-2026 assigned to Item 4, Resolution No. 14-2026 assigned to Item 5, and resolution 15-2026 assigned to Item 13.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

BOCC Vice Chair Kirstin Copeland said that she was deeply honored, as the wife of a law enforcement Officer, to read a Proclamation declaring May 3 - 9, 2026 to be National Correctional Officers Week and May 15 - 21, 2026 to be National Law Enforcement Week.

Following approval of the proclamation the meeting was briefly paused for photos.

Commissioners voted to formally set the date for a Public Hearing related to the service plan of the proposed West End Health Service District on June 3, 2026 at 3PM during the Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioners voted to award the pur-

chase of one (1) CW16 9Wheel Caterpillar Roller from Wagner Equipment of Grand Junction, Colorado, having Sourcewell pricing of \$144,523. This roller is a replacement for the West End Road and Bridge heavy equipment fleet. The roller will be paid for with available funds in the 2026 Road and Bridge equipment budget. Upon approval, a purchase order will be issued to Wagner Equipment in the amount of \$144,523.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Planning and Development Director Tallmadge Richmond presented a proposal to amend the Zoning Regulations to add use standards, use allowance, and application requirements for Temporary Workforce Housing. Richmond said that feedback had been received and a number of concerns had been brought forward. Commissioners opened a public hearing. Comments and concerns are also included in the meeting packet. After discussion and comments the BOCC voted to continue the proposal until May 20.

Commissioners approved the Ray Major Subdivision Preliminary Plan [MA25-009] proposal to divide 27.81 acres into three lots at Parcels 376920304001.

The Roby Minor Subdivision [MI26-003] proposal to divide one lot from 43.03 acres at Parcel 376710200013, 11824 6530 Rd was approved.

Also approved was the Amended Plat Lot 1, John Dallas & Kelly Jo Johnson Replat [AM26-003] proposal to vacate a 15' irrigation easement at Parcel 403901107001.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REPUBLICAN WOMEN TO HOST PROGRAM ON MAY 15

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Republican Women invite you to our program on Friday, May 15 from noon to 1:30pm at the Hampton Inn Montrose. SD5 State Senator Marc Catlin will be giving a Legislative Recap of the recent Colorado General Assembly Session. Brown bag lunch. Doors open at 11:30am. Contact Kerri for more information: 970-209-5170.

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UTE BEAR DANCE LIVE PERFORMANCE

12:00 PM

Presented by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe & Northern Ute Tribe

MOBILE BUS EXHIBIT

"The Truth about 250-150" - A Native created immersive gallery experience inside a renovated school bus, created to amplify a different facet of Indigenous history & expression

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- FREE MUSEUM ADMISSION
- Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women Hand Painting
- Ute Ethnobotany Garden Tours
- Native American Vendors
- Native Fry Bread
- Gift Shop Specials
- Silent Auction

KIDS ACTIVITIES

- Native Cultural Arts Activites
- Kid's Face Painting
- Balloon Animals
- Chalk Rock Art
- Bookmobile
- Kids Naturescape Play Area

FREE EVENT

MURA EXPENSES TO DATE TOTAL \$16M From pg 1

MURA yearly elections. Councilman David Reed was reelected President, Special Districts Representative Ken Otto was elected Vice President, and the position of Secretary will once again be held by a member of city staff.

TIF Expenditure and Revenue Update - City Engineer Scott Murphy.

For the benefit of the new board members, Murphy gave a brief overview. He said, "We got into this [MURA] for \$6.75 million. That would probably be doubled if we were to do it today. Generally, we are in partnership with land owned by the Dragoo's. Funding came from city capital reserves and loans from the Water Fund [in the form of promissory notes]. It was the most efficient way to finance. Hotels are the best revenue generator. Hotels are the big win for the URA."

To date, the total MURA out-of-pocket expenses (spent or promised) are \$16,029,398. Murphy said, "There is \$4 million in the account to play with [offer as incentives]."

Bell said, "The baseline of TIF is the value of the land and everything built [on the land] adds new valuation. The revenue generated within the boundary of the URA stays — 2017 to 2042. It can be closed early. It doesn't raise taxes at all, but new taxes stay within the boundary. That's the simplest form. People ask, "Why don't you pay off the debt now?" The earlier we can build more, rather than pay off the debt, the more years of generating revenue."

Haugness said, "A lot of projects are development driven. This project was a blighted area with several owners."

Bell said, "There has only been one owner since the URA [was created]. When Doug Dragoo purchased Ross Reels they had talked about moving [the business out of State]. A retention package was presented by local organizations." The board discussed issues associated with the Colorado Outdoors property, i.e. multi-zoning, environmental, negotiating percentage of TIF, and the number of taxing entities involved.

Hughes said, "I will say something. The county willingly gave up revenue [tax revenue]. A third of the property was donat-



During the May 6 Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) meeting, Colorado Outdoors Developer Doug Dragoo (far left) highlighted that 200 new jobs were created in the URA in 2025. Photo by Gail Marvel.

ed back to the county so the community can use and have access to the river."

Bell said, "I don't think the Dragoo's get thanked enough for their contribution. There are two things that make us [MURA] unique. The Dragoo's are environmentally conscious, and structuring finances — We had no outside debt, we used savings we have in our water fund."

Murphy said, "Our trail does not go to Taviwach Park. There are three properties north. Two of the three are on board, the third one is, but not now. There are one and a quarter miles still to play into this [trail] project."

Colorado Outdoors Project Update – David Dragoo.

Dragoo used a PowerPoint presentation with his remarks. He said, "We have 160 acres [in Colorado Outdoors]. Our child-care center [Bright Beginnings] is the largest in Western Colorado. We currently have three projects — Project Green, Rivers Edge, and hotel number two, the Hampton Inn & Suites The hotel construction is to start early fall. It faces north, across the street from the south facing

Marriott [Fairfield]. All rate structures should drop with the second hotel. Right now, rates are high. Rivers Edge is 45-percent leased and we might begin [construction] next year."

Dragoo highlighted new businesses welcomed into Colorado Outdoors in 2026 — Anacapa Fish Co, Chef Uma's Kitchen, Sage House Design Studio and Collection, and Moore Connections. Dragoo said, "There will be ribbon cuttings for the restaurants in early spring."

International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Tax Increment Finance Webinar Series

The six-hour series, which will be spread over three meetings, gives attendees an overview with the pros and cons of using TIF. This was the first installment in the webinar series and not all MURA attendees stayed for the webinar.

The webinar facilitator noted that TIFs are complex and controversial because they use future tax revenue growth to pay for projects today with the intent to spur development.

Following the webinar, Assessor Hughes

MURA EXPENSES TO DATE TOTAL \$16M From previous pg

said, “Sometimes when developers come to the board [for incentives], they might think their property is valued at \$10 million. I’d like to hold that down because the tax bill might be \$5 million. If we are going to be transparent with cost, they tell me their property is \$10 million, but as an assessor I say no, it’s \$5 million. With the final valuation on property, we all must be using accurate figures.”

The next MURA meeting is scheduled for June 10, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Background: The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. The MURA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism to finance public infrastructure in the MURA. The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the Justice Center on the north and West Main on the South, is being developed by the Dragoo’s Mayfly Outdoors. The Dragoo Developers are son David Dragoo and father Doug Dragoo.

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Jim Haugsness (At-Large Representative), Tom West (Montrose School District) and Ken Otto (Special Districts Representative). The six-member city constituency holds the controlling interest and actions of the MURA Board.

THE AGE OF DISTRACTED DRIVING: THE PROBLEM ISN’T ONE GENERATION – IT’S EVERYONE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – With the rise and adoption of technology made available by smartphones and built-in dashboard computers, there are many ways people can get distracted behind the wheel. Whether the technology is designed for safety or for our convenience, one thing is certain: the use of technology continues to increase for motorists.

“With each new generation of vehicle, we have made distracted driving way too easy,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “There is a public perception that teens are the ‘guiltiest’ when it comes to distracted driving behaviors involving technology; however, by looking at trends of crashes the Patrol has investigated over the last few years, troopers know that the problem isn’t just one generation – it’s everyone.”

Looking at Colorado State Patrol citation data over a five-year period (2021-2025), drivers in the 20’s, 30’s, and 40’s have the highest rates of hands-free violations. Whether it’s the stressors of managing busy lives with work, growing families, and social commitments, or just the increased adoption of technology with each generation, a large percentage of drivers struggle to remove technology distractions.

Drivers can use their phones’ “Do Not Disturb” feature or place their phones physically out of reach in the glove box. There are also hands-free devices. In addition, drivers should set their navigation and music preferences before the trip begins while eliminating drinking, eating or smoking behind the wheel.

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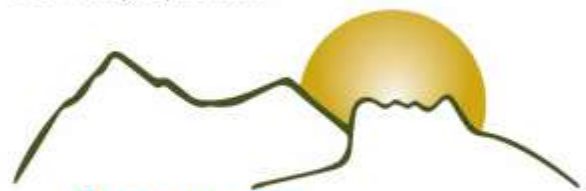


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



CITY OF
MONTROSE
COLORADO

*Mayor's
Minute*

We had a great set of city council meetings (work session 4/4 and Council Meeting 4/5) last week here in Montrose. All of us on Council as well as the city staff who participated in the meetings appreciate the public's participation and input, it was refreshingly constructive. Productive dialogue is critical to representative government.

Thank you to all who participated, it is your voices that make a difference and we look forward to your continued participation.

This week there will be no work session or public Council meeting. We will be back in the seats on May 18th and 19th but please reach out if you have something you believe we should be aware of to make Montrose better. The agenda for May 18th and 19th will be posted in next week's Mayor's Minute and on the [city website](#).

The events of this past weekend were fantastic. From the Drone Show and Concert Friday night to the "Mudder" on Saturday morning and the celebrations of our mothers on Sunday.

Some notable events in Montrose this week:

- Montrose Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking Event
- 9 AM Friday May 15
- Next to the Botanical Gardens
- 1800 Pavilion Dr
- The Forum

Each Wednesday 8 am – 9 am

At the CMU Montrose Campus: Cascade Hall

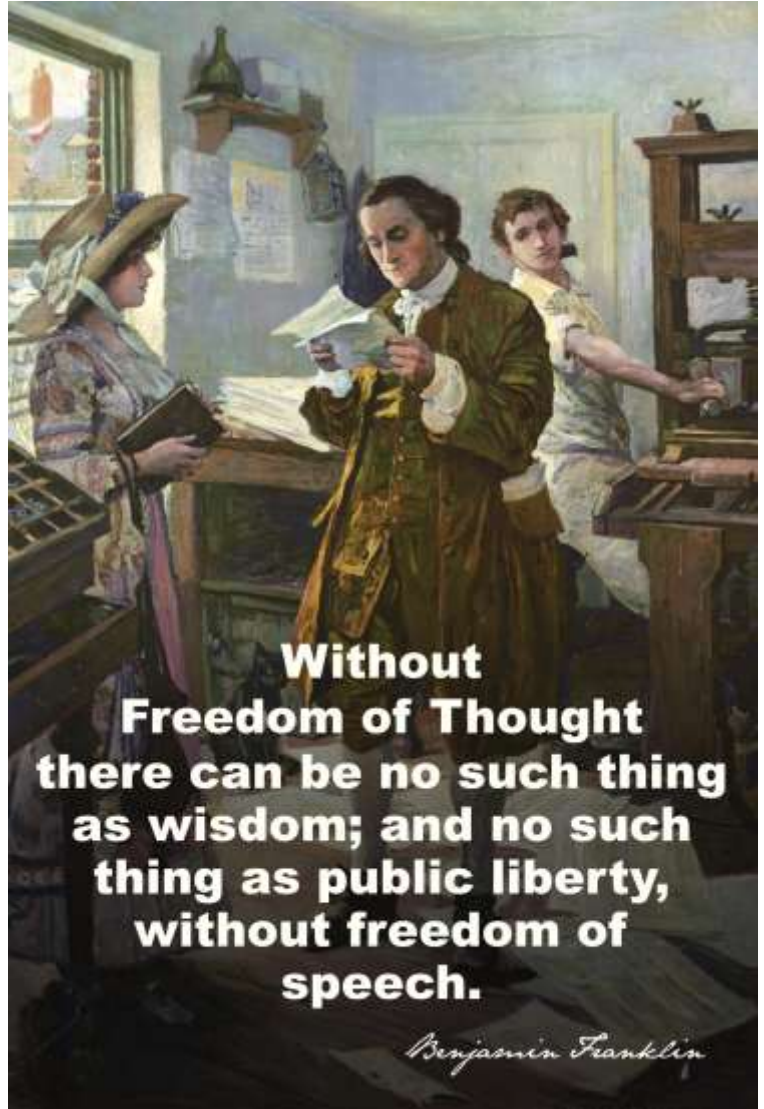
We value your opinions. While we may not agree on everything, as a community we can find common ground to make Montrose the best it can be. Let your voice be heard! Sign up for email agenda alerts by [clicking here](#).

Email me at mjb@cityofmontrose.org with any questions or concerns and I will get your question or comment to the right person to address it.

Thank you,

Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor, Montrose, CO



**Without
Freedom of Thought
there can be no such thing
as wisdom; and no such
thing as public liberty,
without freedom of
speech.**

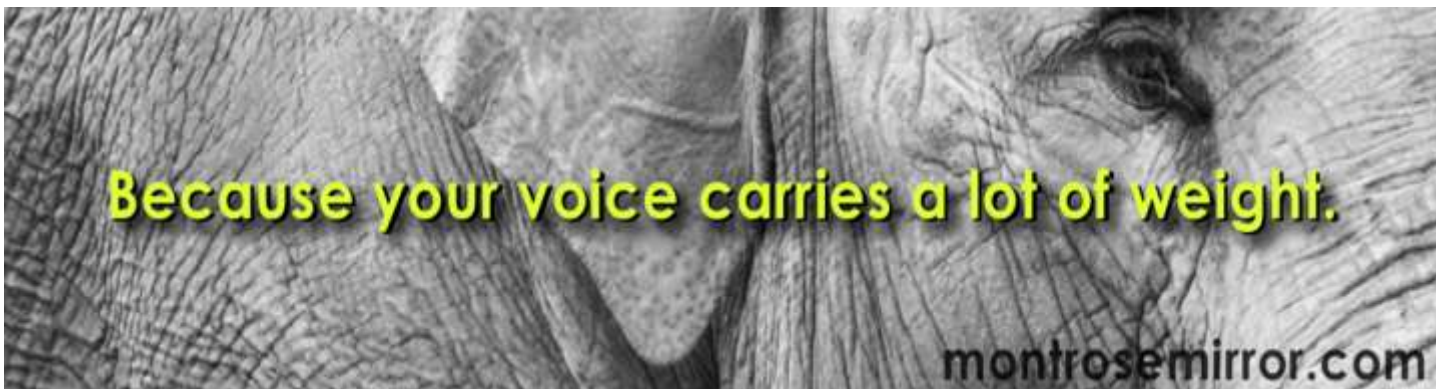
Benjamin Franklin

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: SHINING A LIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH

Special to the Mirror

WESTERN SLOPE— Communities across Colorado's Western Slope are coming together to Shine a Light on Mental Health the entire month of May. Mental Health Awareness Month is an opportunity to talk openly, check in with one another, and share tools that support well-being.

With a vibrant display of solidarity, Tri-County Health Network (TCHN) encourages local businesses, organizations, and governments to illuminate their buildings with green lights throughout the month of May. By lighting up buildings with green, businesses become visible allies in the fight to destigmatize mental health and promote understanding. Green, the official color for mental health awareness, symbolizes renewal, hope, and vitality. This initiative not only fosters a sense of unity within the community but also sparks important conversations about mental health and the importance of support and advocacy.

Good mental health starts with feeling supported and connected. This month is about reminding people that help is available close to home, and that small steps—like reaching out, taking a break, or talking with someone you trust—can save a life. Throughout May, residents are encouraged to:

- Start conversations about mental health with friends, family, and coworkers.
- Practice small acts of self-care
- Learn about local mental health and community resources.
- Reach out for help when they need it—and encourage others to do the same.

Visit TCHN's Mental Health Awareness Month page tchnetwork.org/mham to learn more about current events. And remember, help is just a call or text away - 988, the Colorado Mental Health Lifeline available 24/7.



Walk for Hope in Telluride. Courtesy photo.

**News, if unreported, has no impact.
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*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RED CROSS OF WESTERN COLORADO TO HOST BLOOD DRIVES IN MAY *Grand Junction, Gypsum and Edwards to hold drives May 20-22*

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— The American Red Cross of Western Colorado will be hosting blood drives on May 20-22, giving Western Slope residents the opportunity to give blood in their own community. Donors of all blood types are welcomed to help keep the blood supply steady throughout the spring and summer.

The simple act of donating blood can be the lifesaving gift that accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for cancer or sickle cell disease need the most.

The Red Cross supplies more than 40% of the nation's blood supply through donations, helping make sure lifesaving blood is available where it is needed.

"Blood is a vital resource that can't be manufactured, and donations from those here in Western Colorado help save lives, both here and across the country," said Christie Caster, executive director of the Red Cross of Western Colorado. "We are excited to be hosting blood drives this month in Grand Junction, Gypsum and Edwards, allowing our local communities to help those who need it the most."

Book a time to give blood now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or by using

the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Blood drives will be held at the following locations and times:

-**Gypsum Rec Center**, 52 Lundgren Blvd., Gypsum – Wednesday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

-**Grand Junction West Stake Center**, 2542 G Road, Grand Junction – Thursday, May 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

-**Eagle County Paramedic Services**, 1055 Edwards Village Blvd., Edwards – Friday, May 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait.

This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within

one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

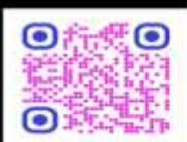
How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive.

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RED HAWKS SPORTS BY CLIFF DODGE



Red Hawk Girls prepare for battle. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

RED HAWKS DROP FINAL PAIR TO GJ

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose High School baseball season concluded this last weekend as the Red Hawks played a home and home contest with the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School that saw the Red Hawks drop both tightly played games by the scores of 6-5 and 14-12. The Red Hawks ended their season with an overall record of 8 wins and 15 losses. The Red Hawks league record ended up with one win and nine losses.

GRAND JUNCTION CENTRAL WARRIORS 6, RED HAWKS 5

The Red Hawks traveled to Grand Junction last Wednesday and played the Warriors in a close contest that saw the home team eke out a 6-5 victory. The Red Hawks got their bats going early as they scored a pair of runs in the top half of the first inning. The Warriors scored a single run in the second inning to cut their deficit to one run. The Red Hawks erupted for three more tallies in the fourth inning to increase their lead to 5-1. The Warriors then scored a run in the fifth inning and then overtook the Red Hawks with a four-run outburst in the sixth inning to lead by one run. The Red Hawks were unable to score in the seventh inning as the Warri-

ors protected their 6-5 victory.

Cade Saunders and Chazz Miller led the Red Hawks at the plate as the pair each pounded out two base knocks. Both players were credited with booming triples as a part of the Red Hawks' six hits. The Red Hawks struck out six times and were issued three bases on balls. Asher Buehrle pitched a complete game giving up six runs on eight hits. He issued four bases on balls and struck out four Warrior batters.

GRAND JUNCTION CENTRAL WARRIORS 14, RED HAWKS 12

The second of the two-game set between the Warriors and the Red Hawks was a much more offensive battle than the first game. The two teams scored a total of 26 runs and seemed to be able to score at will. The Warriors got the party started with a four-run second inning. The Red Hawks returned the favor by scoring five runs in their half of the second inning. Not to be left in the dust, the Warriors retook the lead with a six-run outburst and then added four more runs in the fourth inning. The Red Hawks then scored seven runs in the final three frames but were unable to catch the Warriors who prevailed 14-12. Ryan Pankey led all Red Hawk batters with three base hits. Other Red Hawks with multiple base hits includ-

ed Cade Saunders, Isaiah Coley, Jayce England and Wes Rhoades. Rhoades also led the Red Hawks with three runs batted in. The Red Hawks left 10 runners stranded. Red Hawk pitchers allowed 14 runs, but only seven were earned. The hurlers allowed seven walks and struck out eight Warrior batters.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS SCOREBOARD GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER:

RED HAWKS 3, CENTAURUS WARRIORS

The Montrose Red Hawks Soccer Team moved another step closing to the holy grail of high school soccer, a place in the CHSAA state championships. The Red Hawks had just enough offense (3 goals) and a stout defense to move on to the next round, a date with the Rampart Rams (13-2) in Colorado Springs on Saturday.

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE

RED HAWKS 11, EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS (First win)

HOLY FAMILY TIGERS 15, RED HAWKS 3 GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 21, RED HAWKS 3

Red Hawks finished their season with one win, 13 losses.

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE

TELLURIDE MINERS 16, RED HAWKS 3 ASPEN SKIERS 21, RED HAWKS 1 (Final record 0-13)

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COUNCIL APPROVES VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION From pg 1

Kim Townsend Spangrude read her comments first in Spanish, and then in English. She expressed concern over the possibility of a non-sanctuary proclamation and the absence of Spanish interpretation services at Council meetings. "...Without a judge-signed warrant, it is illegal under Colorado law to hold anyone for ICE...so I ask this Council, what does this non-sanctuary proclamation actually accomplish here in Montrose beyond sending a message...wouldn't it be wiser to proclaim Montrose a city that loves and welcomes our Hispanic heritage? A proclamation that Montrose is a non-racist city?

"...Here in Montrose a non-sanctuary proclamation would not make our streets safer, it would cause our Hispanic neighbors, law abiding residents, business owners and taxpayers to fear calling 911..."

Spangrude also asked why the burden of requesting interpretive services at meetings is on the Hispanic individual.

David Eckman spoke about the City's façade improvement program. He said he has seen "an evolution and vibrancy and activation of Montrose that's amazing." Eckman said he is working to secure some of the grant monies under the façade program, having recently purchased the property at 205 Apollo Road. "...It's a substantial investment...I just wanted to come and restate the need to keep this program in place, I think it really activates business owners the opportunity to invest in this community, to make a difference, and to make their personal investment in it, when we see the City government standing behind us and helping us on that front...I appreciate everything that you guys have been doing..."

Next to speak was John Brown. Brown informed Council about the National Day of Prayer on May 7. He also said that May 17 has been designated as a day to declare our nation to be "one nation under God." There will be a gathering at the Cedar Creek Church on May 17 at 6pm. "...This is just another opportunity for us to gather and pray and put America and our city before God..." Brown said,

Realtor John Renfrow spoke. He said he appreciates City staff. "...I will tell you that today...that I was able to utilize several different personnel on one property in order to kind of go through and help get

further along. If I did not have the city staff...it would be difficult...I would not be able to do my job and I need to give the credit where credit is due...I do a lot of commercial real estate...I do a lot of things for businesses, developers, owners, non-profits, churches, and I come before the city council and planning commission on multiple things...it takes a team, it takes a village in order to get stuff through...we have an amazing team...if the new council...has questions of me...or questions on how things are done...I hope that if there's changes going through it's changes for the better, but I don't want to be doing it quickly because we have something that really works right now... I'm available if any of you guys ever need anything..."

Lori Sharp spoke. Sharp said that she owns a non-profit consulting service called Think Sharp Consulting. "...I'm so nervous standing in front of you right now...I work with multiple non-profits in this community, and I have the opportunity on a very regular basis to interact with city staff. I am often asking for something...I'm coming asking for the non-profits and the people that they serve in our community..."

Sharp praised city staff. "...What I come to ask for, I come asking for things like partnership on a pass-through grant...there's non-profits in this community that wouldn't have the buildings that they have if we weren't able to partner with you on a DOLA Community Development Block grant. We have a land banking award that we got together...I just want to say that the team that you guys have in place is amazing...I'm strongly urging this city council to keep the amazing people that you have in place, in place..."

Karen Sherman Perez spoke. "...Kudos to the city staff, you all are an amazing team..."

Sherman Perez addressed new members of the City Council. "...I have a few suggestions to share...we've seen some recently elected officials pushing forward personal agendas that haven't always reflected our community's best interests... to avoid that same mistake...I encourage you to do your due diligence, consult local experts, listen to residents, and review data before making a decision. Broad input and care-

ful discussions lead to better outcomes for everyone.

"I think it's important to consider that there is significant political divide and rhetoric that informs decision-making these days...decisions are often made without considering the full picture..."

Sherman Perez suggested regular community forums and expert panels to represent diverse community groups.

"...Intolerance, fear, and misinformation stand in the way of progress. The City Council represents a diverse population...and your job is to serve all of these groups fairly and equitably...Council should not take sides on divisive political issues; our community needs greater tolerance, unity, and inclusion and local government can foster this..."

Robin Grossman of Colorado Springs spoke. He said that he has enjoyed seeing the City of Montrose grow and the amount of support towards local businesses. "I work in real estate development, and we have purchased the building on 66 South Grande, Sampler Square...we want to support our businesses...the façade improvement grant is something that we have looked at and felt that this is a city that is growing and where we want to invest in..."

Grossman praised the City's Development and Revitalization (DART) team, "...What we've seen is diversity, opportunity, and a commitment to try and help support local businesses...I'm just here to advocate for what the façade improvement grant can do for our current occupants in our building...we want to see the city continue to grow..."

Councilor J. David Reed said that he appreciated the people who came forward to recognize staff. "...Thank you for your comments and thanks to our staff for being great servants to our community..."

Mayor Michael Badagliacco said, "I think we can all agree that the city staff is absolutely fantastic...and we appreciate them very, very much."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026, regular City Council meeting.

NEW TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council voted unanimously to approve an

COUNCIL APPROVES VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION *From previous pg*

an application for a new Tavern liquor license at 439 E. Main Street for Double Barrel Taco Company LLC doing business as The Rye & The Rose, for consumption on the licensed premises.

COLORADO OUTDOORS AMENDMENT 3 PRELIMINARY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Council voted unanimously to approve the Colorado Outdoors Amendment 3 Preliminary Planned Development Plan.

ORDINANCE 2713 - FIRST READING

Council approved Ordinance 2713 on First Reading, amending the zoning district designation of 701 North Grand Avenue from R-3, Medium Density District, to I-1, Light Industrial District.

ORDINANCE 2714 - FIRST READING

Also approved was Ordinance 2714 on First Reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lot 13, Court Park Filing No. 1 from B-3, General Commercial District, to I-1, Light Industrial District.

STAR COURT LOT 7 TOWNHOMES PRELIMINARY PLAT

Council voted to approve the Star Court Lot 7 Townhomes Preliminary Plat.

VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION

Councilor J. David Reed recused himself from the discussion of the Veterans Memorial Project Expense Authorization, including the authorization of \$600,000 for the construction of the Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza, and including a construction contract with Stryker and

Company as the General Contractor.

Mayor Badagliacco opened the floor to comment; John Brown stepped up to speak.

Brown said, "...I am also a Navy Veteran of the Vietnam era, and I can't tell you how excited and elated that I am that this council has gone forward with...an opportunity to recognize our veterans. Veterans have supported this country from 1775 until now, and we have people that are still dying in support of our country, so every time we have an opportunity to support our veterans I think we need to do that. Not necessarily take a veteran to lunch, although I'm available on Thursdays...so thank a vet for your freedom and for your ability to make those decisions. I appreciate it very much and I'd like to commend this board for what they're doing."

Council voted with four votes and one recusal to approve the Veterans Memorial Project Expense Authorization.

Councilor Reed returned to the dais.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

Council voted unanimously to authorize heavy equipment purchases for the total amount of \$1,591,861.58.

LETTER OF INTENT TO DONATE LAND IN SUPPORT OF MADA'S PROP 123 LAND BANKING PROJECT

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri recused himself from the discussion as he is on the MADA Board.

Council voted with four votes and one

recusal to authorize City Manager Bill Bell to send a Letter of Intent to the Mexican American Development Association (MADA) that the City of Montrose will donate land to Kinikin Real Estate LLC in support of a Low Income Housing Tax Credit project located on the old Kinikin meat processing site and in support of the Mexican American Development Association's Prop 123 Land Banking Project.

Ulibarri returned to Council Chambers.

STAFF REPORTS

Utilities Manager David Bries updated Council on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler introduced Chris Zimmer, who was visiting the City of Montrose for the week from Fort Drum in New York, through the International City and County Manager Association's Senior Fellow Program. Councilor Dave Frank said that City Manager Bill Bell was recently selected as City Manager of the Year by a national publication that recognizes city managers across the United States. Frank reminded all of the Montrose Mudder event on May 9, to raise money for the High School Rotary Interact Club which will in turn use the funds to help a family in the Navajo Nation in Arizona build firewood storage facilities.

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri said that there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Veterans Memorial on May 15 at 9am.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SPARKLAB TO LIGHT UP THE FORUM THIS WEEK!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Join us Wednesday, May 13 from 8–9 AM to hear how Montrose County School District students are turning ideas into businesses, nonprofits, and real-world community impact, all while still in high school.

SparkLab, a youth entrepreneurship “pre-accelerator” program created by Homegrown Pathways, gives aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators ages 14–19 the chance to develop and pitch ideas they are passionate about. Students may present business ventures, nonprofit initiatives, creative projects, or future career pathways they want to explore. Along the way, they build real-world skills, gain confidence, and learn how to turn ideas into action.

Homegrown Pathways partners with school districts across the Western Slope to support student entrepreneurship and innovation. Montrose County School District is proud to be the first district to integrate SparkLab directly into the school day. MCSD launched the program this fall at Olathe High School in Randall Spaur’s Introduction to Entrepreneurship class. This spring, the program expanded to Peak Academy in Amber Bray’s Pursuit of Purpose class.

Already, students from Olathe and Montrose have earned thousands of dollars in SparkLab funding to help bring their ideas to life. Awards are granted based on project readiness, sustainability, and potential community impact.

The Forum will begin with a brief overview of SparkLab and the work students have been engaged in this year, followed by a panel discussion featuring students sharing their business, nonprofit, and project ideas. Students will talk about their experiences, what they’ve learned, and where they hope to take their ideas next.

Attendees at the May 13 Forum will hear from: Dr. Carrie Stephenson, MCSD Superintendent; Colin Lacy, Founder and CEO of Homegrown Pathways; Taylor Poynor, Homegrown Pathways COO; Randall Spaur, Olathe High School Business Education Instructor; Amber Bray, Peak Academy Instructor; and OHS and Peak Academy SparkLab student participants

Join us for an inspiring look at student innovation, young entrepreneurship, and what’s possible when we invest in our young people. We hope to see you on May 13 at 8 AM!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEF

CBI-LED CRITICAL INCIDENT TEAM INVESTIGATING OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN MONTROSE

CBI News Release

CBI – MONTROSE–The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is leading the 7th Judicial District Critical Incident Team (CIT) investigation into an officer-involved shooting that occurred today, May 9, 2026, in Montrose.

At approximately 12:29 p.m., Montrose Police Department officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Spruce Drive regarding a male armed with a rifle. Two officers encountered the armed male and fired their weapons. The male was transported to a local hospital, where he is listed in stable condition following surgery. No Montrose Police Department officers were injured during the incident. Body-worn cameras for both involved officers were activated and will be reviewed by investigators. The incident remains under investigation by the 7th Judicial District Critical Incident Team, and there is no threat to the public.

The 7th Judicial District Critical Incident Team encourages anyone with information related to this incident, or who may have witnessed criminal activity, to contact WestCO Dispatch at 970-249-9110.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOPEWEST CELEBRATES THE RETIREMENT OF TERI KINKADE, HOPEWEST BEREAVEMENT COUNSELOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-After nearly nine years of walking alongside more than 800 children and teens in Montrose and Ouray counties, Teri Kinkade, Youth Services Coordinator at HopeWest Kids, has retired. Throughout her time with HopeWest, Teri supported kids by navigating some of life's most difficult moments, a work she says she was called to do.

As part of the HopeWest Kids team, Teri helped children understand grief, normalize their experiences, and build coping and emotional regulation skills by showing them they are not alone and that there is nothing "wrong" with how they feel.

Serving children and teens experiencing loss, whether connected to hospice care or within the broader community, counselors like Teri use creative therapeutic approaches to help kids explore their grief in ways that feel safe and supportive. This

includes expressive arts, such as sand tray therapy, music, play, and even equine therapy. Beyond individual counseling sessions, kids also have opportunities to participate in school grief groups, and summer grief camps.

Reflecting on her first Camp Good Grief experience, Teri shared how memorable it was, not just for the children, but for her as a facilitator. "It was life-changing for me," she said. "There are very few places where you can connect with others on such a deep emotional level and then ten minutes later go have a water balloon fight."

For Teri, one of the greatest rewards has been witnessing children apply the skills they have been taught to cope with their grief. "Grief bursts are going to come, especially for kids," she said. "Maybe they graduate from high school and their mom isn't there. We help them prepare for those moments, how to feel it, express it, and still find joy. They can live happy, fulfilling lives and honor the person who died at the same time."

Teri's work underscores the impact grief support can have on young lives. Beyond the many success stories, Teri has also seen a measurable impact. Through pre- and post-assessments, HopeWest Kids consistently reports progress in the children it serves, from improved concentration in school to increased comfort talking about death and loss. Many participants say they would recommend the program to a friend facing a similar experience.

"Most of us who become therapists or counselors want to make a difference. We want to help," Teri said. "In this role, we absolutely do that."

Her impact extends beyond the children and families she served directly. Teri has been a resource for district schools and community partners, helping staff and students navigate grief after the loss of someone in their community.

Teri shared one of her earliest memories with HopeWest Kids from a school-based grief group. Each child had a pack of Skittles, and depending on the color they chose, they answered a different question. If you picked red, you shared your favorite color. If you picked purple, you shared something about the loved one who had died.

"One child said, 'My mom's favorite color was purple,'" Teri recalled. "I told him, 'You don't have to eat the Skittle if you don't want to.' He looked at it for a moment and said, 'I want to eat it.' Then he said, 'Now it's inside of me, just like my mom's love for me.'"

She describes the children she's had the honor of serving as wise, resilient, silly, and fun.

"They do the work," she said. "They are brave and willing to share."

As Teri moves into retirement, she expresses her gratitude for the community that makes this work possible. As a program fully funded through philanthropy, HopeWest Kids relies on the generosity of donors and volunteers.

"To know how amazing this work is and to know that our community believes in it enough to give their time and resources so we can continue to support these kids, it's incredible," she said. "It's an honor to have been a part of that."



Teri (middle) with HWK Grief Counselors at 2025 Camp Good Grief. Courtesy photo.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF “PROTECTED CLASSES”

Editor:

The principle of protecting certain classes of people based on race, ethnicity, title or status, stands in direct opposition to the United States Constitution. This approach violates the foundational promise of equal protection under the law. For more than 150 years, guilt over past injustices has led Americans to overlook this reality, resulting in policies that assault the Constitution itself. True equality demands an end to such classifications.

Constitutional Foundations

The Declaration of Independence proclaims that “all men are created equal,” endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights. The 14th Amendment reinforces this ideal. Ratified in 1868, its **Equal Protection Clause** states: “No State shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the **equal protection of the laws**”. This provision applies to all persons without exception for race or ethnicity. The Supreme Court has long held that racial classifications trigger strict scrutiny, requiring a compelling government interest and narrow tailoring. Any preference or protection based on race inherently treats individuals unequally.

Key Supreme Court Rulings

In *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (2023), the Supreme Court struck down race-conscious admissions programs at Harvard and the University of North Carolina. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that these programs violated the Equal Protection Clause because they lacked measurable objectives, used race negatively, relied on stereotypes, and had no logical end point. The ruling reaffirmed that the Constitution prohibits government from sorting citizens by race, even under claims of promoting diversity.

Earlier decisions such as *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.* (1989) demanded strict evidence of specific discrimination before allowing race-based remedies. These precedents reject broad preferences rooted in racial categories.

The Problems with Protected Classes

Protected-class frameworks extend this unconstitutional logic across employment, contracting, education, and beyond. They create hierarchies of victimhood and privilege, pitting groups against one another. Far from inclusive, such systems are inherently racist and separatist. They assume individuals cannot succeed without racial crutches and that some races require perpetual shielding. This contradicts the color-blind ideal articulated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which aimed to eliminate discrimination, not institutionalize it in reverse.

A clear illustration of this imbalance appears in sentencing enhancements for crimes against certain government officials. The murder of a police officer, for example, often carries far more severe penalties than the murder of an ordinary citizen. While society rightly values those who serve in law enforcement, elevating one class of victims based on occupation creates the same unequal protection condemned by the Constitution. All lives hold equal worth under the law. Such distinctions mirror race-based preferences by granting heightened status to one group over another, violating the Equal Protection Clause’s demand for impartial justice.

Guilt, Power, and Manipulation

Guilt has clouded judgment for generations. Post-Civil War amendments sought to secure equality after slavery. Yet subsequent policies drifted into group entitlements justified by historical wrongs. The left has exploited this guilt to advance power through division. By framing opposition as insensitive or bigoted, advocates duped citizens into accepting violations of foundational documents. These actions serve control rather than fairness. They foster dependency and resentment instead of individual merit and national unity.

The Path to Genuine Equality

Restoring constitutional fidelity requires rejecting protected classes outright, whether based on race, ethnicity, or official position. Government must treat every citizen as an individual, not a favored category. Policies should focus on neutral criteria such as need, merit, or conduct, not ancestry or occupation. This path honors “all men and women are created equal.” It rejects separatist thinking for genuine inclusion under one American identity.

America’s founding documents reject race-based or position-based governance. Ignoring this for guilt-driven expediency has eroded liberty. Ending these practices is not regression but restoration. Only by embracing true equality, without favoritism, can the nation fulfill its promise of justice for all.

Michael J. Badagliacco, “MJB”

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DREAM OF MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL BECOMING A REALITY

Dear Editor:

After years of planning, raising money, disappointments and moments of joy, the day has come! We are excited to see the dream of the Montrose Veterans Memorial becoming reality right here in our community!

Please join us Friday, May 15, at 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colo. at 9 a.m. for the ground-breaking ceremony.

RSVP here: <https://www.montrosevmc.org/.../montrose-veterans...>

A huge thank you to Rocky Mountain Aggregate and Construction and Able Excavation and Construction for hauling in the tons of fill dirt, and Stryker Co. for the hard work getting the ground prepared for this important project last week. Their support helps honor the service and sacrifice of veterans across the Western Slope.

https://youtu.be/u7_yUxltfk0?feature=shared

We are proud to be part of a community that remembers, honors and builds something meaningful for future generations.

Donate now: <https://www.montrosevmc.org>

On behalf of the MVMC Board of Directors,

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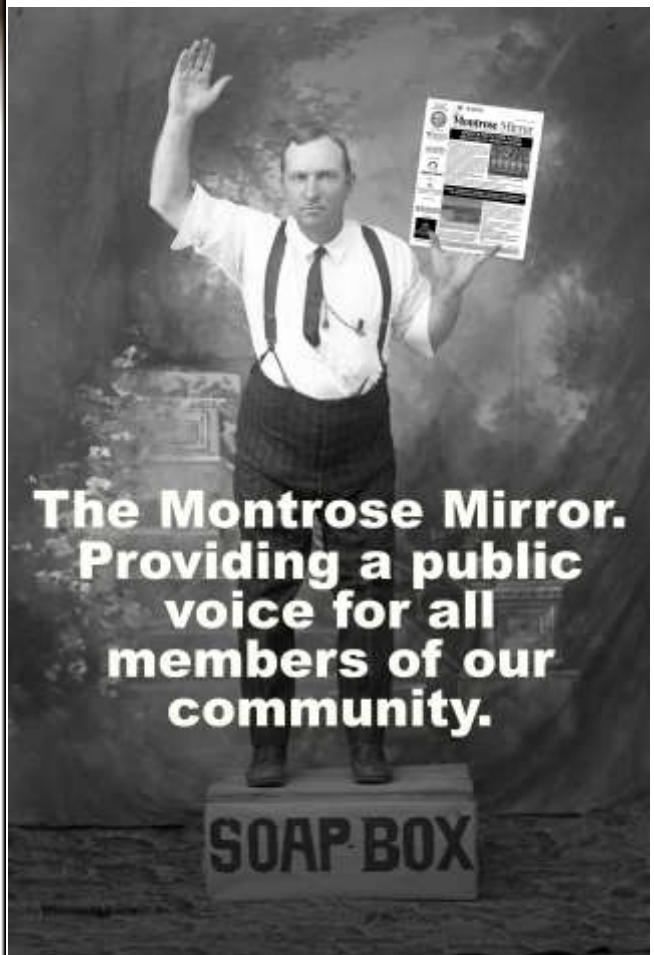
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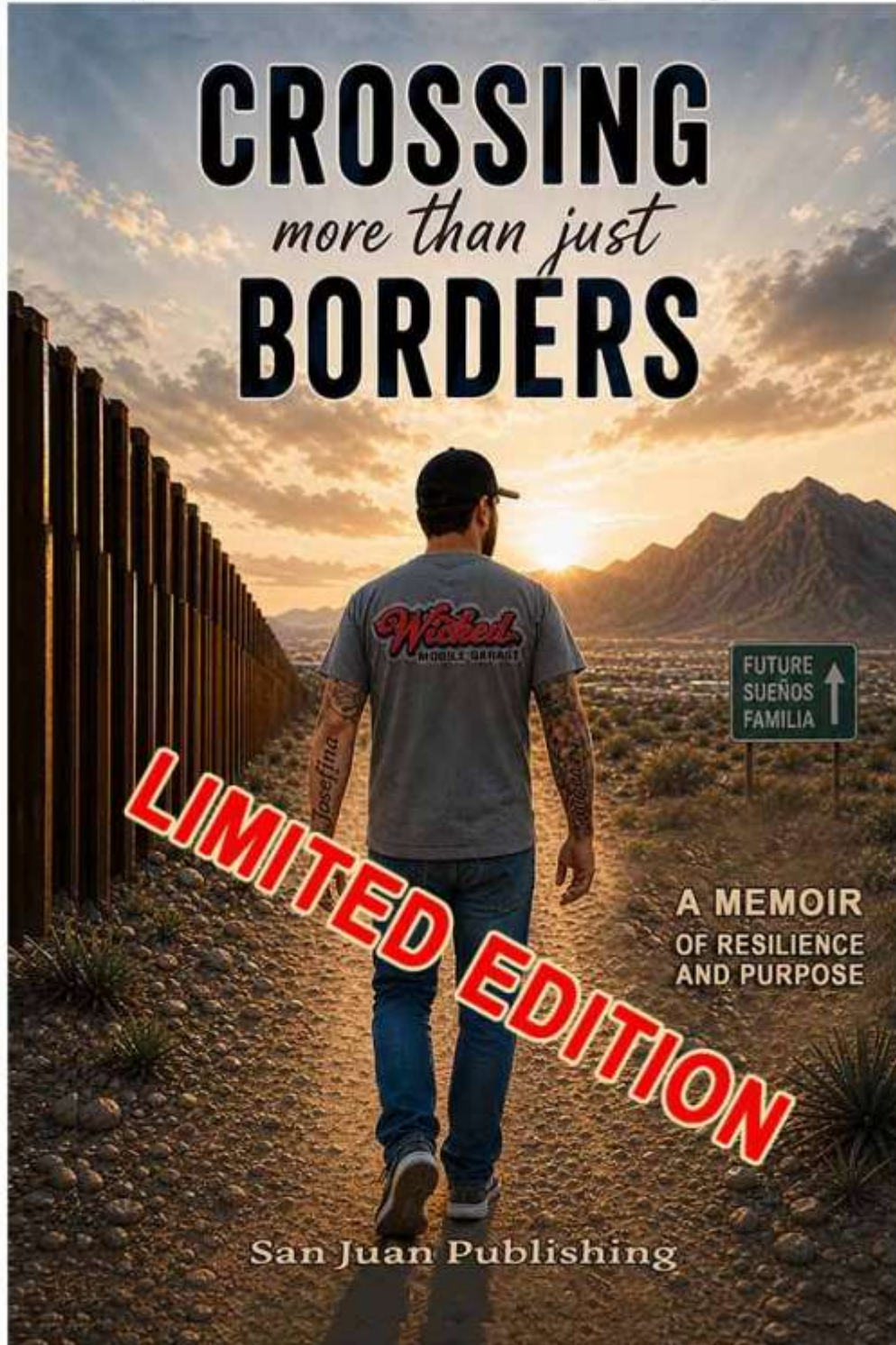
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PARTY WITHOUT A PLAN IS IMPLODING

Editor:

Most people can't help but be shocked each week at all the crazy things Democrats do, but some realize they just have to laugh and ridicule the insanity. This week, Democrats are fighting for racially segregated congressional voting districts. After spending many decades calling anyone who opposes Democrats a racist, when the Supreme Court told them to stop being actual racists and blocked racial districting, the only response they could come up with was to call the court ... racist. The same party that is falsely claiming that black peoples' voting rights are being taken away just a few months ago told people to NOT vote for a black woman for Virginia's governor. In the last few weeks, a Democrat attempted another assassination of Trump, the Democrat Southern Poverty Law Center was exposed for funding racist white supremacy groups, Socialist NYC mayor Mamdani has run out of other peoples' money in just three months, Democrat superstar Omar discussed the history of World War Eleven, and NO Kings Democrats gushed and fawned over King Charles.

In Seattle, a 77-year-old American steps off a bus in the city center and is brutally beaten – without any reason – by two Somali migrants. The attack was captured on the city's cameras. Mayor Katie Wilson's response? She openly said she wants to turn off the surveillance cameras because they might “endanger refugees and migrants.” One of the assailants was never arrested. The main attacker was arrested and released before his bail hearing. Now he is missing. Meanwhile, over 200 Americans have been shot since the war with Iran began in Chicago. This is the same city that is demanding Walgreens be charged criminally after they had to shut down stores after decades of rampant, uncontrolled theft. In our great state of Colorado, four Colorado Democrats killed a bill that would have barred probation for some child sex crimes – like raping a child. Now it turns out that House Democrats in Colorado just passed a new bill 33-32 that lowers the penalty for the murder of one person and removes the possibility of a life sentence. Colorado Democrats just lowered sentences for, among other things: killing someone by firing shots into a crowd; dropping a rock from a bridge on a highway, killing someone; and killing someone due to road rage. Democrats in Wisconsin are pushing similar legislation. USDA Secretary Rollins just an-

nounced that 14,000 individuals on SNAP were driving luxury vehicles. Twenty-two states with Democrat governors are blocking the Trump administration from inspecting SNAP to protect the thieves. Nineteen Dem states are suing Trump to give sex change operations to children. Every single Minnesota Senate Democrat just voted against removing dead people from their registered voter rolls. For too long, being a Democrat politician has meant never suffering any consequence for stupid policies or actions, provided that politician contributes to party power. Nothing is disqualifying. Democrats are now running a candidate for the U.S. Senate in Maine with a literal Nazi tattoo. Graham Platner proudly possessed a Nazi tattoo for almost two decades. He also said women who are assaulted should “take responsibility.” He called rural Americans “racist” and “stupid.” He praised Hamas and said “all cops are bastards.” His posts include homophobic slurs and racially insensitive remarks about blacks, as well as self-identification as a communist. Even worse than Platner's actions is the fact Democrats are rallying around him – totally laundering and re-framing the truth. The world may be laughing at how broken and retarded Democrats are, but all is forgiven if Platner can help regain their lost power. Democrats have chosen Israel's enemies over Israel and Muslim invaders over American citizens, with no consequence. They choose criminals over police and citizens, socialism/communism over democracy, globalists over America, and illegal aliens over citizens – with no consequences.

Here's the good new folks. The party of failure -- the party without a plan – is showing every indication of imploding. Once home to JFK centrists and Bill Clinton moderates, today's Democrats have surrendered to radicals, antisemites, and anti-American extremists – and that is becoming more and more obvious to the voting public. If a liberal from 1960 (JFK) showed up today, they would be considered conservative. If a liberal from today (AOC) showed up in 1960, they would be considered an absolute lunatic. The radicals in control of today's Democrat Party view open borders and amnesty as totally necessary. In contrast, the Democrats' former working-class wing – especially unions, black, and Hispanic voters, who are now defecting to the GOP along with the youth – view unrestricted immigration as a detriment to themselves. Dems survival

depends on the invasion, plus a fraudulent election system with secretive late-night counting, mail-in ballots, ballot harvesting, out-of-control voter rolls, and no ID requirements. Democrats' viability depends on that corrupt voting system, but the ongoing federal investigations in places like Georgia and Arizona, combined with aggressive crack-downs on non-citizen voting, is making it more difficult for Democrats to cheat. The Supreme Court's decision striking down mandated race-based districting just revealed that the Democrat majorities in the House have long been a hoax. A dozen of the Democrat House seats existed solely because the federal courts forced states to unconstitutionally draw them.

An entirely separate problem for Democrats is the collapse of their propaganda wing, the legacy media – the major reason they have never had to answer for their failures. Trust in that media has hit a record low and their former audiences are fleeing to alternative media, which are mostly conservative. In addition, at least some corporate media is shifting rightwards. The Democrats traditional megaphone is on the fritz. They can no longer just scream “racist!” at their political problems and have them go away. That is a disaster for a party that can't honestly talk about policies they don't have. Here's the part I find totally hilarious: the Democrats' corrupt funding sources are drying up. I wrote previously about the Democrats' giant fundraising machine ActBlue, which they used as an illegal foreign funding conduit. Democrats are now unable to flood their coffers with dirty foreign money. Just as importantly, the Democrats' taxpayer funded slush fund known as USAid has been curtailed. That, plus the broader crackdown on Medicare fraud, daycare funding, and autism funding has cut off most of their taxpayer money spigot. In addition, legitimate big donors are starting to see the light and aren't giving. The Democrat party is finding that honest fundraising is much more difficult than backroom deals with Somali cartels and their own NGOs. Republicans can easily explain their platform of free enterprise, secure borders, honest elections, real journalism, civil rights, moral standards, and personal liberty. It becomes a little more difficult to justify the Democrat party's platform of “hate Trump,” “destroy America,” and get every Democrat politician filthy rich on the backs of working Americans.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TOP 10 REASONS TO WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT EVERY TIME

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Despite information and research showing the effectiveness of seat belts, some drivers, especially teens, still make excuses about why they fail to use this important safety device. Colorado State Troopers are sharing 10 Reasons to Wear Your Seat Belt every time.

1. Decreasing Your Chances of Serious Injury or Death – the worst possible outcome is a crash. Last year, Colorado State Troopers investigated over 27,340 crashes across Colorado. Despite your driving skills, you share the road and crashes aren't predictable. Seatbelts are your best protection inside a vehicle and reduce your chance of being seriously injured or killed.

2. Lower Personal Injury Claims – if you're in a crash and weren't wearing a seat belt, it could impact the outcome of your claim. A defense attorney could claim that your injuries would have been less severe had

you buckled up.

3. Hurting Your Passengers—When you don't wear a seatbelt, you will crash against the vehicle and possibly other people inside your vehicle, injuring them.

4. Psychological Consequences – crashes are violent. When you sustain an injury or see the crash result in another person's death, it can cause significant mental trauma and result in anxiety or PTSD.

5. Higher Medical Costs—injuries without a seat belt are often more severe than those wearing one. This means higher bills, longer hospital stays, and potentially higher rehabilitation costs.

6. Long-Term Disabilities – injuries that result from choosing not to wear a seat-belt can lead to long-term disabilities that can impact your quality of life and ability to work.

7. Impact on Auto Insurance Rates—Receiving a ticket or being involved in a crash while not wearing a seat belt can

drive up your insurance.

8. Reduced Effectiveness of Other Safety Features—Your vehicle is likely equipped with multiple safety features, such as airbags. If you aren't buckled in, your airbags will be far less effective in protecting you when you need them.

9. Impact on Loved Ones—Your decision not to wear a seat belt can quickly go beyond you. Whether severe injury or death, your family and loved ones will be left to cope with the trauma and financial expenses. This can also impact children, leading them to adopt your habits. If those reasons don't convince you, troopers want to remind you that you are breaking a law designed to protect you. You will likely be cited if pulled over for another driving offense or involved in a property damage crash. Please know and respect the law by following the rules below.

10. Colorado's seat belt law.



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Montrose Veterans Memorial Ground-breaking Ceremony

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

IGNORANCE OR MALFEASANCE?

Why a Forensic Audit of the City of Montrose's Books is Needed

By David White

At the close of the Montrose City Council's most recent meeting held the evening of May 5th, Councilmember and immediate past Mayor, Dave Frank made the following statement when current Mayor, Michael Badagliacco asked if any members of Council had something to bring to the attention of meeting attendees:

"Yeah, I have two things. Uh, first is I just wanted to highlight that when Mr. Bell is talking about all the hard work that uh the ICMA (Ed. Note: International City/County Management Assoc.) does. It uh he didn't tell you that he was recently selected as city manager of the year by a national publication that recognizes city managers across the United States and he went through the finalist process and he was selected as the city manager of the year. And we cannot express how proud we are of you and the hard work that you do. and I just want to make sure the community understands what an incredible asset you are to the city of Montrose. Congratulations and thank you." (watch the video of the meeting at the 1 hr., 42-minute mark here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVehFOX76KQ>)

For those of you who may have read my article in last week's Montrose Mirror on page 66 (<https://www.montrosemirror.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/MM688.pdf>), I provided documented proof that Mr. Bell's so called "selection" as "City Manager of the Year" by, as Mr. Frank describes it, "a national publication" (circulation of 85,000 PAID subscribers...this is not the New York Times by any means folks) was a contrived publicity stunt paid for by the taxpayers of the City of Montrose to the tune of \$5,500.00 in an attempt to puff up our long of tooth City Manager as he enters his 16th year as City Manager. See the article in the link above for details.

Gov Business Review (the publication Mr. Frank is referring to) is "honoring" 10 City Managers as well as 10 Assistant City Managers, 10 Town Managers, 10 Town

Administrators, 10 Human Resource Leaders as well as 10 County Managers government throughout the USA with this "pay-to-play" made up award. (<https://www.govbusinessreview.com/cxo-awards/>)

Rather than acknowledge the misuse of taxpayer's dollars for such an egregious waste of money, Mr. Frank along with the City Manager and other current and recently term limited Councilmembers have referred to this writer with such glowing terms as "he's an idiot", "he's stupid", "he's a liar" (a favorite of the City Manager's) and many others that are unfit for print but witnessed by members of the public and other elected officials. Why would they say such things? Could it be that it's the convenient way to cover their misdeeds or worse – their complicity and malfeasance when it comes to how your money is used and wasted by them?

I have been opining for the last few years in this publication that access to the City treasury by the City Manager, and the ignorance or willing participation by prior City Councils, warrant an investigation into such matters. Previous examples are numerous and can be found in *The Montrose Mirror* archives (<https://www.montrosemirror.com/latest-issues/>) As a quick refresher, here are just a few of the abuses of taxpayer funds that need to be looked into and not ignored any further:

-MontroseLifestyle.com - paid for by you and your tax dollars (along with some paid advertising) through a "partnership" created by Mr. Bell and former Assistant City Manager Rob Joseph and lists the registered address for the business (Montrose Lifestyle, LLC) as 107 South Cascade Avenue, Montrose, CO, home of the City of Montrose's Visitor Center and City Council Chambers building. Beginning in 2024 and through 2026, payments will approach \$200,000 for this publication that Mr. Bell touts as the only source for the "truth" about the City of Montrose.

-An annual contract for \$1,200.00 (or more as needed) to sponsor a local media

company's podcast (**Meridian 105**) known as **"The Bell Curve"** which is marketed under the moniker WKRP Montrose (a knock off of the old '70's sitcom WKRP in Cincinnati) and features City Manager Bell feeding the few viewers of this podcast the "truth" of what is going on within City Hall.

-The City's defacto economic development guru, Anthony Russo is paid as a contract employee who is seemingly responsible for his own expenses like any other contractor, yet business cards, conferences, meals and many other perks are routinely paid for by the City with the blessing of the City Manager separate and apart from his contractor status. The tax implications need examination.

-Montrose Black Canyon Rotary. A private, by invitation only club and part of Rotary Club International funded mostly by the City's Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) fund (i.e., tax dollars) which Mr. Bell uses as a slush fund for projects that he somehow determines to have a "public safety" purpose.

-The FREE use by the City Manager and the City Attorney of high dollar government vehicles for both work and personal business without reimbursement of fuel, insurance, maintenance, etc. on that portion of their use for vacations, grocery runs and much more is no doubt in the thousands of dollars along with the untaxed benefit each receives. Yet another abuse of the public's trust and money.

-The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) where millions of tax dollars have been poured into a quasi-governmental/private sector partnership where public dollars have been siphoned off from City reserve funds as well as deferrals of property taxes to benefit private developers.

-Multiple "grants" (i.e. giveaways of taxpayer funds) for the purchase and installation of commercial kitchens; asbestos removal in privately owned buildings and residences; façade renovations of area businesses and their buildings; "horizontal improvements" for private projects

Continued next pg

IGNORANCE OR MALFEASANCE? From previous pg

constructed or modified to include landscaping, parking lot construction and paving, parking lot lighting and much more that fall under the City Manager's definition of such; the Rathbone Hotel debacle costing taxpayers over \$1.5 million dollars in giveaways and many more to benefit Telluride developers.

-The luring of and payment to the American Junior Golf Association by the City for a 3-year run (2021-2023) to come to The Bridges Golf and Country Club and have the City host a junior golf tournament as a part of their annual schedule to, in a somewhat covert manner, benefit Mr. Bell's then high school aged son's efforts to obtain athletic scholarships to various colleges and universities with entry fees for the young Mr. Bell paid for by taxpayers out of the Manager's budget.

-Then Municipal Court Judge & the City's current 911 Attorney for the Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSAs-they set your 911 surcharge on your phone bill annually) Bo Nerlin received a Telluride ski pass in 2022 along with City Councilor and Mayor Barbara Bynum paid for with a check from the City to the Colorado Flights Alliance in the amount of \$2,500 on December 29, 2022. City Finance folks list the purchase as "passes." No mention is made of the loans to either party being reimbursed to the City. Charges were expensed to the Municipal Court and City Council accounts.

-November of 2020 – Telluride Ski Pass purchased by the City for Councilor Bynum in the amount of \$1,100.00. Charged to the City Council's budget.

-November of 2023. Bynum gets yet another ski pass to Telluride. This time a reimbursement shows up in February of 2024 as a refund on the City's U.S. Bank credit card. Charged off to the City Council's budget.

-Nerlin, again, received a ski pass to Telluride on December 30, 2024 with reference

to the fact that he would reimburse the City. Nothing was mentioned about a payroll deduction, nor do we have proof that the loan was paid back for the purchase of the pass.

-December of 2024, Kendall Delp, employed in the City's Water Department, purchases a Telluride Ski Pass via Colorado Flights Alliance on the City's credit card for \$1,375.00. Nothing was mentioned about a payroll deduction. Mention is made of Mr. Delp reimbursing the City. We have no proof that the loan for the pass was paid back. Charged to the Water Department.

-November 2024 - \$1,840.32 for tickets to Universal Studios, Orlando, Florida for the City's Youth Council (of which Mr. Bell's daughter was the "Mayor" of the Youth Council at the time) for a junket to Florida with the City Council and staff members for a conference. This was to be reimbursed via donations.

No record of any reimbursements have ever been found.

The list of these documented abuses of taxpayer monies is seemingly endless. Yet, nothing happens. The City's auditors are nothing more than paid charlatans that are only hired to work for the management of the City and to "verify" that the money spent in any given year was the money spent.

Knowing that something was not right, the 2026 City Council race saw candidates express concerns about the lack of fiscal housekeeping with candidates Badagliacco, Wooden and Ulibarri all expressing support for a forensic audit of the City's books.

For those not familiar with the term, a forensic audit is a thorough examination of an individual's or organization's financial records. Its primary purpose is to uncover evidence of fraud, embezzlement, or other financial crimes that can be used in legal proceedings. This type of audit is

distinct from regular audits, as it focuses specifically on investigating potential wrongdoing.

Forensic audits are typically conducted in situations such as:

-Suspected Fraud: When there are allegations of financial misconduct.

-Legal Disputes: During divorce proceedings or business disputes to uncover hidden assets.

-Regulatory Compliance: To ensure adherence to laws and regulations.

If necessary, the forensic auditor may also testify as an expert witness in court to support the findings of the audit. This comprehensive approach ensures that all relevant evidence is gathered and documented for potential legal action.

This type of audit, to the best of my knowledge, has never been conducted by the City. It's time to start! The days of mismanagement and the complete disregard for the taxpayer's financial assets warrant this expenditure. It most likely won't be cheap, however, the dollars to potentially be recovered will more than offset the cost of this kind of audit, provided the new councilmembers stick to their guns and get a firm hired to conduct it. Councilors Frank and Reed will most likely oppose such a move. I wonder why that might happen – NOT! My fingers are crossed that the intestinal fortitude is there to make it happen!

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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BOOK SIGNING AT MCA- LOCAL AUTHOR BUILDS CREATIVE SUSPENSE

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-On Thursday, May 14, at 6 pm, there will be a book signing at Montrose Center of Arts in Montrose, Colorado featuring local author Dawn Blanchard (using the pen name of 'DL Blanchard' and the owner of Meditation Spaces in downtown Montrose). Blanchard will talk about her newly released suspense novel, Blue Moon Bench. Blanchard will reveal how being creative and writing fiction is a process that is an adventure itself - including how the author sometimes actually 'lives' the story as she writes. She will also share how a famous artist encouraged and showed her how to embrace that truth.

ABOUT THE STORY: Blanchard will also share how the classic mystery novel "Rebecca" by Daphne du Maurier, (and a movie by director Alfred Hitchcock and a current Netflix movie) sparked the inspiration for her storyline. She stripped the premise to the bone, then dressed it in the colorful culture of northern Arizona. After living in that brilliant landscape for over 17 years; hiking the canyons, camping under the stars, and being enmeshed with a well-known group of anthropologists and Native Americans, her writing was definitely influenced and informed by the mystical culture around her.

DETAILS

This event will be held at the Montrose Center for Arts - 205 E. Main Street, Montrose, Colorado, from 6pm - 7:30pm. Everyone is invited. Books will be on sale and 100% of the proceeds will support the art center. The event will be aligned with a monthly summertime celebration of local creativity, community, and culture in the heart of downtown Montrose - Montrose Art Crawl! Join the fun and attend our book signing to show your support of the arts.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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



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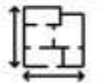
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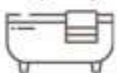
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A WARNING FOR THOSE WITH BIRD FEEDERS OR BIRD BATHS

Hello everyone,

I've received a call today from someone who feeds the birds and noticed a Red Finch with conjunctivitis.

They live in the vicinity of Niagara and 6700 Rd and Hickory. I've advised them to take down their birdfeeders and remove bird baths, and to advise their neighbors to do the same. I explained to them how the disease (bacterial) spreads at feeders and baths-anywhere songbirds regularly go and congregate.

Infected birds give it to their young (mostly nestling this time of year) they get it and die. Or, the parents die from it therefore the young starve. Infected songbirds go blind, therefore they cannot find food and starve to death. It is considered painful.

It is extremely difficult to treat. By the time the bird is down on the ground and caught, it is most often too late. In rehab a bird is thought to be treated and recovered, but after 2-3 weeks in rehab where it seems like it's healthy again it comes back. Or, it comes back right after release, as the stress of freedom again weakens the bird.

Hundreds may die if the people in this area do not take down their feeders. The Red finch will starve to death. If it has a mate and young they will also die and probably numerous other birds in this area.

Disinfecting feeders doesn't help. If a clean feeder is hung back outside and an infected bird shows up the bacteria will continue to spread and infect more birds.

People are welcome to contact me. There is a lot of information online too!

Brenda Miller, Executive Director

Roubideau Rim Wildlife Rescue, 501c3

Olathe, CO. 81425 970-209-5946

website: www.rrwildlife.weebly.com

THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING A BETTER WORLD REMAINS

To the editor,

There are few policy proposals that have the potential to do more good than a massive public investment in cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. My hope is this technology will help sweep fish trawlers and slaughterhouses into the dustbin of history. However, if cultivated meat only replaces a small percentage of the existing meat market, it would save billions of animals from suffering and premature death every year.

While the technology currently exists to make cultivated meat, it's too expensive to mass produce. I have no doubt this can be rectified with further research. We should build facilities like the Tufts University Center for Cellular Agriculture at schools across the country. Compassionate political leaders should direct government resources toward this effort. As dark as our politics feels right now, with corruption and hatred seemingly everywhere, the possibility of building a better world remains.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby CT



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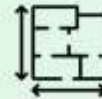
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CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ERIC M. "RIC" SIMON *April 1, 1947- March 17, 2026*

ERIC M. "RIC" SIMON, 78, of Montrose, Colorado, peacefully passed away on March 17, 2026.

Ric was born on April 1, 1947, in Littleton, Colorado, to Walter and Mary Simon. In 1957, he moved with his parents and five siblings to Cedaredge, Colorado, where he grew up raising animals, playing sports, working in the orchards, and cultivating his love for life.

Ric graduated from Cedaredge High School in 1965 and went on to serve his country in the National Guard. After his service, he settled in Montrose, Colorado, where he welcomed his son, Zach, in 1971. In 1989, Ric met the love of his life, Jodie. They were married and spent the rest of his years sharing countless adventures together—river rafting through Utah and Colorado, hot air ballooning around the world, and cheering on their daughter, Mandie, in soccer.

Ric was deeply involved in his community. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club, the Elks Lodge, and the Chamber of Commerce, where he was honored as Member of the Year in 1990. He also served as president of the Chamber of Commerce Red Coats, helping bring the National

Chamber Ambassadors Convention to Montrose. Alongside his longtime friend Dennis Devore, Ric co-founded the Downtown Business Association.

A passionate supporter of youth sports, Ric was a longtime member of the Montrose Soccer Club, where he coached, refereed, and even helped build goals. He also served on the committee that launched the Lighter Than Air Balloon Affair and later founded the Black Canyon Balloon Classic held Thanksgiving weekend, which ran successfully for 10 years.

Ric had a remarkable gift for making friends wherever he went and turning every moment into an adventure. He was affectionately known as "the fun merchant."

He is survived by his beloved wife, Jodie of Montrose, Colorado; his son Zach (Rika) Simon of Clinton, Utah; his daughter, Mandie (Rick) Sanchez of San Antonio, Texas; and his cherished grandchildren, Daphne, Tanner, and Angelina. He is also survived by his sisters, Maribeth (Steve) Clark and Ebbie Sanchez; and his brothers, Barry (Kari) Simon and Roger (Jeanette) Simon.

Ric was preceded in death by his parents,



Walter and Mary Simon; his brother, Garrett Simon; and his brother-in-law, David Sanchez.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. A celebration of Ric's life will be held on August 22, 2026, at 2 PM at the Elks Lodge, 801 S. Hillcrest Dr., Montrose, CO 81401.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LILLIE F. MOORE

August 27, 1948- May 5, 2026



LILLIE F MOORE passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by her family on May 5, 2026 in Montrose, Colorado. She was 77 years old.

Lillie Florence Priddy "Dinkey Moore" was born August 27, 1948 to Homer William Priddy and Lillie Mae (Bailey) Priddy in Flagstaff, Arizona. Lillie was welcomed into the family by her sisters Margaret and Judy. Her sisters gave Lillie the name "Dinkey" because she was so small and it stayed with her for her whole life.

Dinkey spent much of her childhood traveling between Arkansas and "Johnson Park" Colorado while her dad and brother-in-law, Ray Morgan, sawmilled. Dinkey's favorite playmate was her nephew, Jimmy

Morgan, who was five years younger.

The family permanently moved to Montrose, Colorado in 1958 where she spent the remainder of her life.

Dinkey went to school and was in the first class of students to attend Columbine Middle School. She then attended Montrose High School where she met James "Jim" Moore. They became high school sweethearts and later married on January 29, 1965. Jim and Dinkey had three children: Jody, Tiffany, and Christy. Dinkey was a home maker while she raised her children. As her children got older, she worked at Russell Stovers and later became a Hallmark card merchandiser "The Card Lady" for both local City Markets and Gibsons.

Dinkey was raised knowing Jesus but fully dedicated her life to him and was baptized in 1975 by Reverend Lloyd McMillian at Montrose Christian Church. Church was a big part of her life and she attended the Assembly of God Church, Abundant Life Church and most recently, Grace Community Church. She taught her family to love Jesus and followed him always.

Dinkey loved spending time with her family. She enjoyed doing things outside which included Arrowhead hunting, picnicking, going to the lake, planting flowers and exploring the mountains. Dinkey took painting classes with her sisters and her niece, Lisa Coram, and found she had quite a talent for it.

Dinkey loved to travel with her family. She would take her mother back to Arkan-

sas every summer to see family but her favorite travel destination was Walt Disney World. She vacationed to Walt Disney World every other year for the last 30 years.

Dinkey had an open-door policy and an open heart to everyone she met. She was a fantastic cook and loved to feed everyone. One thing Dinkey was known to say to her children and grandchildren was, "Don't pray for patience, pray for wisdom. If you pray for patience, God will give you things to make you patient. If you pray for wisdom, God will give you things to help you make it through."

She was preceded in death by her parents Homer William Priddy; Lillie Mae "Bailey" Priddy; sisters and brothers-in-law, Ray and Margaret Morgan; John and Judy Deltondo. Her husband James Moore and nephew Bobby Morgan.

She is survived by her children, Jody and Stephanie Moore; Tiffany English; Christy and Rusty Van-Allen, her grandchildren; Ashley and Jacob Cramer; Daemin, Cade, and Miciah English; Madicyn and Dillon Fisher; Karyk Stiles, Jayde Stiles; her great grandchildren; Nyobie, Myrsay, Cashius, Fynnlén, Ireland, Rue, Baskal Jack Cramer; Emmery Fisher and many nieces and nephews.

Although Dinkey left this world quickly, her legacy lives on through a family who dearly loves her. She would also want everyone to remember that this phase of life is just a fleeting moment before our eternity starts with Jesus.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

HAROLD ARTHUR KOLBET *September 7, 1934 — May 4, 2026*

HAROLD ARTHUR KOLBET, 91, of Montrose, CO passed away on May 4, 2026, at Colorow Care Center.

Harold was born on September 7, 1934 in McCook, NE, the son of Charles and Cecilia (Schworer) Kolbet. He grew up on a farm in Hays Center, NE with his four sisters and six brothers. He went to work shortly after 8th grade graduation.

He enlisted in the Army on January 29, 1956 and served until honorably discharged January 23, 1958. He was part of an honor guard to President Eisenhower. He then served in the Army Reserves for four years.

After leaving the Army, Harold began a long career as a cement finisher. He worked on canals and dams in Nebraska, Kansas, and on the western slope of Colorado through the Bureau of Reclamation. The first dam he would work on was the Red Willow dam in McCook, NE. He would also work on the Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, Crystal, Silver Jack, and Ridgway dams. After his last dam, Harold continued working for construction companies in Montrose as a cement finisher. Harold was still setting forms, pouring concrete, and doing the finishing work until he re-

tired at age 72.

Harold found and married the girl of his dreams, Lona Lee Wilkinson. They were married December 31, 1962, in Rosebud, SD. Harold and Lona would live in Valentine, NE and Beloit, KS before moving to Montrose, CO in 1966. In 1976 Harold and Lona purchased their farm north of Montrose where they would raise cattle and hay. Harold enjoyed taking his nephews and brothers elk hunting and in his younger years, he enjoyed baseball.

Harold was a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church. He served as an usher for many years. Harold was a member and treasurer of the Knights of Columbus Council 1188. Harold enjoyed working weekly at bingo with his fellow Knights. He was also a proud member of the cement mixer union, the NRA, and the American Legion.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Cecilia; brother Clifford Kolbet; sister Loretta Niblock and her husband Junior; sister-in-law Beverly Kolbet; brother Allan Kolbet and his wife Matilda; sister-in-law Lynn Kolbet; and brother-in-law Chuck Sunday. He is survived by his wife Lona; son Arthur (Dawn) Kolbet;



daughter Catherine Kolbet; four grandchildren: Nicholas (Amber) Kolbet; Deianira (Dan) Rives; Kendra (Dylan Johnston) Kolbet; Elora Kolbet; two great grandchildren: Greyson Rives and Spencer Rives; brothers: Kenneth (Elaine) Kolbet; Roger Kolbet; Leon Kolbet; Floyd (Jan) Kolbet; sisters: Rita Kolbet, Isabelle (John) Heinzman; Leona Sunday; and numerous nieces and nephews.

CHARLA MARIE ARBUCKLE (GOOD) *July 4, 1948 — May 4, 2026*



CHARLA MARIE ARBUCKLE (NÉE GOOD), 77, passed away on May 4, 2026.

She was born on July 4, 1948, in Fort Worth, Texas, to Charles and Berniece Good. She grew up in Dallas, graduating from Bryan Adams High School in 1966, and later attended Texas Woman's University. In her early adulthood, Charla's life carried her through Arizona and California, years marked by movement, independence, and change. She later married and made her way to Washington, where she began the work of building her family life. In time, she settled in Montrose, Colorado, joining her brother, Charles Stewart Good, and establishing a lasting home there.

Charla was a devoted mother to her daughter, Megan Kittell (née Arbuckle), and a proud grandmother to Lillian, Robin, and Winston Kittell. She is also survived by her son-in-law, Brian Kittell.

Known for her quiet diligence and careful attention to detail, Charla spent many years working as a typist and administrative assistant. Her work at Montrose Memorial Hospital and later at Dalby, Wendland & Co., P.C. reflected a steady professionalism that carried her through to retirement.

She will be remembered for her quiet strength, independence, and self-sufficiency, and for the deep, enduring love she held for her family. Though private in nature, her presence was lasting, and her memory will remain woven into the lives of those who knew her. Honoring her wishes, a private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

ISSUE 572 May 11, 2026

ART & SOL

FIND GRACE ON SOUTH PARK AVENUE



The Grace Center is a program of Grace Community Church. Mirror staff photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With their mission of “Gather, Grow, Give,” Grace Community Church of Montrose has always sought avenues to meet people where they are and to offer help where help is needed.

One of Grace’s local outreach efforts is The Grace Center, located at 11 South Park Avenue in Montrose. The Grace Center opened in June of 2025.

As one of two staff members, Monica Baroz coordinates many of the resources people can find there. To obtain the Center’s main services, clients must be housed, and must provide proof of residency, she said.

“This is where help happens. Our main services are meals and clothing,” Baroz told the *Mirror* last week.

“We do have other programs that anyone can come in for—we offer ESL classes, and every second Saturday we offer food relief for anyone who needs it, from 11am to



Located in a small but busy shopping area, The Grace Center is where help happens. Mirror staff photo.

1pm.”

The Grace Center partners with other agencies to offer additional programs and resources, and members of the church or their relatives can access even more services.

There are opportunities for all age groups, including children. Those who need financial help are welcome to apply.

“Response has been pretty good,” Baroz said. “We’re still getting the word out, and

we’re connecting with other agencies to increase our impact. We don’t charge for anything—we are blessed to have people who donate.”

The Grace Center was a longtime vision of Pastor Karl Leuthauser.

“We’re always looking for ideas, looking at how to grow and add more things,” Baroz said.

“We do what we can, and we let God provide.”

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

SPONSORED BY MONTROSE CITIZENS DOGE

President Trump has called on Americans to rededicate ourselves as one nation under God.

This is an invitation to come join your neighbors on May 17th from 6PM to 8PM at Cedar Creek Church, 222 South Townsend Ave. to pray, fast and humble ourselves before our God for our great nation.

The liberties of America are imminently endangered and we need to spiritually surrender ourselves seeking God's favor, wisdom and intervention.

Our nation faces a spiritual battle against biblical values, moral confusion and unprecedented challenges. We must not react in fear but respond in faith.

Come join us in prayer for God to save our nation.

”...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of love and self-control...”

2 Timothy 1:7 esv

FACILITY PROVIDED BY CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS


2026 PRIDE ART EXHIBIT: WHAT IS YOUR JOY?

Special to Art & Sol


MONTROSE—Join the Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) for *What Is Your Joy*, the 3rd Annual Pride Art Exhibit opens May 17 and runs through June 28. The opening reception for the exhibit will take place at the MCA on May 29 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The award ceremony (Judge’s Award and Theme Award) for the artists will take place at 6:30 p.m. Visitors can place their votes for the People’s Choice Award throughout the duration of the exhibit. The MCA is proud to showcase art from everyone, for everyone, at any time! Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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Our sponsors for the event include The Mortgage Link, Jack the Clipper and Montrose Tubs.

Lynn Whipple, Branch Manager for [The Mortgage Link](#), has over 35 years of experience in the mortgage industry. She is deeply committed to providing exceptional customer service and takes pride in guiding her clients through every step of the home financing process.

With a strong foundation of knowledge, resources, and industry support, Lynn ensures her clients receive personalized solutions and clear communication. She understands that purchasing a home is one of the most significant investments people make, and in today’s market, it can feel increasingly complex. Her goal is to empower clients with the information they need to make confident, informed decisions.

Kelly Petschi has owned Jack the Clipper for almost 8 years and has been cutting hair for almost 38 years. Petschi says, "As a small business owner, I appreciate the opportunity to support other small organizations and nonprofits that promote events serving our entire community."

Hot Tubs of Montrose has been serving the hot tub industry since 1986, with experience in everything from manufacturing and service to installation and retail. Owner Colin Nelson says, "We believe buying a hot tub should be exciting, not overwhelming. Our team provides honest guidance, real answers, and a no-pressure environment to help you find the right fit for your lifestyle and space."

The judge for the exhibit is Emma Kalff. Kalff’s artistic work is a distillation of her everyday life after memory, emotion, and dreams have had their way with it. She lives and works in Ridgway, Colorado. Kalff was classically trained in oil painting under American realist painter Auseklis Ozols at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts. In 2018-19, Kalff traveled across the United States, working on farms and making a series of paintings inspired by the places she lived and worked. This body of work, called *Finding America*, was noticed in Telluride, CO, where she later had her first solo show at the Telluride Arts Headquarters Gallery in 2020. Her work was selected as part of Southwest Art magazine’s "21 Under 31: Young Artists to Collect Now." She has also been listed as an "Artist to Watch" by Plein Air Magazine. Kalff’s paintings are in private and public collections and have been shown at the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art.



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The Satisfied Self

THE SATISFIED SELF: SMALL PRACTICES, BIG SHIFTS



By Gia Pirelli

Most people underestimate what repetition does. Not dramatic reinvention. Not one perfect week. Not a burst of motivation fueled by exhaustion and caffeine. But repetition. Small actions repeated consistently become patterns. Patterns become behaviors. Behaviors become identity.

Behaviors become identity.

And identity shapes the quality of your life far more than intensity ever will. The reason most people never change is simple. The problem is not usually a lack of information. Most people already know what supports them: better sleep, less screen time, more movement, slower breathing, moments of stillness, healthier boundaries...

But knowledge itself does not automatically create change. Because lasting change happens through the nervous system—not just the intellect. The two go hand in hand. If a habit feels overwhelming, unsustainable, or emotionally loaded, the body resists it. Not because you're lazy. Because the system perceives strain, or threat.

This is why extreme routines fail so often. They rely on force instead of integration. The nervous system learns through integration. It is adaptive. It is constantly learning: what feels safe, what feels familiar, what deserves energy, what becomes automatic.

This means every small daily practice teaches your system something. A rushed morning teaches urgency. Constant notifications teach hypervigilance. Skipping recovery teaches the body to normalize stress.

But the reverse is also true.

A few minutes of breathing teaches regulation. Intentional movement teaches steadiness. Pausing before reacting teaches restraint. Over time, these patterns

stop feeling like effort. They become baseline.

Generally, small practices are more effective because they're repeatable. Even if they may seem insignificant, small, consistent action beats sporadic intensity any day. Five minutes doesn't feel transformational. And it isn't. But five minutes repeated consistently changes physiology: breathing patterns improve, stress recovery becomes faster, baseline tension decreases, attention stabilizes. More importantly, small practices are repeatable during real life. And repeatability matters. Because sustainable change is not built through occasional breakthroughs. It's built through nervous system familiarity.

The goal is never about perfection. One of the biggest barriers to consistency is the belief that practices only "count" when done perfectly. An hour-long morning routine. A perfect meditation practice. An ideal schedule. But regulation doesn't require perfection. It requires repetition.

A short breath practice before work matters. Ten minutes of movement matters. A few moments of stillness before bed matter. These are not meaningless actions. They are inputs. And the nervous system responds to inputs consistently over time.

Self-leadership isn't built by force. And sometimes it's imperceptible. Most self-leadership is invisible. It's not dramatic. Because it's not performative. It's: getting up slightly earlier to create space for yourself, regulating before reacting, choosing recovery before collapse, interrupting old patterns instead of reinforcing them. These moments appear small. But they change how you function. And eventually, they change how you experience your life.

The reason this matters is because it determines how you function and perform under pressure. **When stress increases, people do not rise to the level of their intentions. They fall to the level of their**

conditioning.

This is why consistent regulation practices matter so much. They create familiarity with steadiness. So when pressure arrives you don't spiral. Your breath doesn't disappear immediately. Your nervous system recovers faster. Your reactions soften sooner. Your thinking stays clearer. The external environment may still be demanding. But your internal environment becomes more stable. This affects how you think, behave, and move through every area of your life.

At first, regulation feels intentional. Maybe even awkward. Eventually, it feels natural. You notice over time, you feel less urgency. You exhibit more patience. Your energy feels steadier. Focus improves. Emotional capacity expands.

Not because life stopped being stressful. Because your baseline changed. And baseline is everything. The most powerful shifts in life rarely happen overnight. They compound in subtle ways. Tiny shifts. A moment of pause. A moment of gratitude. Excitement, anticipation and joy in your day. Even if it's brief. Until one day, you realize you move through pressure differently. You move through life differently. You make different choices. It's the frog in a pot theory, just in reverse. Slow, integrated behaviors, seemingly imperceptible, train your system to function differently.

This is why sustainable practices matter more than extreme ones. The goal is not to overhaul your life in a week. That's not practical or realistic. It's to create rhythms that support you consistently enough that your nervous system no longer defaults to survival mode. That's where clarity improves. That's where energy stabilizes. That's where self-leadership becomes possible. Not through force. Through repetition.

As I've been building and filming a short, guided reset around these principles, this has become even more obvious to me: people do not need

Continued next pg

THE SATISFIED SELF: SMALL PRACTICES, BIG SHIFTS *From previous pg*

more pressure disguised as self-improvement. They need practical ways to reconnect to themselves consistently enough that change becomes sustainable. Because the practices that truly change your life are rarely the most dramatic ones. They're the ones you can return to—again and again.

In the next article, we'll explore one of the most overlooked pieces of nervous system regulation: environment—and how your space, your inputs, and your sensory experience quietly shape your emotional state every single day.

Because your nervous system is always responding to what's around you. We constantly take in data and scan it for threat or meaning.

The question is whether those inputs are supporting you--or weakening you.

Gia Pirelli is a yoga teacher and sound healing practitioner specializing in nervous system regulation and applied mind-body practices for self-leadership in modern life. She works with individuals and organizations to improve resilience, focus, and sustainable performance through breath, movement, and sensory-based regulation. Learn more at <https://www.giapirelli.com>

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO'S SMALL MOUNTAIN OWLS

Special to Art & Sol

COLORADO—Quiet, cautious and secretive, these creatures of the night are some of the most intriguing birds around. With unique characteristics like soft hooked feathers for silent flights, flat faces, asymmetrical ears to aid hunting, big eyes with sharp eyesight and the capability to rotate their heads up to 270 degrees around, these birds are truly fascinating. Colorado has about 14 different owl species more than most people realize. From Great Horned Owls patrolling suburban parks to palm-sized Flammulated Owls tucked in



Boreal Owls are small owls found in the Rocky Mountains (photo credit: Scott Raschid).

Ponderosa Pine trees at 8,000 feet elevation. Because of Colorado's varied elevations and ecosystems, we have ideal conditions for an unusually diverse owl community. There are three species however, that frequent high elevation forests of our state: Boreal Owls, Flammulated Owls, Saw-whet Owls and Northern Pygmy Owls. Scott Rashid will talk about his work with these three owl species in Rocky Mountain National Park. Over the years, he has studied their habitats, courtship behavior, nest sites, food habitats, and nestling success, has trapped, and banded these birds to track their annual travels and survival. He has also rehabilitated injured owls. Scott is the director of the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI) and will present his research on these owls and show some amazing images of nesting owls in their preferred mountain habitats. The presentation will be May 14, 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.

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose,
 CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

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

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out
 soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 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 11:30 am
 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 UNDER 3 is available during Worship and Discipleship 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-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, [\[roseumc.org\]\(http://roseumc.org\)
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](http://mont-</p>
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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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www.CimarronFamilyPractice.com



Dr. Katie Stephens
 MD, DABFM, MBChB,
 MRCGP (2012), DRCOG



M: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 Tu: 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM
 W: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 Th: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
 F: By appointment only

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.

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

May 12-On Tuesday May 12, 5pm at Hispanic Affairs 504 N 1st : Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to promote environmental mitigation for pollution. Non-Partisan, All Welcome info 970-765-9095

May 13-The New Horizons Band of Montrose will present an informal performance at the Montrose Regional Library entry area, Wednesday, May 13, 2026 from 10:45-11:15 am, 320 South 2nd Street.

May 15-Montrose Republican Women invite you to our program on Friday, May 15 from noon to 1:30pm at the Hampton Inn Montrose. SD5 State Senator Marc Catlin will be giving a Legislative Recap of the recent Colorado General Assembly Session. Brown bag lunch. Doors open at 11:30am. Contact Kerri for more information: 970-209-5170.

May 23-Montrose Elks Lodge Charity Golf Tournament. Sign up ends May 19. Send payment to Montrose Elks Lodge 801 South Hillcrest.

May 24-Erik Stucky Bag of Bones release party at Blue Corn Mercantile (1842 South Townsend). 6:30pm. \$20 Advance \$25 Day of show.

May 30-11 am – 4 pm, Friends of Youth and Nature presents the Bring on the Summer Youth Festival! Join Friends of Youth and Nature at Riverbottom Park and get a taste of summer programs offered in our community for kids and families. We also have a very special guest...**Wilder!** Meet your kids amazing outdoor friend – half yeti and half mountain goat. Wilder is on a mission to help children discover all the magic awaiting them just outside the door! There will be pie and watermelon eating contest, gelly ball games, relay races, paddles on the river, duck races, yard games, bubbles, and a nature mystery box. MRD is hosting soccer and basketball skills clinics, strider bike instruction and more! Finesse is providing free youth haircuts (more info/schedule of events at www.foyan.org).

June 2-Enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, passions and curiosities Tuesday, June 2. Ignite begins at 7:30 pm at the Canyon Creek Bed and Breakfast (Backyard patio, 820 East Main). Beverages will be available. Check ignitemontrose.org for a list of topics and presenters.

June 5-8th Annual Boot Stomp, 5:30 to 10:30pm Storm King Mountain Ranch. For tickets and information visit bootstomp.org.

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!



At left, Congratulations to the Class of 2026! Chelina Garcia shared this photo of Montrose's celebrity skeleton, sending good wishes to this year's graduating class.

CHEF UMA'S KITCHEN NOW OPEN ON MAYFLY DRIVE



A former chef at Baan Thai Food Truck, Chef Uma has opened her own kitchen at 1335 Mayfly Drive in Montrose. Mirror staff photo.

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