



ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION



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the Montrose Mirror

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MILES AGAIN ASKS FOR AUDIT OF PROJECT 7 FINANCIALS



During the Project 7 Water Authority May 28, 2026 meeting, Montrose Mayor Michael Badagliacco (far left) spoke in support of establishing a sub-committee business group. He said, "You keep putting off [making decisions] month, after month, after month! You have to put a business group together." Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel
REGIONAL-The May 28 meeting of the Project 7 Water Authority was called to order at 4:30pm by Chair Vicki Ripp. Absent were Menoken Water District Representative Randy Meaker and his alternate. All other board members/alternates were present in person. The two dozen attendees included the board, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and interested citizens. The TAG group consists of experts from all six member entities.

In attendance on Zoom were Attorney James Silvestro and D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz. **Presentation of April 23, 2026, Meeting minutes:** Matt Miles, "There is nothing in this where Greg Swartz did a presentation and I ask a question. I asked the attorney for his opinion, and it wasn't in the minutes."

Attorney James Silvestro said, "I was asked, "what was my legal opinion," and I said I didn't have a legal opinion."

Continued pg 28

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

By Bob Cox
MONTROSE-It is not hard to imagine that the first settlers in Colorado, especially on the Western Slope, gazed up at the snow covered peaks and deduced that they would have a never-ending supply of water.

As various communities were developed in support of mining and other endeavors, the access to domestic water was a concern from the beginning. The builders of those towns and cities recognized the need for a separation of the water for crops and livestock and the water needed for households and businesses. Almost from the beginning, Montrose started putting in infrastructure to pipe water into individual homes and businesses.

Much of the very early



Fairview Reservoir, east of Montrose, has been an important part of the domestic water system in Montrose since the first water pipes were connected to homes and businesses in and around the city. Photo by Bob Cox

Continued pg 16



Dinosaur Yoga Storytime

**Thursday, June 4
10 a.m.
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**Friday, June 5
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO MEET JUNE 3

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, June 3, 7 pm, in the Montrose County Historical Society general meeting and program will be in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Please enter through the small door just to the left of the North Second Street main entrance to Friendship Hall.

Montrose County Historical Society presents Dr. Steve Metheny, administrator of the Montrose Campus of Colorado Mesa University, its development in Montrose, programs offered and community impact.

This program is free and open to the public. Light snacks are provided.

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

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

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

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

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

*Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,*

the
Montrose Mirror



Fresh news for busy people
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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
 Editor: Caitlin Switzer
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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

FORUM PRESENTS THE GIFT OF LIFE: UNDERSTANDING ORGAN DONATION

We welcome you to attend The Montrose Forum on **June 3 at 8 AM** to hear a presentation on **organ donation**. Organ donation is one of the most profound and selfless gifts a person can give. Through the donation of organs and tissues, one individual has the ability to save multiple lives and improve the quality of life for others. This presentation is designed to provide a clear and compassionate overview of organ donation: what it is, how it works, and why it matters. The discussion will also include the myths and concerns, including questions surrounding age, religion, medical care, and donor registration process. Equally important, this presentation will include the human side of donation through stories of family members who have forever been changed by this precious gift of life. Organ donation is not simply a medical procedure, but a powerful act of compassion, community, and love. We hope to see you on Wednesday, June 3 from 8:00-9:00 AM for this insightful and informative presentation.

**MEET AND GREET
COUNTY MANAGER
JOE KERBY**

June 24, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Historic County Courthouse
320 South 1st Street
3rd Floor Board Room
Montrose, CO

COLUMBINE QUILTERS TO MEET JUNE 6

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-On June 6 at 9am, Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose. Social time is at 9am, Business Meeting at 9:30am, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments and a program. Sue from Lady-Bugz Quilting will be explaining how to prepare a quilt for long arm quilting and discuss different battings. For more information: Paula millsappscoui@gmail.com or Cheryl [970-462-3849](tel:970-462-3849) Visitors are always welcome.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DMEA BALLOT

Editor:

Those of us who have a DMEA account (Delta Montrose Electric Association) received a ballot in the mail recently. Currently, the cooperative's director's term limit is three years, and they can serve for four terms for a total of 12 years if re-elected by members. The ballot question is to allow directors to serve up to four 4-year terms with a 4-year wait period be-

tween term limits.

At this time all of the DMEA Board directors are very "green" focused and look to alternative means of generating our electricity: solar farms and wind, for example, which will only raise our rates significantly. (Addressing the pros and cons of alternative energy is for another opinion piece.) The point that stood out is this: If directors are NOT representing most

DMEA members who want their electricity produced by power generators and fossil fuels (not wind or solar), why would we want them to have longer terms?

Another concern is that many who can vote for DMEA directors don't. All candidates are running unopposed which means we will have the same "green" Board again. Please vote NO on the ballot.

Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

31st Annual

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MLS #829331 | 17823 6353 Rd. | STEVE ZAHNISER

Experience Colorado living! Custom-built home on 1.5 acres. Oak floors, chef's kitchen, stainless appliances, gas range, deep-soaking tub, walk-in shower, 400-amp electric service for building potential, rear door on garage. Gorgeous home! **PRICE REDUCED!** \$749,000.



MLS #834443 | 250 Sue Bob Court | MARK COVINGTON

360-degree must see views surround this 40-acre parcel, with a 3,402 sq. ft. home that is located just off a county road via a private drive. The home is situated to capture breathtaking views of the Cimarron and Sneffels mountain ranges and Horseshy Peak to the west. This home has 4-bedrooms, 3.5-bathrooms, office, a workout room and three separate attached garages that total 1400 sq. ft. plus a 24' X 28' detached garage/shop. \$1,399,000



MLS #830001 | 920 S 5th Street | DAVID KIENHOLZ

Cozy home with large maintained yard in the heart of downtown. Alley access with two storage sheds, newer asphalt shingle roof and siding, Large laundry/sun room, and perimeter fencing. Close to everyday essentials! **PRICE REDUCED!** \$340,000



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FIND YOUR SUPERPOWERS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Some heroes wear capes. Around here, they power communities.

As a DMEA member, you're part of something bigger — a cooperative built on people showing up, pitching in, and helping move our community forward. This year's Annual Meeting is your chance to celebrate the power behind that connection.

Join us Thursday, June 18 at Olathe High School for DMEA's 2026 Annual Meeting: an evening of community, co-op updates, fun, food, music, and prizes.

Activate Your Powers

Your mission begins at six super-stations.

Each stop reveals a hidden superpower that members like you bring to DMEA every day. Complete the full hero journey, activate your powers, and unlock a chance to win one of five grand prizes revealed after the business meeting.

Your Greatest Superpower Is Your Voice

Every hero carries a power no one else can wield for them. Yours is the ability to shape the future of this cooperative.

Member registration and in-person voting opens at 4:30 p.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m. This year's ballot includes a proposed amendment to DMEA's Articles of Incorporation regarding director term limits. Mail-in and online ballots must be received by Tuesday, June 16. Learn more at dmea.com/elections.

See You There!

Thursday, June 18, 4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

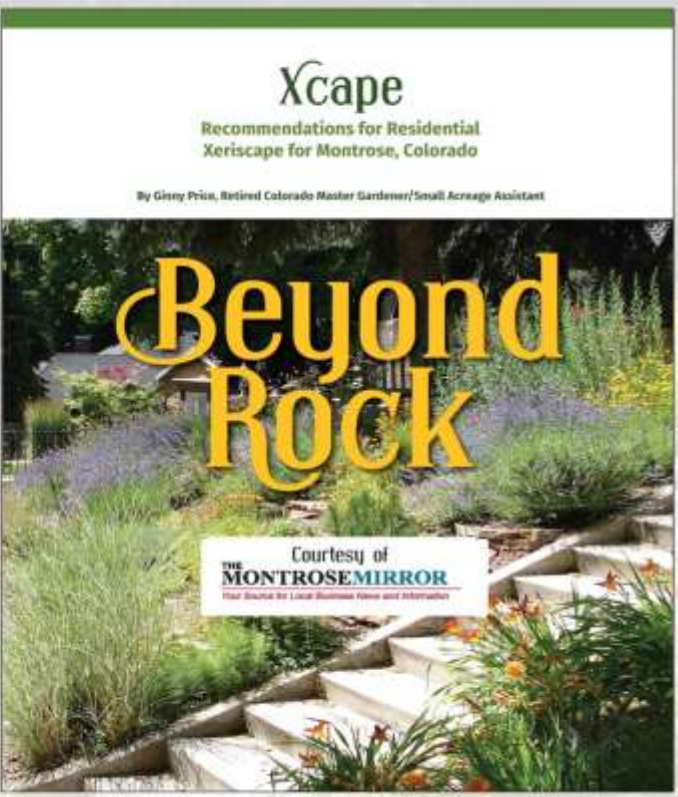
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MJB- DISINGENUOUS AT BEST...

Editor:

I found Mayor Badagliacco’s statement in last week’s Mirror regarding his decision not to support a Proclamation recognizing Montrose Pride Week to be disingenuous at best, and discriminatory at worst.

The mayor stated, “I think we can all agree that any government entity granting preferential status to any segment of the citizenry, whether by proclamation or other means, would undermine the fundamental fairness owed to every citizen...my commitment...is to ensure that everyone is honored and everyone is able

to live their life authentically...I just don’t think it’s government’s place to make those proclamations.”

I disagree. Using that logic, why do we as a nation celebrate Memorial Day, Veteran’s Day, Labor Day, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, President’s Day, Christmas, etc.? They all grant a preferential status to various segments of our society for a period of time without undermining fundamental fairness for anyone.

Our mayor has previously claimed that the 14th Amendment is supposed to make us all equal, and he apparently believes

that means that no group or individual is entitled to special recognition. He misses the true intent of that amendment. It was created to make us a more inclusive society. A Proclamation supporting Montrose Pride Week speaks to that inclusiveness.

The 14th Amendment was never intended to be an excuse for those who don’t like or support certain segments of our population to ignore, marginalize, or discriminate against them. Cultural diversity is what makes our country stronger. Let us recognize that fact and celebrate it.

Ron Sobieck, Montrose



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2026 SCHOLARSHIP DMEA RECIPIENTS

Each year, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) offers college scholarships to local graduating seniors and continuing education students. DMEA partners with the Montrose Community Foundation to operate the program and select recipients. Scholarship funding is provided through DMEA's unclaimed capital credit fund and Guzman Energy. These scholarships provide local students with funds to attend various higher education institutions.



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TCR: Technical College of the Rockies | CMU: Colorado Mesa University | CNCC: Colorado Northwestern Community College

Not pictured Trevor Platt: Guzman Lineworker, \$5,000

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE IS BETTER THAN THIS

To the Editor,

I have lived long enough to watch political movements on both the left and the right convince themselves they are defending civilization while slowly shrinking their own humanity. That is why the recent refusal by our City Council to acknowledge Pride Month struck me as more disappointing than dramatic. Not because a proclamation changes the world. It does not. And not because everyone must agree on every social issue. They won't. What matters is what these small symbolic acts communicate about the character of a community.

A proclamation is not legislation. It forces nothing on anyone. It does not require endorsement of a lifestyle, ideology, or political platform. It is simply a public recognition that fellow citizens exist, contribute to the town, pay taxes, raise fami-

lies, volunteer, work jobs, attend churches, coach kids, and deserve the basic civic courtesy of acknowledgment. Refusing even that feels less like principle and more like performance politics.

And frankly, it reflects a troubling pattern emerging in our local institutions. As our school board and city leadership have shifted sharply rightward, governance increasingly feels driven by ideological signaling rather than steadiness, practicality, or simple neighborliness. Every national culture war eventually arrives in small towns like ours, where people suddenly begin acting as if kindness itself is a political surrender. It is not.

You can hold conservative values and still recognize the dignity of people different from you. In fact, a healthy community depends on that balance. The strongest towns are not the ones where everyone

thinks alike. They are the ones mature enough to live alongside disagreement without needing to erase or diminish one another.

I suspect many residents who supported this decision believe they are protecting traditional values. But traditions worth protecting usually include humility, decency, restraint, and the ability to treat neighbors with grace even when you see the world differently. What concerns me most is not one vote. It is the smallness of spirit behind it.

A confident community does not fear acknowledgment. It does not panic over symbolism. It does not need to make certain groups visibly unwelcome in order to reassure itself.

Montrose is better than this. Or at least I hope it is.

David Gann, Montrose

ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE CHOSEN EXCLUSION OVER BASIC CIVIC RECOGNITION

To the Editor,

My family has deep roots in Montrose. This is my mother's hometown, and my grandfather made his home here in the 1940s. I have spent much of my adult life trying to give back to this community through volunteer work, nonprofit involvement, public advocacy, and civic engagement.

I have spoken at school board meetings, city council meetings, and county commissioner meetings, worked with nonprofits, and written extensively about issues affecting this community.

That is why the Montrose City Council's refusal to read the Pride proclamation was so disappointing, even if it was not surprising.

A proclamation is symbolic. It creates no law and grants no special rights. What it does do is communicate who is acknowledged as part of the civic fabric of a community. Refusing to recognize LGBTQ resi-

dents during Pride Month sent a very clear message that some members of this council still view people like me as politically controversial rather than simply fellow citizens.

And despite what some people are pretending, this did not happen out of nowhere.

The rhetoric that produced this moment has been building for years through culture war politics, increasingly hostile conversations around LGBTQ visibility, school board controversies, and campaigns centered around "traditional values." Many people saw these political shifts coming long before the proclamation controversy happened.

That is also why I believe organizations like Montrose Pride need to reflect honestly on what advocacy means moving forward. Visibility and celebration matter, but visibility without political engagement is fragile. Montrose Pride succeeded in

building events, sponsorships, and community visibility, but remained far more reactive than proactive politically. There was little visible engagement around voter education, local elections, or civic organizing before this controversy unfolded.

A strong Pride organization should not only celebrate the community when it is socially comfortable and marketable. It should also encourage civic engagement and help prepare LGBTQ residents for the reality that local politics directly shape whether we are acknowledged, respected, or marginalized.

Ultimately, however, responsibility still rests with elected officials who chose exclusion over basic civic recognition.

I love Montrose. This is my home. That is exactly why I refuse to quietly accept the idea that LGBTQ residents should only be welcomed as long as we remain politically quiet and socially convenient.

Ryan Hyle, Montrose

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WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

From pg 1

need was provided by various wells and simple ditches, but early in the 1900s that began to change. Water that flowed from the upper Cimarron was being held and, eventually, reached the kitchens and bathrooms of the citizens. Other sources of water were developed, and water lines were being buried.

One of the significant water storage units was, and still is, that of the Fairview Reservoir, a few miles east of town, but while the reservoir was mostly functional, it was also the source of many concerns among the town developers. While perusing the history of Montrose domestic water supply, the years between 1912 and 1915 certainly presented some of the biggest challenges. We begin our story in the spring of 1912, when Montrose citizens could surely identify with Samuel Taylor Coleridge's words in his poem that described a ship stranded in a calm sea and the sailors were dying of thirst: *Water, water everywhere, And all the boards did shrink. Water water everywhere, Nor any drop to drink.*

In a very opinionated article in the May 23, 1912 *Montrose Daily Press*, one of the early problems with water coming from Fairview was pointed out. The first paragraph, in part, highlighted the problem: **WATER FAMINE IMMINENT BY INADEQUATE SYSTEM**

With thousands and thousands of cubic feet of water running past our very doors every 24 hours, Montrose is not only facing a water famine, but is right up against the real thing. Yesterday and today, and in fact for a whole week, during the morning and evening hours, there has not been sufficient water in the city mains to fill a thimble, and most of the time the pressure is inadequate to run water in residences upstairs, frequently not even down-stairs.

The above article and other sources of information point out that the City of Montrose was adding taps to the city mains at an alarming rate. As of May of 1912, there were more than 1,000 taps inside the city limits, and another 50 outside the limits, but a major flaw was discovered. The outlet from Fairview Reservoir was an eight-inch pipe. The water entered into the city system was accomplished by water being sent into a 10-inch

pipe, thereby significantly reducing the pressure. The *Press* article contained this scathing opinion: *A blind man could see that an eight-inch line could not supply for that many taps under any pressure at all, and that's the whole cause of the present difficulty.*

To add to the city's water problems, the town council, while discussing plans to enlarge the Cerro Reservoir, discovered that title had not been completed on that property. They instructed the city attorney to proceed with getting the title finalized and they started their process to obtain bids for the enlargement of that reservoir. But the committee which had been appointed to address the need to enlarge the pipe at Fairview was discharged, and the problem there persisted.

Just a few days later, Mother Nature brought attention back to Fairview. On June 24, 1912, a huge cloudburst formed to the east of Montrose and a significant portion of the city supply line was washed away. The amount of water that flowed into the lines was greatly reduced for several days while the damage was repaired.

In November of 1912, a new contractor finally completed the raising of the dam on the Cerro Reservoir, allowing the storage of water at a level five feet higher than it had been early in the year. The project helped to alleviate some of the water supply problems and allowed the city to grant a few more taps outside the town limits. Things went relatively smoothly until July of 1913.

In mid-July of 1913, Cedar Creek overflowed and sent a large amount of mud into the city system. In an article published by the *Montrose Daily Press*, the writer seemed to try to add some humor to the situation. In part, the article read: *Did you receive your share of the mud last Saturday night and early Sunday morning? If you did not, you certainly did not take either a drink or a bath at that time.*

The article went on to describe how the Cedar Creek overflow was at times 100 feet wide and had sent a muddy mixture into the city lines through a reducing station just below Fairview Reservoir. City crews, working early on that Sunday, managed to stop the flow into the city lines and flushed the system by opening several

fire hydrants within the city.

Just as the city was settling into what they thought to be a relatively efficient system in the spring of 1914, a reduced water supply from the Cimarron Ditch resulted in a closer scrutiny of the domestic supply lines. An investigation revealed that as much as 4,000 gallons per hour was being lost due to undetected underground leaks, and leaks in individual dwellings and businesses. For the next year the town administrators invested a large amount of money in rebuilding old lines and installing new lines.

According to an article in the July 5, 1915 edition of the *Montrose Enterprise*, the city made the first payment on a water works project. The amount of the payment was \$18,000. According to the article, the project was proceeding well, with new lines already finished on South Second and South Third streets, and workers were in the process of installing new lines on South Fourth and South Fifth. During the installation of the city lines all residences were being connected to the service. The line on South 4th Street was the largest line, with a 12-inch pipe. The project also included work on a purification plant at Fairview.

In mid-September of 1915, the city issued a lengthy update on the whole project. While the report contained a lot of the historic water problems, it dealt with the current project in a very informative press release; here are some excerpts from that release:

September 16, 1915.

Report of Commissioner Wonder and Manager-elect Daniels

The improvement consists in the replacing of the wooden flume leading from the ditch to the big reservoir with steel pipe, the addition of a cement settling basin on Cerro Hill, a change in the system of putting the water in and taking it out of the big reservoir, the cleaning out of the latter reservoir, the conversion of the Fairview Reservoir from merely a settling basin into a purification plant, the replacing of the wooden eight inch pipe leading from the Fairview Reservoir into town by a ten inch steel pipe, and the connecting of the Fairview by steel pipe with the Gunnison Tunnel... The happy forethought of

Continued next pg

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE From previous pg

of someone during the building of the tunnel provided a special headgate in connection with the east canal headgate, which leaves the cemented portion of the canal a short distance from the mouth of the tunnel. Arrangements were made for the attaching of a water main. This main will be laid for a short distance along the bottom corner of the canal after which it will follow the ridge of a sort of a hogback leading toward the Fairview Reservoir, thus avoiding that big hill and valley which the old line takes at present. The connecting of the tunnel with the Fairview Reservoir will be made by steel pipe. A connection will also be made near the tunnel between the old wood pipe leading to the Cerro summit reservoir and the steel pipe leading from the tunnel to the Fairview. Much of that infrastructure is still apparent in today's system.

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HOAG ASKS DMEA FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR GENERATION INFORMATION

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On May 26, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3pm. All board members were present in person. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, determination of a quorum, and changes to the agenda.

During meetings, the board hears verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities. Co-op membership has access to some of the written staff reports submitted for board approval, i.e., minutes of the previous meeting, CEO report, and action items (resolutions).

Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their DMEA accounts.

Introductions

The two dozen attendees were comprised of board members, department heads, staff, and guests. Guests included DMEA members Joseph Gill (virtual) and Tony Hoag (Citizen's Climate Lobby).

General Business:

Consent Items:

- Membership & Meter Report
- April 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes (approved unanimously)
- May 2026 Special Meeting Minutes (approved unanimously)

Committee Chair Reports

Finance, Audit & Rates – Damon Lockhart, Chair.

Lockhart said, "We didn't have anything."

Engineering, Construction & Energy Services – Enno Heuscher, Chair.

Heuscher said, "Nothing scheduled at this time."

Member Relations – Kevin Williams, Chair.

Williams said, "We have not met."

Executive – Stacia Cannon, Chair.

Cannon said, "We have not met."

Informational Item - CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston's report included the Safety Summit, certifications of employees, meeting with focus on Best Practices, and a machine shop project going on at the Read location.

Johnston said, "We are coordinating with our partners on One-Shot [protection settings on high-voltage power lines during high wind fire seasons]. We've had no major event days this time. We are slower than normal on construction; just some slowdown. We are completing a five-six year project to modernize our system reliability. Hydro is running full capacity. Phishing is 97 percent. Our answer rate [customer service phone calls] is under 95 percent. We've had 1,000 ballots returned electronically. No mail in ballots returned yet."

DMEA staff has had discussion on preemptive and post action on One-Shot. Chief Engineering and Energy Officer Mateusz Pena said, "The Forest Service puts out maps for high-risk areas and shows wildfire mitigation. Montrose has little risk, but going out Dave Wood Road there is more risk."

Johnston said, "Our last newsletter focused on fire mitigation. There is a lot of community discussion on public safety power shut offs. Xcel Energy [recent power shut off] pulled the trigger and there is more community discussion."

In the area of financials, operational margins are trending better and expenses are trending well. Other report topics included scholarships, hot-line school employee graduate, and thank you notes. Johnston said, "We just got back from Light Up the Navajo. We got power to five, almost six homes. It was a very remote area. It took two and a half hours to just get to the [homes]. You can be proud of our teams; they did a fantastic job. The Army is getting involved. Reservists go on two-week cycles. The Army has certified line-men."

Informational Item: Affiliated Organizations & Education Reports.

Western United Electrical Supply Corporation (WUES) Report – Jack Johnston. Johnston said, "We did not have a board meeting, but we did have a By-Law Committee meeting."

Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Report – Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, "I'm headed to Meeker tomorrow for a meeting. We are closing the legislative session. I sent you a 15-page report. Four out of the five bills



Incumbents for the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) board of director's seats are all smiles as this year's election is uncontested and there are no challengers. (L to R) District 1 Director Damon Lockhart, District 7 Director Enno Heuscher, and District 8 Director Stacia Cannon. Photo by Gail Marvel.

CREA was against were defeated, but some of the bills we'll see again."

Conferences, Webinars & Meetings

Both Ryan Sedgely and Stacia Cannon reported on recent webinars.

Informational Item:

Board Policies - Chief Relations Officer & General Counsel Sarah Abbott.

Board Policy 114: Equal Opportunity Employer, Non-Discrimination, and Prevention of Sexual & Other Unlawful Harassment. Abbot said, "These are language updates to match Colorado State statutes. Colorado has more protective classes than Federal." Passed unanimously.

Board Policy 115: Whistleblower.

Abbot said, "There are no suggested changes. This was just a review."

Action Item:

Operation Round Up Trustee – The board appointed Cedaredge resident Shawna Ratkevich to fill a vacancy cause by term limits.

Board Policy 107 Director Compensation. The board compensation is \$940 a month, travel expenses, and additional compensation of \$50 per hour for attending webinars. Passed unanimously.

Future Meetings

The Annual meeting, which will be held at the Olathe High School gym on Thursday, June 18, begins at 4:30pm and ends at 8pm. Voting is available from 4:30–5:30 p.m., followed by a brief intermission and then the business meeting.

HOAG ASKS FOR SOLAR GENERATION INFORMATION *From previous pg*

Member comments:

Similar to issues he raised during the last DMEA meeting, Tony Hoag (Citizen's Climate Lobby) said, "At the last meeting rooftop solar, how much each roof produces. [On] our [DMEA] bills we see each month recorded data, not all power, but relative proxy. Our bills list generation data."

Chief Technical Officer Mateusz Pena explained there are two different meters [net meter and production meter]. DMEA uses net meters for the 2,300 homes with solar.

Hoag said, "What does rooftop solar produce for DMEA? It's real to me. We want rooftop solar accurately portrayed. What is produced over a year? Report to the public on an annual basis. We want it [member billing statements] to say something."

Enno Heuscher said, "Put the responsibility back on the solar user to report what they are giving back to DMEA. Let them report how much they generate."

Hoag said, "I'd like to see an estimation in power produced by rooftop solar."

Acknowledging a philosophical disagreement, Johnston said, "Some co-ops have net meters and production meters. We just have net meters."

Kevin Williams said, "We will upgrade smart meters in a couple of years, about \$3,000 to \$5,000 a meter." Return on investment was considered.

Hoag said, "You need to get more renewable energy into your system."

Johnston said, "If we had the [generation] numbers for what is produced [for rooftop solar], it would be great, but we would have to double up meters and retro [fitting current houses] would be one additional meter."

Pena will meet with Hoag one-on-one to better explain why the current net meters will not give Hoag the data he is seeking.

Changing topics, Hoag wanted to discuss the perceived community support for data centers. He said, "I don't think we have to accept that. Our group [Citizen's Climate Lobby] is against any data center in the Uncompahgre Valley."

Johnston said, "That will be for the county. At some point they can put a moratorium on, the city can put a moratorium."

Hoag said, "We need to slow down or stop any data centers."



The regular Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Meeting was held on May 26. Out of respect for America, the board begins each meeting by saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Photo by Gail Marvel.

Johnston said, "That will come down to county zoning; it comes down to the county."

Member Joseph Gill (virtual) said, "If you talk to the county [Montrose], you also need to include Delta County on the data center [issue]. Be open with constituents as much as possible. I would like to attend a meeting [with the county on data centers]. I have interest in solar generation. I have a lot of interest in planning for the future. This has been an interesting discussion."

Executive Session:

- Crisis Communication Plan
- Privileged CEO Report
- Strategy
- Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters
- Confidential Board Matters

Executive Session Summary – Amy Gavell, Chief of Staff.

An email from Gavell summarized the action taken by the board after exiting the executive session: "At 4:56 pm., upon motion from Director Norris, seconded by Director Gray, the Board unanimously voted to enter Executive Session to review a crisis communication plan, receive a privileged CEO report, including a discus-

sion on strategy, review confidential corporate, litigation, and regulatory matters, and address confidential board governance matters. At 6:27 pm, upon motion from Director Williams, seconded by Director Sedgeley, the Board unanimously exited Executive Session.

There were no additional Executive Session items to address. With no further business to conduct, the Board adjourned its Regular Meeting at 6:27 p.m."

Dist. 1 – Ryan Sedgeley, 370-220-6086
ryan.sedgeley@dmea.com

Dist. 2 - Steve Metheny, 970-209-6172,
steve.metheny@dmea.com

Dist. 3 – Jacob Gray, 970-778-9512, jacob.gray@dmea.com

Dist. 4 – Emily Sanchez, 970-209-4582,
emily.sanchez@dmea.com

Dist. 5 – Kevin Williams, 406-839-1603,
kevin.williams@dmea.com

Dist. 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071,
damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist. 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523,
enno.heuscher@dmea.com

Dist. 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831,
stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist. 9 - (South Region) Ken Norris, 970-596-9892,
ken.norris@dmea.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

NON-SANCTUARY CITIES POSE NO RISK TO LEGAL IMMIGRATION

Editor:

Legal immigration is not at risk in non-sanctuary cities. Anyone who is a legal immigrant voluntarily wants to become an American citizen. Our country was built by legal immigrants. The Statue of Liberty represents the gratitude of the French government. Almost all the immigrants who came to this country through Ellis Island wanted what America had to offer and what their homelands did not: freedom. Our founding documents protect free speech and freedom to worship, and they affirm the opportunity to build one's own life. That is what our Constitution offers to those willing to enter our country legally.

By contrast, a person who enters illegally has already identified as a lawbreaker under both federal and state law. Many do not come to America to assimilate into our culture. They come to change our culture to resemble the one they left. The large number of people who have entered this country illegally has created significant challenges. Americans have big hearts and have tried to help, yet the approach has shifted away from a path to assimilation and toward a welfare state.

A common misconception is that ICE is out to remove all immigrants. ICE targets only those who have entered the United States illegally.

One problem that keeps arising is that some people entered our country illegally 10, 20, or more years ago without ever applying for citizenship. That alone suggests they never intended to become American citizens. Even if they pay taxes, purchase homes and cars, or start businesses, the fact remains that they entered illegally. Illegal entry has no statute of limitations, just like certain serious crimes such as bank robbery or murder. If these individuals truly wanted to assimilate, they would have pursued naturalization.

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In simple terms, a legal immigrant is someone who wants to change their circumstances by moving to a new country and becoming a citizen by following that country's immigration laws. An illegal immigrant violates those laws and looks for a place where they will not be pursued. They move within the United States to a sanctuary state and then to a sanctuary city within that state. That person remains a fugitive from justice. The Supremacy Clause, which every state has agreed to, establishes that federal law has priority over state law. A person who violates federal immigration law will be pursued. We have all seen videos of people who resist authorities when stopped, questioned, or arrested, and we have seen what usually happens next. Responsibility for that resistance typically rests with the suspect, not the authorities. Unfortunately, some media have labeled ICE as the bad guys who go after all immigrants and deport them. Becoming a non-sanctuary city simply means Montrose will not be a hiding place for those here illegally. Legal immigrants are still welcome. Many programs exist to help legal immigrants assimilate into our culture and become naturalized citizens.

Please stop saying that a non-sanctuary city restricts immigration. Mr. Ulibarri stated it well: the goal is to instill respect for others and respect for our laws instead of promoting lawlessness.

I look forward to the opportunity to stand before our city council and express my concerns.

John Brown, Montrose



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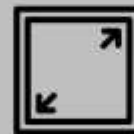
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DUTY, HONOR, FAMILY

Editor:

“Once We Were Brothers” is a novel by Ronald H. Balson, first published in 2013. Although it’s a work of fiction, I find it to be a parable to what is happening across the United States today. Although the similarities may not be as harsh, they are there.

The story is about two men raised together as brothers. One of them grows up to be a high-ranking Nazi officer supporting the Holocaust. The other, a Jew, is sworn to protect his family and religious brethren. Conflicts rise: is the Nazi duty bound to arrest his Jewish brother and extended family and send them off to certain death? Or is he honor bound, that being do the right thing driven by the values he was raised with?

The similarity between this tale of fiction

and a scenario that may play out in this City is somewhat startling. The scenario I speak of is a “what if” situation. There is a member of the community who has openly stated, at least to me, that his daughter-in-law is a Latino from Brazil. This woman is here on a student visa. He states he is proud of her because she has applied for U.S. citizenship. The right thing to do in his mind.

The “what if” scenario: what if her citizenship application is denied and her student visa expires. What will this community member do? Will he be cold-hearted and report her to ICE as duty calls for? After all, duty is fulfilling an oath to obey and support the laws of the land and meeting community expectations.

Honor comes into play as well. It is a fundamental building block to one’s internal

integrity and personal moral code. Integrity dictates this individual must report the now illegal alien to the authorities even though it would rip his son’s heart out of his chest. It would even create a huge chasm within the family. One that may never heal. His moral value, family before duty, should override any obligation to community expectations of supporting an overreaching government.

The two brothers in the story made their decisions and suffered the consequences. I truly hope the “what if” scenario I painted never comes to fruition. But with the restrictive immigrations policies set forth by our government, it’s not beyond the scope of reality. I pray that this individual can reconcile the decision he may have to make regarding duty, honor, family.

Dave Stockton, Montrose

THE PROMISE OF THE RAINBOW—OVER MONTROSE

Editor:

A double rainbow is widely considered a powerful symbol of good luck, transformation, and positive change. Spotting one is often viewed as an omen of prosperity, indicating that the universe has noticed your recent struggles and that brighter days or new beginnings are on the horizon.

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose

At right, Double rainbow over Montrose May 26, taken by Deanna DeFazio, my daughter.



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OPINION /EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

A COMMON SENSE POINT OF VIEW

By Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

I wanted to speak directly to recent discussions regarding the decision not to issue a proclamation for Pride Month. The intent behind that decision was to recognize a basic truth: **all of us in Montrose are equal**. This is not a popular theme amongst some in Montrose or across the country, but please hear me out. In my opinion, it is not the proper role of city government to promote one lifestyle or set of personal choices over another. Our responsibility is to promote tranquility and unity within the community to the greatest extent possible while upholding the law and the Constitution, as disseminated in the oath we take as elected officials.

This approach is firmly rooted in the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees that **"no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws"**. That guarantee requires that government treat every citizen equally, without regard to race, national origin, sex, or other personal characteristics. It also means we reject official actions that would single out anyone categorized in one of these groups for special recognition or endorsement.

I have heard reports of disparaging comments and treatment directed at the LGBTQ+ community on social media (Thank you Pat for pointing these out to me). These reports disturb me deeply. **Every person deserves to live their life as they see fit, as a consenting adult**. Each individual is responsible for their own actions. However, if anyone used my deci-

sion as a catalyst for these abhorrent actions, that was not my intent. The intent was the opposite, **to ensure equal status for everyone in Montrose**. Some have used this opportunity to berate, disparage, and discriminate. Such behavior is flatly wrong and violates the very core of the values we hold dear in America.

For those who read my work regularly, you know that I call out instances of injustice regardless of political affiliation. I have called out the President when I believe he is wrong, **check my record; it is there**. Contrary to some in the community who believe I allow for a pass because someone carries my "same brand," that is wholly incorrect. Along with my core beliefs, I base every decision on the Constitution and the law. My personal feelings yield when they conflict with either. Am I critical of policies I disagree with, absolutely. And I have pointed that out in many of my articles. But, there is a difference between policy disputes and personal attacks due to one's race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation or the like.

You may hold a personal viewpoint or conviction that disagrees with a particular lifestyle. That is your right. However, **It is not acceptable to discriminate or disparage another individual** based on that feeling. The same standard of equal protection under the 14th Amendment applies to the color of a person's skin, their national origin, or whether they are male or female. Discrimination and disparagement have no place in our community or society as a whole.

If we are ever going to reach the point where people are **judged by the content**

of their character, we must first accept that every individual has their own point of view and is entitled to it. Every consenting adult has the right to live authentically on their own terms, provided they do not violate the rights of others, whether you agree with how they live or not. **Everyone should feel safe to live their life authentically**. Just because you may personally disagree with a lifestyle is not a license to disparage or discriminate against those who live it.

My intention has always been to avoid elevating any one side and to **tear down walls of division through dialogue and finding common ground**. I am a deeply spiritual man, and I believe **we have an obligation to treat others the way we would like to be treated**. Ask yourself whether the slurs and blatant discriminatory comments, no matter who they are directed at, are how you would want others to treat you.

You may agree or disagree with my position, that is your right, and it is expected in a free society.

There will be those who agree and those who do not. Regardless of where anyone stands on a particular policy, we must never lose sight of a simple fact: **everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity**. Everyone.

If we expect respect, we must give it first. My commitment remains the same as it has always been: to serve the citizens of Montrose fairly, to uphold the Constitution, and to strengthen the unity that makes this community strong. This should not be limited to elected officials; it is something we all must do.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



What is on the Agenda

To help you determine which items may be of interest, here is a summary of the upcoming agendas. The Monday morning work sessions offer the best format for public input. However, we understand many have work commitments, so we also welcome your comments and questions at the Tuesday evening City Council meetings.

*Please keep all dialogue respectful, civil, and on topic.

Your participation is vital to making Montrose it's best.

Please refrain from any personal attacks and disagreements, personnel and employment matters, the use of profanity or ethnic, racial, or gender-oriented slurs

Monday, June 1st Work Session – 9 am.

- Colorado Department of Human Services Grant
- REOG Roundabout Project Completion Contract
- CIP3 Sanitary Sewer Extension Construction Contract
- Potential Charter Amendment Discussion*

*Public Comment will not be taken on Charter Amendment discussion. These items will, if passed by council at a subsequent Council Mtg, be on the Nov 3, 2026 ballot for a citizen vote to determine their fate.

Tuesday, June 2nd City Council Meeting – 6 pm.

- El Chapin Addition annexation
- 931 and 939 North Park Avenue
- Consideration of Amending Title 5 Chapter 15 § 7 and 22
- Co-Responder Program grant
- Rio Grande/East Oak Grove Roundabout

Work sessions are held the first and third Mondays of each month at 10 am., and City Council meetings the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6 pm. Both are held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the old BPOE civic building at 107 S. Cascade.

Sign up for email agenda alerts by [clicking here](#).

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!

Thank you,

Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor, Montrose, CO

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MILES AGAIN ASKS FOR AUDIT OF PROJECT 7 FINANCIALS From pg 1

Miles said, "Keep in mind that we need more comprehensive minutes."

Ripp said, "[In minutes] organizations usually just have action items that are approved, not vocabulary back and forth."

Miles said, "But this was an opinion from the attorney."

The minutes were approved as correct-ed.

Changes to the Agenda:

There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Manager's Report – Adam Turner.

Consumption/Process Control Report for April

Turner said, "We're tracking well with April 2025. The Process Control is in your packet. Water quality is trending well year over year. The water quality coming out of the plant is really good. Good performance by the plant."

Updates for May 2026

Turner reported on water levels in dams and reservoirs. In the short term, work on Fairview Reservoir is needed to be prepared for an inspection. Referring to financials, Turner said, "The funding mechanisms, the change in scope for the Resiliency Project [lenders, grants], are on board for that. The work is to keep this going forward."

Additional updates included the retirement of a longtime employee, route charges implemented in Mesa County that will cost users five times more when they go over set amounts of water, and [Project 7's upgraded website](#) to be ADA compliant for the vision impaired.

New CFO introduction – Aaron Hancey, Hancey Consulting.

Newly hired part time Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Aaron Hancey introduced himself to the board. He is currently serving on Fruita City Council and is a past planning commissioner. He said, "I provide general accounting to help out the staff when needed and I'll enhance financial reporting to the board. Whatever reports you guys want to help, I want to provide."

Miles said, "Were you part of the original list of applicants that we had before?"

Hancey said, "No, I was referred by the last CFO."

Cash Flow/Financial Report

Giving a brief overview of financials, Hancey said, "I will highlight items that we are keeping an eye on as some things are going up [cost of some chemicals going up 30 percent]. Overall, it's looking good. Not expecting any major concerns as of now."

Legal Update – Attorney James Silvestro (Zoom).

Silvestro said, "A couple of quick updates. I've worked with Adam on the Aaron contract and refined the RFP. I'm working through a memo on the last three contracts, which is attorney client privilege."

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

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

Approval to release RFP (Request for Proposal) - Spokesperson for TAG, City of Montrose Engineer Scott Murphy.

Murphy explained the RFP and that there were two scopes of work. He said, "We needed to identify the need, understand the cost, and understand the timing. The proposal will be received by staff and scored by TAG. Going through the process it should take five weeks to advertise; we'll have recommendations by August, and a year for implementation. So, August 2027."

David Bries said, "I'd like to add utilization of local resources [in the RFP]. In person more than large companies that do this by Zoom. Some level of performance with local resources."

Matt Miles said, "This is a first-class RFP. This is what the board needs to be able to make a decision."

Old Business

Presentation of Detailed and Categorized Resiliency Program Financials – Consultant Greg Swartz.

The audio for Swartz on Zoom was poor quality, and in some instances unintelligible. Captured items were:

- Document serves as point of reference,
- 2021 expenses

- \$7.1M de-obligated

- \$2M on new loan, 2024 loan encumbered but not yet spent

Miles said that at last month's meeting the previous CFO was to give a financial

report to the board, but she handed it off to Swartz. Miles said, "This document [presented by Swartz] is not in any way, shape, or form an audit. This is four years of the resiliency project. It's filled with paragraphs like the board discussed and approved...I'm not being listened to."

Ripp said, "I'm not sure we ever heard a motion that we wanted an audit."

Miles said, "I don't want to be confrontational, but this is not an audit."

Turner said, "It looks like a summary."

Miles said, "We spent \$ 17 to \$27 million. It's sunk into a resiliency project that isn't going to happen. I'm here to learn [from the financial report]; I don't want to be confrontational."

Ripp said, "I heard you say you wanted an audit, but the group did not say they wanted an audit."

Ron White said, "I'm going to defend Matt. I heard him clearly say he wanted an audit. This is only a four-year summary."

Ripp said, "We get to the point [on a proposed project] where you spend money before you find out you can't afford it."

Miles said, "There was \$10 million spent before we ever brought on a financial consultant."

New Business:

Possible formation of a sub-committee to discuss establishing agreement and administration of future projects.

Miles proposed a volunteer representative from each entity to form a business committee. Ripp expressed concerns that volunteers of such a committee would not be compensated.

Miles said, "Vicki, I'm a volunteer. I don't get paid."

Ripp said, "You get paid \$100. Board members get paid \$100."

Miles said, "No, I don't get paid \$100!"

Laughter ensued after the manager acknowledged that previous Chipeta Representative John McCollum declined to take the \$100 and the compensation failed to get changed when Matt Miles became the representative.

As though proving his point on problems with Project 7's financials, Miles said, "See, the manager doesn't even know that a board member is not getting paid!"

Montrose Mayor Michael Badagliacco was given permission to address the

MILES AGAIN ASKS FOR AUDIT OF PROJECT 7 FINANCIALS *From previous pg*

board. He said, "You keep putting off [making decisions] month, after month, after month! You have to put a business group together."

Miles said, "We've spent \$22 million on a dead horse. We've got to move forward. Can we try it [business committee]?"

The motion to make a new sub-committee was defeated.

Ripp suggested each representative go back to their entity and bring back recommendations for Project 7 at the June meeting. Attorney Silvestro reminded the board they can have a special meeting at any time as long as it is posted seven days in advance.

Ron White would not entertain the previous management team's excuses of COVID, tariffs, and supply issues. He said, "We've had consultants that blew it up and now we're having to mop up the blood! To go from a \$60 million project to a \$180 million project is derelict. Let this board be proactive."

It was determined that TAG could undertake some of the business issues and they will bring recommendations back to the board.

Executive Session:

Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a) to discuss negotiations for possible property purchase to support existing Water Treatment Facility site.

Project 7 Background:

Established on Sept. 29, 1977, the Project

7 Water Authority is a cooperative among seven water entities that provide domestic water to the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley.

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

- [The City of Montrose](#)
- [The City of Delta](#)
- [The Town of Olathe](#)
- [The Tri-County Water Conservancy District](#)
- [The Chipeta Water District](#)
- [The Menoken Water District](#)

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

Project 7 Board meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, begin at 4:30 pm.

Meetings are open to the public and are available on Zoom. Board packet materials, which are unavailable to the public, are circulated to board members prior to the meeting.

Background:

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

Current Status:

By mutual agreement, the Garver management team is no longer under contract with Project 7. However, D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz, who was previously with Garver, still remains under a new contract. The scope of Swartz's participation is unclear.

Following last month's meeting the new CFO Amanda, who was recommended by the management team, resigned after only six weeks.

Building a second water plant south of Montrose is no longer being discussed.

Adjourned

Project 7 Contact Information:

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

[The City of Montrose](#) David Bries 970-240-1484 dbries@cityofmontrose.org

[The City of Delta](#) Ron White ron-white@cityofdelta.net

[The Town of Olathe](#) Mayor Jake Foreman 970 323- 5601 ja-cob.foreman@geocities.com

[The Tri-County Water Conservancy District](#) Vicki Ripp 970 874-5127 info@tricitywater.org

[The Chipeta Water District](#) Matt Miles matt@leadershipcirclellc.com 970-249-3398

[The Menoken Water District](#) Randy Meaker 970 249-5118

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOCUS ON YOUR SWING, NOT YOUR PROSTATE: MRH HOSTS MEN'S HEALTH TALK *Free community presentation at The Bridges Golf & Country Club will cover common urinary symptoms and available treatment options*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— In recognition of Men's Health Month, the MRH Urology Clinic will host a free community education event focused on prostate and bladder health on Thursday, June 18, at The Bridges Golf & Country Club in Montrose.

"Focus on Your Swing, Not Your Prostate," will feature presentations from board-certified urologists Craig Peterson, MD, and Michael S. Tonzi, MD, who will discuss common urologic conditions affecting men, including enlarged prostate

symptoms, bladder concerns, urinary urgency, and available treatment options.

Doors will open at 4:30 pm, with presentations beginning promptly at 5 pm. Complimentary appetizers will be provided.

Topics will include minimally invasive treatment options such as Aquablation® Therapy for enlarged prostate symptoms and Axonics® Therapy for bladder and bowel dysfunction.

"A lot of men experience urinary symptoms for years before realizing there may be treatment options available," said Dr.

Peterson. "We want this to be an approachable conversation where people can learn more, ask questions, and better understand their options."

"These are common concerns that can significantly affect daily life, sleep, travel, and overall comfort," said Dr. Tonzi. "The good news is that treatment options continue to improve, and many patients are surprised by what's available today."

The event is free to attend, but space may be limited. For more information, please call 970-497-8100.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY TO CLOSE SATURDAYS IN AUGUST

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Regional Library District has always lived within its means. The loss of Ballot measures 6A and 6B in 2025 has created uncertainty in the funding landscape for the District. As a result, the District must begin



Montrose Library Courtesy photo.

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making difficult choices that balance its mission to serve the community with the cost of providing those services. The MRLD Board of Trustees has made the difficult decision to close the Montrose Regional Library on Saturdays beginning August 1.

“We chose Saturday because it is our least busy day and will be the least impactful to the public, but the savings will help keep our reserves at a stable and responsible level,” said Paul Paladino, Director.

The District has also left some positions unfilled as part of overall belt tightening. Having fewer staff available has made 7-day-a-week coverage more difficult and has made it necessary to close one day a week.

“The board didn't make this decision lightly and after much discussion and careful consideration, we decided it was in the best interest of the library to be fiscally conservative at this time given the uncertainty of future funding,” said Stephanie Williams, MRLD Board of Trustees President.

Questions should be directed to Paul Paladino at ppaladino@montroselibrary.org.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

NEW REPORT TAKES HARD LOOK AT COLORADO'S CLIMATE — AND THE DATA WAS SURPRISING *The Heartland Institute's Colorado State Climate Summary examines over 125 years of real data on temperatures, wild-fires, snowpack, drought, and agriculture — with findings that challenge the prevailing narrative*

Special to the Mirror

SCHAUMBURG, IL — Is Colorado in the grip of an unprecedented climate crisis? A new analysis from The Heartland Institute of climate data from the Centennial State show the answer is “no.”

The [Colorado State Climate Summary](#), published at [ClimateAtAGlance.com](#), draws on federal data from NOAA, USDA, National Interagency Fire Center, and Natural Resources Conservation Service to examine what has — and hasn't — changed in Colorado's climate since 1900.

Some bullet points from the findings:

-Denver, Boulder, and Fort Collins are getting warmer — but why? The greatest warming recorded in Colorado is concentrated along the Front Range, home to the state's largest and fastest-growing cities. The Colorado State Climate Summary examines the Urban Heat Island effect as a significant contributor, raising questions about how much measured warming reflects local land-use changes rather than a global climate signal.

-Colorado's ski industry may not face the threat you've heard about. Snow water equivalent at SNOTEL stations across the state has not substantially declined over the past four-plus decades.

-Wildfires are not getting worse. Despite recent high-profile fires, data from the National Interagency Fire Center going back to 2006 show no upward trend in either the number of wildfires or acres burned in Colorado. If anything, the number of annual fires has edged slightly downward.

-Colorado's drought is serious — but not unprecedented. Proxy data stretching back to the year 1000 shows the state has experienced more severe droughts than today's long before the industrial era.

-Colorado farmers are thriving. Corn production has been up more than 9,000 percent since 1900. Winter wheat production has risen 1,173 percent. Hay yields are up 61 percent. The report examines how modest warming and increases in atmospheric CO₂ may be contributing to agricultural abundance.

"Contrary to much of the media's claims about climate change and the Mountain West, Colorado is actually doing very well. The wildfire data was particularly interesting; despite 2020 having been a bad fire year, there really is no overall trend in wildfire size, and frequency has trended down since 2006. Drought has been much worse in the distant past than it is today, and with modern technology there is no reason to think that Coloradans are particularly threatened by climate change."

Linnea Lueken

Senior Fellow

Arthur B. Robinson Center on Climate and Environmental Policy

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HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE: COMMON, SILENT, AND DANGEROUS



Dr. Katherine Stephens.
Courtesy photo.

By Dr Katherine Stephens, MD, DABFM, MBChB, MRCGP (2012), DRCOG, a dual board-certified family physician in the UK and US and founder of Cimarron Family Practice in Montrose, a Direct Primary Care clinic currently accepting new patients.

MONTROSE-While you might be tempted to think the title is over-dramatic, I can assure you it is, if anything, too modest. High blood pressure is the number one cause of strokes, and a leading cause of heart attacks, and yet in America, only about 1 in 4 people diagnosed with high blood pressure have it under control¹.

Additionally, it affects about half of American adults, although 1 in 5 of these people aren't aware they have it. It is the number 2 cause of deaths worldwide (after poor diet) and is more than twice as important as the next most important risk factor, obesity².

I suspect part of the reason it is under-diagnosed and under-managed is because, for the majority of people, high blood pressure doesn't cause any symptoms. Meanwhile, it can be quietly damaging the inner walls of blood vessels all around the body. Sometimes healthcare providers can also become complacent about numbers that are merely 'not too bad' in a rushed environment where blood pressure isn't the pri-

ority for that day.

The good news is that blood pressure is both easy to check and usually straightforward to treat, through both lifestyle changes (which can make an enormous difference) and medications.

If you are an adult and don't know your blood pressure numbers, please make it a priority to get your blood pressure checked. If you don't have a blood pressure machine at home and aren't able to borrow one from a friend, you could schedule a nurse visit at your primary care provider's office, or even stop by one of our local pharmacies in town as many have a machine you can use. If possible, I recommend using an upper arm cuff as these tend to be more accurate than a wrist cuff.

To check your blood pressure, first sit quietly for 1-3 minutes. Avoid checking right after smoking, drinking caffeine or alcohol, or exercising. First thing in the morning pre-coffee tends to work best for most. Sit with your feet flat on the floor, your back supported in a chair, and your arm resting at about the level of your breast bone. Check your blood pressure twice, one minute apart, and record both readings. For more accurate results, do this twice daily for 4-7 days. Then, discard the readings from the first day (these tend to be artificially raised) and work out an average from the remainder.

For most people, we aim for an average of about 120/80mmHg. We might be slightly more lenient with adults over 80y as a blood pressure that is too low can increase the risk of dizziness and falls in this group.

If your average is over 130mmHg on the top or over 80mmHg on the bottom, please book an appointment with your primary care provider and bring your readings in to decide together on a treatment plan. For many people, this might simply be a 3-month trial of making certain lifestyle changes then a review after; it doesn't necessarily mean your provider will want to start medication immediately.

The most important thing is not to ignore high blood pressure — or not know your blood pressure numbers — just because you feel well, or your provider hasn't raised it as an issue. Preventing strokes and heart disease starts years before symptoms appear. If you don't have a provider, and are looking for someone local, Cimarron Family Practice is a Direct Primary Care clinic in Montrose, currently open and accepting new patients of all ages.

References

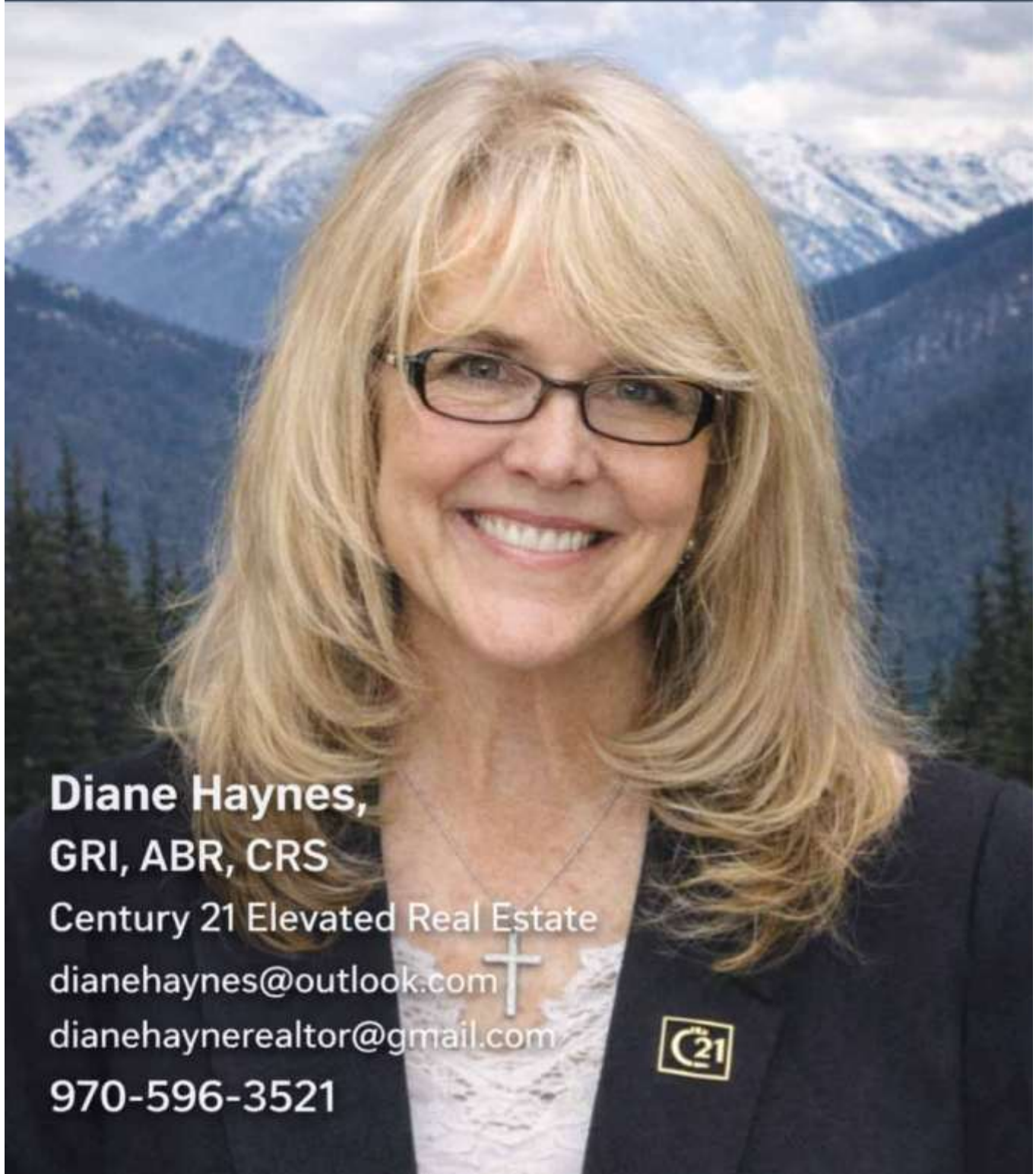
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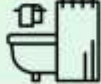
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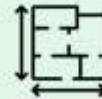
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MORGRIDGE FAMILY FOUNDATION INVESTS \$200,000 FOR 'SAN JUAN LANDING' DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING IN MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — CASA of the 7th Judicial District (CASA) and the 7th Judicial District Domestic Violence Task Force (7th JD DVTF) have received a \$200,000 donation from the Morgridge Family Foundation.

The gift propels San Juan Landing, a planned 10-unit housing development for domestic violence survivors, closer to its \$2.2M fundraising goal. The Morgridge Family Foundation challenges 7th JD businesses and stakeholders in Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray, and San Miguel counties to come together to match their investment.

Chantelle Bainbridge, a Victims Advocate of the 7th JD DVTF stated, "Due to a direct correlation between domestic violence, child and animal abuse; victims encounter many hurdles when fleeing an abusive relationship and there is an urgent need for a long-term safety net. Statistics also show that victims delay leaving abusive homes because they fear for their pets' lives and a lack of pet-friendly housing options prevents many victims from leaving abusers. San Juan Landing removes these barriers completely. We are incredibly grateful to the Morgridge Family Foundation for recognizing this critical community gap and providing funding to bring this sanctuary to life."

Melissa Hall, Chair of the 7th JD DVTF agreed and expressed her gratitude, "On behalf of the 7th Judicial District Domestic Violence Task force, I want to thank the Morgridge Family Foundation for their generous donation of \$200,000. This support gets us closer to building a much-needed solution for victims in our community."

Carlton Mason, Executive Director of CASA of the 7th JD, explained "Our first contact with the Morgridge Family Foundation goes back to 2017 when John & Carrie helped fund *1st Place on 2nd St*. In the years since, Carrie and her team have provided connections and guidance that have been invaluable. We are incredibly grateful for their trust."

Carrie Morgridge, CEO and Co-founder of the Morgridge Family Foundation, stated "When we spoke with the police officers in the 7th judicial district, what shocked us was that they can remove a woman from an abusive situation for the weekend, but by Monday morning, they often have to return her to the same environment. John and I believe this is unacceptable. That's why we're making a meaningful investment in CASA of the 7th Judicial District. They are now closer to the fundraising finish line, and achieving this will require all of us working together to wrap our arms around them." San Juan Landing is a proposed housing development that will provide a 12 to 18 month housing option for domestic violence victims, their immediate families, and pets. It will include secure fencing and access, and on-site programming space taking the burden off victims to find essential resources at a critically difficult time. To learn more about shaping the environment DV victims need, please contact: Carlton Mason Executive Director, CASA of the 7th JD at: cmason@casa7jd.org Melissa Hall, Chair of the 7th JD - Domestic Violence Task Force at: melissa.hall@judicial.state.co.us Or Chantelle Bainbridge, Victim Services Coordinator at cbainbridge@montrosepd.org

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MORE AMERICANS SHOT IN CHICAGO OVER THE WEEKEND THAN 2 MONTHS OF WAR WITH IRAN

Editor:

We are all familiar with the boiling frog story. A frog is placed in a pot of comfortable room temperature water while the heat is slowly turned up until the frog is boiled alive. The story is a metaphor used to describe the failure to act against a problematic situation which will increase in severity until reaching catastrophic proportions. The frog was blissfully ignorant of the deadly changes going on around him until it was too late – kind of like the American people's inability or unwillingness to react to or even recognize the sinister threats from the Democrat party over the last two decades. It's amazing what leftists are getting away with today. The socialists have been swooning ever since NYC's communist mayor Mamdani announced he had managed to balance the city's \$125 billion budget. Democrat Sen. Bernie Sanders praised the new mayor for confronting “a huge budget deficit” and bringing it “down to zero,” while increasing spending. Of course, these economic geniuses don't want to talk about how Mamdani is doing it: by burdening future taxpayers with pension costs he is refusing to pay now. In short, Mamdani is robbing the city in the future to pad the budget now. Rather than cut costs to balance his budget, he is shoving those pension costs into the future (when he will no longer be mayor.) Put simply, the illustrious mayor is forcing taxpayers to spend additional billions in interest to avoid having to trim \$2 billion from the annual budget in this mayoral term and the next – forcing whoever is mayor later to pay billions more per year in completely avoidable costs. To a Democrat, paying off a credit card with a new credit card with a much higher interest rate fixes their credit.

Mamdani's actions totally reflect what we have seen for decades nationally. Democrats spend their lengthy political careers bemoaning “austerity,” a label automatically applied to any effort to constrain the growth of government spending. For decades, they have paid lip service to “fiscal responsibility” as they practice the opposite on an unprecedented scale. The national debt of the US has now climbed beyond \$35 trillion. (A trillion dollars is a thousand billion dollars.) They get away with deficit spending and kicking the problem down the road because it gets them elected year after year. Never mind that future generations will be burdened with impossible trillion-dollar debts made before they were old enough to vote. The laws of

economics don't disappear because Democrats ignore them to get re-elected. Of course, they also won't talk about Social Security going broke – not their problem. Fortunately, most Americans are slowly awakening to the sinister threat imposed on this country by Democrats and are smart enough to get out of the hot water. A lot of people already knew Democrat economic policies were a disaster. They knew that if you want people to prosper, you lower taxes and eliminate useless regulations to create new businesses and jobs. What the American people didn't have a clue about was just how deep the corruption was – until Trump's administration exposed it. That alone should be enough to end the complacency of the American electorate. It's no wonder Democrats want increased spending and taxes when they are stealing a significant portion of that money. Trump's homeland security advisor has indicated the welfare fraud is so massive that eliminating it could single-handedly balance the entire federal budget: “Hundreds of billions fleeced from taxpayers.”

There are so many other examples of disgusting behavior on the part of Democrats that we have somehow been conditioned to accept as “normal.” Democrats want us to replace common sense with a mental state that accepts all forms of degeneracy, particularly in our schools. Albert Hernandez is now the California state high school girls champion in the high jump, long jump, and triple jump. He easily beat the female competition, but had he competed against boys he wouldn't have had a chance. For example, if he competed as a boy, he would have been 6 feet behind the boy's long jump record, but by competing against girls, he attained the US number one ranking in the girls' triple jump. And of course, liberals scream intolerance when your fifteen-year-old daughter doesn't want him sharing her locker room. Speaking of degenerates, Democrats seem to have a “draft a crazy of the week” going on coast to coast. Graham Platner, the Dem's hard-left Senate candidate in Maine, seems to be in a league of his own – and that's saying something. Democrats believe they have found their ideal candidate, an oyster farmer who has sported a Nazi tattoo for 18 years, who talked about his habit of masturbating in porta-potties, and mocked a Purple Heart recipient. Platner posted how PTSD is a “bullshit” excuse for bad behavior, while telling another veteran who was shot multi-

ple times that he didn't deserve to live. These are the same Democrats whose senate candidate in Texas is James Talarico, a self-professing seminarian who claims “God is non-binary,” assured us that there are six genders, and equates Christianity with other religions, including Hinduism and Islam. He also had this to say about meat consumption during an earlier Texas campaign: “I am proud to say that our campaign has officially become a non-meat campaign.”

Elsewhere in Democrat fantasy land, Democrat leadership in our cities are proving they are more dangerous to their citizens than fighting Jihadists in Iran. More Americans were shot in Chicago over the weekend than two months of war with Iran. Twenty-one people, including children, were shot amongst the chaos, and five police officers were hit by a vehicle during a teen “takeover.” In Minneapolis, Mayor Jacob Frey led the madness honoring George Floyd on memorial day. Floyd got high on fentanyl, assaulted a woman and her child, tried to pass counterfeit money, ripped off a liquor store, resisted arrest, and then died of an overdose. Sane Americans remembered and honored the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country, while the anti-American leftists running Minneapolis instead honored a violent felon who killed himself with drugs while resisting arrest. On the west coast, Republican LA mayoral candidate Spencer Pratt: “I'm gonna remove the homeless druggies from in front of your kids' elementary school, let you rebuild your homes, and arrest criminals.”

Democrat candidate and current Mayor Karen Bass: “Taxpayer funded teeth replacement for meth addicts.” Candidate and Democrat socialist Nithya Raman: “I'm gonna ban BBQs.”

This is the same state of California where Governor Newsom included \$33,000 for a portrait of himself – while his state deals with massive homelessness, crime, and \$6+ gas prices. S

Something sinister is going on everywhere Democrats are in control. Portions of their cities look like third world refugee camps where you don't dare walk. They're falsifying crime statistics and their radical judges have turned their courts into little more “catch and release” centers. The inmates are in charge of the asylum, and Democrats want you to continue to ignore and accept their insanity.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH CELEBRATES JESS ANDERSON AND INAUGURAL GRADUATION OF TCR DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health proudly recognizes the accomplishments of Jess Anderson, Echo Sonographer in the Cardiopulmonary Department, for her leadership and dedication in helping launch and guide

the inaugural cohort of the Technical College of the Rockies' (TCR) CAAHEP-accredited Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

On May 20, 2026, TCR celebrated the graduation of the first class from its Diag-

nostic Medical Sonography program — a milestone achievement for healthcare education in western Colorado and a testament to the collaborative efforts of educators, healthcare professionals, and community partners.

"This graduation represents the culmination of hard work, commitment, and excellence by our students and faculty," said Jessica Anderson, Diagnostic Medical Sonography Director.

"We are excited to celebrate this significant milestone and the positive impact our program will have on the healthcare community."

Anderson, who serves both as an Echo Sonographer at Delta Health and Program Director for TCR's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program, played a pivotal role in securing accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The accreditation process began with Anderson and her team developing a comprehensive self-study of the program in accordance with CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines.

The self-study underwent detailed review by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS), followed by an on-site evaluation conducted by industry experts. Upon confirming the program met all required standards, the JRC-DMS recommended accreditation to the CAAHEP Board of Directors, which subsequently granted the program accreditation.

The program leadership team includes Program Director Jessica Anderson, Assistant Program Director Kassie Quigley, and Clinical Coordinator Jordyn Fairclough. Together, they have brought extensive expertise, passion, and commitment to preparing students for their future in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography field.

Delta Health congratulates Anderson, the TCR faculty team, and the inaugural graduating class for their commitment to advancing healthcare education and strengthening the future healthcare workforce in the region.

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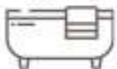
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BRING ON THE SUMMER FESTIVAL FILLS RIVERBOTTOM PARK WITH FAMILIES



Action rafting at the Bring on the Summer Festival. Courtesy photo.



Wilder greets a child at the Bring on the Summer Festival. Courtesy photo.

Story by Abram Herman

Photos by Monica Voehringer

REGIONAL-Saturday, May 30 turned Riverbottom Park into a hub of activity as Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) hosted its third annual Bring On The Summer Festival. From 11am–4pm, families from across the Western Slope came out for a free afternoon of outdoor games, music, food, and friendly contests. Last year's festival drew more than 3,000 youth and family members, and this year's crowd was only slightly tempered by cloud cover and other nearby events.

FOYAN connects local youth to the outdoors, and the festival is a chance to show families just how much fun that can be close to home. Kids floated rafts down the Uncompahgre, scrambled to unwrap and don frozen t-shirts and lifejackets to win prizes, raced in relays, and tested their aim in gelly ball. There were watermelon and pie eating contests, strider bikes for the littlest riders, yard games, and skill-building clinics for soccer and basketball. Free haircuts courtesy of Finesse Barbershop and free face painting proved popular, with dozens of eager kids and families lining up to take part. The library's book bike rolled in with summer reading ideas, and Wilder—the larger-than-life mascot of the GOCO-funded Generation Wild program—roamed the park, reminding everyone that the best adventures start just outside the door. Part goat, part yeti, and all friend, he was a hit with attendees young and old. Wilder's visit was a fitting nod to FOYAN's role as a founding member of Generation Wild of the Uncompahgre, a regional coalition originally launched in 2023 and led by the Montrose Recreation District to connect more area youth and families with the outdoors.

DJ MLOD Pro kept the music going while bilingual host Angel D, known around town as "El Maza," kept the energy up between contests. Kids and adults alike were dancing and enjoying the day, bringing smiles to the faces of every passerby.

Behind the fun is serious work. FOYAN leads the Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) coalition, a partnership of local organizations that helps young people facing real barriers get outside, build confidence, and connect with mentors and one another. Time in nature is one of the most accessible tools we have for youth mental health and resilience, and events like this one open the door for kids who might not otherwise get the chance.

A day this size only happens through significant community support. FOYAN extends deep gratitude to the sponsors who made the 2026 festival possible: headline sponsors The Colorado Health Foundation and The Kampe Foundation, as well as the Marston-Lehmann Family Fund, Western Colorado Community Foundation, The Colorado Trust, Colorado Outdoors, Delta Montrose Electric Association, the City of Montrose, the Montrose Community Foundation, Enstrom Candies, Alpine Bank, I Matter, Delta County Federal Credit Union, ANB Bank, and Renewal by Andersen. Special thanks to Finesse for free youth haircuts, The Montrose Lifestyle for marketing support, Rocky Mountain Ice, and all of the partner organizations who brought fun activities and games to the park for kids to participate in.

Every sponsorship dollar goes right back into getting more area youth outside, covering the gear, transportation, scholarships, and year-round outings that make up FOYAN's work across Delta, Montrose, Ouray, and Mesa counties.

If you missed this year's festival, or want to help make next year's event even bigger, FOYAN welcomes volunteers, activity partners, and donations. Learn more or give at foyan.org.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY – 2026 & BEYOND

Is their Board of Directors Fighting Accountability or Owning It? – TBD!

By David White

Last Thursday, May 28th, I attended the monthly meeting of the Project 7 Board of Directors Board. As frequent readers of Gail Marvel's articles in The Montrose Mirror as well as mine know, Project 7 (this is the multijurisdictional controlled agency that processes all of the drinking water in the Uncompahgre Valley) has struggled to come to terms with their future over the last several months.

A resiliency project which they've invested millions of dollars in has now been shelved. Estimated losses range up to \$27 million dollars in funds "invested" in the project.

The hiring of a Chief Financial Officer was short lived with a new CFO just brought on board. New attorneys roll through with some frequency. Changes in members of the Board of Directors have occurred. Discovery of a major discrepancy in water treatment plant capacity was uncovered. Capping these and other issues off is the drought that we are in at this moment.

Trying to find a way out of these a problems, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was formed a few months ago with representatives from members of Project 7 and some private citizens selected to find a way out of the now dormant resiliency project (a project that would have cost close to \$200 million plus interest on the money needed to be borrowed to finance it if it had moved forward) by regrouping with a team of professionals led by Montrose City Engineer Scott Murphy. Their work to date has been remarkable and well done with conceptual plans ready to move ahead with making Project 7 more efficient and able to look ahead at the technical side of making the water treatment process more efficient, restorable in the event of any emergency, and much more.

Unfortunately, when board member Matt Miles (recently appointed to the Board to

represent Chipeta Water District) requested that a sub-committee be formed to discuss establishing agreements and administration of future projects along with examining current administrative practices and procedures, resistance to such a committee became quite evident and vocal. Vicki Ripp with the Tri-County Water Conservancy District chaired the meeting and expressed her opposition to the formation of such a group until at least the next meeting of the board. She was joined by the Mayor's of the City of Delta and Town of Olathe in a NO vote on the matter. David Bries, representing the City of Montrose, and Matt Miles voted yes to establish this sub-committee. Comments from Montrose Mayor Michael Badagliacco were heard and expressed the frustrations that many of the constituents of Project 7 feel about the organization.

Miles is a no-nonsense businessman and developer. He isn't new to this either. In an article I wrote over a year ago about the December 19, 2024 Project 7 board meeting wherein Mr. Miles, then as a Board member of Chipeta Water District, questioned the Board about the resiliency project and who the legal consultant was for the project, he was told that KKR Law from Denver, Ireland-Stapleton (attorney Sarah Abbott), Brian Kidnay, Spencer Payne – bond counsel, Aaron Clay and others throughout the years have worked with Project 7 on it, yet there wasn't any consistency in their legal representation which was and is a cause for concern even today.

And that's the point of this article. This author has attended many, many Project 7 Board of Directors meetings over the last few years and it has been apparent for quite some time and is even more apparent today that this consortium of six member entities (City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Tri-County Water, Chipeta Water and Menoken Water)

charged with overseeing the **ONLY** source of potable drinking water in the Uncompahgre Valley, is completely antiquated with, if they even have one, an antiquated business model under which they're operating.

From an outsider's view of things, the organization appears to be run like a Mom-and-Pop country store with poor decisions being made seemingly without a lot of forethought and understanding of what they're doing (speaking clearly here about the Board). It is high time to gut this organization from an administrative standpoint and put together an organizational structure that is in keeping with the times. The squandering of millions of dollars that have come out of the ratepayer's pockets has to stop.

The revolving door of "advisors" that have been paid to try and do so and the dollars spent on them is staggering. Enough already!

Public pressure must be brought to bear on the Board and now. The largest consumer of the treated water produced by Project 7 is the City of Montrose. With the Mayor of Montrose as well as Mr. Miles on record as being in favor of getting something done and now, it looks like we may get them to OWN their decisions and be accountable for them. The time has come to stop kicking the can down the road.

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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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DANIEL LEE SONGER

September 29, 1950 – May 12, 2026



DANIEL LEE SONGER, a well-loved father, grandfather, and friend passed away on May 12, 2026 at his home in Montrose, CO at the age of 75.

Born in 1950 in Gunnison, CO, Dan was raised by his grandparents on a farm in Montrose where he learned the value of hard work, grit, and responsibility. He carried this work ethic throughout his life, serving over 30 years as a skilled Electrical Lineman for Tri-State G & T (Colorado Ute). He was a man who began his life with very little but had the determination to build something bigger and provide something better for his family.

Dan married Karen Beahm in 1972. They settled in Montrose and shared 32 years of marriage, until her unexpected passing in 2004. Together they raised three children, Shannon, Shane, and Jaymie. The family transferred to Dolores, CO, for seven years where they made great new connections before returning to Montrose to be closer to friends and roots. Dan's hard work afforded his family a boat and they took countless trips to Lake Powell where they enjoyed camping, water skiing, canyon exploring, and other adventures.

Dan enjoyed a good meal, good company, and sharing a good story about his rowdy past or adventures on the job. A natural mechanic with gifted hands, Dan could fix just about anything.

He had a lifelong passion for motorcycles and big block engines and especially reveled in the thrill of riding his Harley or racing his supped up hot rods. He owned many different classics over the years and took pride in dragging main and showing them off.

Dan was a true "miracle man" having survived a life-threatening aortic aneurysm much to the amazement of his doctors and surgeons. Only given a few years survival rate, he fought through all setbacks to live another 19 years. Dan made it a habit of defying the odds. Each day, he faced life with determination and gratitude, waking up with a positive spirit which inspired those around him. His positive attitude carried him forward despite the health challenges and that resilience reflected the man he was--strong, joy filled, and unwilling to let circumstances define his attitude.

Dan is survived by his children Shannon (Mike) Antonucci of Grand Junction, Shane (Chelsea) Songer, and Jaymie Michels; his grandchildren: James, Daniel, Ryan, Mya and Mikey Antonucci, Zayden and Kenzie Songer and Ruby Arnold, Paige and Isaiah Michaels, and Jaxson Lamb; his sister Roxie Rose, three nephews and five nieces. He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen, parents, grandparents, and sister Glenda McMillan.

A celebration of life will take place at 11 am on Saturday, July 11 at the Calvary Chapel of Montrose, 2201 S Townend. A luncheon will immediately follow the service.

Dan accepted the Lord as his Savior, bringing him comfort, purpose, and peace in the tough times. We will now take comfort in knowing he is now home with the Lord. May he rest in peace September 29, 1950 – May 12, 2026 , forever riding free.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DALE M. KLEEVES

January 31, 1952 – May 20, 2026

DALE M. KLEEVES, 74, of Montrose, Colorado, went home to be with the Lord on May 20, 2026 at his home west of Montrose.

Dale was born January 31, 1952, in Covington, Kentucky, to Joel F. Kleeves and Jean Ann (Kidd) Kleeves. He spent his early childhood in Covington before his parents moved to the Denver area when he was 6. When he was 14, his parents bought the Double JK Ranch, a guest ranch south of Estes Park, CO. He eventually became the wrangler there and was known for his ability to entertain the guests on their rides through Rocky Mountain National Park with songs, stories, and riddles. He graduated from Estes Park High School in 1970 and went on to attend Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado, and then received an associate degree in Biblical Studies from Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota. After graduation, he returned to the ranch to continue wrangling. There he met his wife Maggie and they were married on October 13, 1979. After spending a few years at the ranch, then a year in Laramie, Wyoming, they moved to Montrose in 1987 where he was involved in various businesses, including Kleeves Hillside Orchard, the Montrose County Shopper, Office Furniture Liquidators, City Market, and Walmart.



Dale loved hunting with his sons or anyone available, square dancing, and attending church and Bible studies. He was never without his truck, his cowboy boots, country Western music, and a good cup of coffee. Though generally a quiet man, he loved connecting with people in small groups and one-on-one. He enjoyed helping with Rodeo Bible Camp as a counselor and was very gifted in working with the young men, demonstrating God's love to the campers through his friendliness and caring. He brought that same dedication to the Montrose jail where he helped lead a Bible study for many years.

He is survived by his wife Maggie (Margaret) of Montrose, sons Grant (Andrea) of Ridgway and Chad (Brittani) of Montrose, and daughter Alicia Harper (Jared) of Madison, Mississippi, along with grandchildren Kaydence, Wilder, Ridge, Madilynn, and Titus. He is also survived by his sister Dawn Bowman (Dave) from Olathe, Colorado, nephew Andrew Bowman (Sarah) and their children, Kyanne and Rio.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joel and Jean Ann Kleeves of Montrose.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 13th, at 11 a.m. in the Youth Center at Grace Community Church, 16731 Woodgate Road, Montrose, CO. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Dale's name to Operation Heal Our Patriots through Samaritan's Purse.

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

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DR. HOWARD F SAUER *August 18, 1933 – May 23, 2026*



HOWARD F SAUER peacefully passed away surrounded by his sons on May 23, 2026. He is survived by his two brothers, Bob and Jim, His three sons, Daniel, David and Dale, his grandson Zane Sauer and ex-wife Bonnie Sauer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Conrad Sauer and Lois V Bunger, his brother William Sauer, the mother of his four children Donna, his son Dirk Samuel Sauer, and his grandson Kenneth Paul Sauer.

Howard lived in Palmer Lake and Broomfield Colorado for most of his life prior to leaving for college. He attended Wheat Ridge high school and played quarterback for their football team. After graduation, he attended University of Colorado receiving his pre-medical degree and was accepted to the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry.

Prior heading to Nebraska he married his college sweetheart Donna May Mitze on December 19, 1954. During dental school, they had their first son Daniel John. Howard then served two years to complete his dental degree with the Air Force while stationed in Maine. During that time of service, he had his second son David Paul. After leaving the service, he moved to

Montrose in 1961 to start his Dental practice. Donna and Howard had two more sons Dirk Samuel and Dale Matthew while in Montrose. Howard continued to practice dentistry in Montrose until his retirement in 2000.

After Howard's divorce from Donna, he remarried Bonnie O'Brien and spent many happy years being grandpa to all the grandchildren of his families. At the time of his death, he had 10 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild.

Our father was a great man! A true farmer at heart, but a dentist by trade. He had a "no give up" attitude about all things in life. He also had no fear of jumping into the unknown. We thought he would jump into things just to learn. He was always trying to figure out what works best, or how they work, or even why they did something the way they were doing it. As a dentist, he started as a family dentist but found that it was not enough. He soon acted as an oral surgeon for the hospital and then an orthodontist in his practice. He was also one of the first dentists in this area to do implants. Oh, did we say, he did all his own lab work after he was done with his patients. He did dentures, crowns, bridges, and more, when you went to Dad, you got the full treatment. He could or would do whatever he could for his patients and did it at a fair price. In a lot of cases to help with the cost, he would trade or make some kind of a deal. He was very professional with his patients, although you might catch him mowing the lawn as you came up the driveway to your appointment... He made sure he washed his hands though.

That's where the farmer came in. He found his passion for farming in the form of grass. It started out with Kentucky bluegrass, which was, at the time, the best he could buy. We started a sod farm at our home. Yeah, we started with trying sweet corn at first but ended up growing grass. His thought was that us boys doing some

farming could make a little summer money for the kids and scratch his farmers itch as well. Through this farming, he taught us how hard work can pay off. The four boys either mowed yards for someone else or mowed our own yard to sell. As part of the sod farm, we were prepping places for sod or using our tractor to do things to help other people. That taught us a lot about doing what you say you will do, being honest, and working hard. I now know that Montrose turf was not only a learning experience but was a write off and reduced his allowance debt to his four boys, Lol.

Farmer Dad sold his dental practice and the house, which had the lawn that was a sod farm. They bought a place that had a lawn about the size of a family room. We were thinking he would slow down on the grass. Well, did he prove us wrong... before too long, he had over two acres of lawn at that house. By the way, it was a better grass because it was a hybrid of Bluegrass. Well, it was a beautiful place, but they moved again into town. Guess what, he had to get three acres in the ground, but it was a new form of fescue that used less water and grew horizontally. Again, he made it a beautiful home. It was a joke between our friends as we were growing up that dad was "Sauerrizing," which was a form of making things better. He did that a lot.

Adventures, Wow!!! Did we have them? Work hard! Play hard! That was Howard. From when we were small to graduating from high school, we had to get our work done to be able to go do something on the weekend. This is how he taught us delayed gratification and the value of setting goals.

What was the fun? You name it, fishing, hiking, four wheeling, sightseeing, camping, snowmobiling, and anything else we could find to do. His "no sitting around" attitude, got us to a lot of places, meaning he created countless memories and good times. After his marriage to Bonnie, he got

DR. HOWARD F SAUER

Continued from previous pg

a chance to provide all these memories to a much larger family, with his five children, 10 grandkids, and 18 great grandkids. If that wasn't enough, he took pictures of all of it so we can now look back and appreciate our time with Dad and Grandpa Howard. What a man!

Dad believed in helping others, that wasn't just a word for Howard. In his later years, he just wanted to help. It didn't matter who or with what, he just wanted to help. We don't know anyone that doesn't really look back now and see that side of Howard. What a friend!

Dad could be very funny, in his later years, he showed a sense of humor that was quite funny. At 91, he lost his driver's license, and he could not reach as many people to help. His age had also limited his ability to help by using his physical skills. He just changed gears and used his personality to get a smile from as many people as he could. He had all the staff and several of the residents that he lived with entertained most every day with his wry smile and a twinkle in his eye!

Our father was a great father, and we learned from him up to the day he passed, His boys will continue to learn from him for many years, God willing!

Howard was a very dedicated family man, and we wanted to share his son's perspective of his rich and giving life.

The family would like to thank The Spring Creek Chalet for the excellent care they provided for Howard over the past year, they were very dedicated to making sure Howard was happy and comfortable. His every whim was attended to by all the staff. In addition to the Chalet, a special thank you to HopeWest for their help the past few months, their dedication to the patient is exceptional.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday September 05, 2026, at Crippin Funeral Home, starting at 10 am. A reception held by the family will follow the memorial service, location not yet determined.

Crippin Funeral Home is handling final arrangement, in lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to HopeWest, they can be contacted at 970-240-7734 or mailed to 725 S. 4th St., Montrose, Co. 81401.

MICHAEL ROY WALKER JR.

August 18, 1975 — May 16, 2026

MICHAEL ROY WALKER JR., age 50, of Montrose Colorado passed away unexpectedly on May 16, 2026.

Mike was born on August 18, 1975 to Mike and Vicki Walker. He lived in Montrose for the majority of his life. This is where he met and married his wife, Jennifer and they built a life together.

Mike started working around 12 years of age, being trained in the logging industry with his father Mike and his grandfather, William "Bill" Walker in the Cimarron area. This experience ignited a love for operating heavy machinery and truck driving. He worked as a mechanic as well for a time but always returned to operating heavy equipment. He was a hard worker and didn't like sitting idle, he would help wherever he was needed. He would run a shovel, or the machine, he just wanted the job done and done right. There did not seem to be a piece of machinery, truck or trailer that he couldn't handle. He had skills and training that most never knew, he worked in a supervisor position for several companies over the years, as he was always promoted very quickly, but his love for being a heavy machine operator almost always won out if he was given a choice.

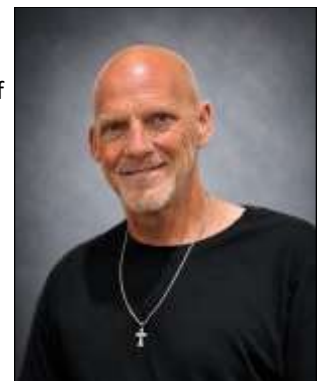
He had a very strong work ethic and was employed by Haynes Excavation at the time of his passing.

Mike and his wife Jennifer were on a lifelong journey together spanning 37 years, sharing 22 years of marriage and raising four children. He enjoyed riding his Harley, jeeping, and family bike rides. One of his greatest joys was to take his family to the forest to find and cut down the perfect Christmas tree together.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jennifer; children, Meagan Walker, Natalie Walker, Wendy Gimesh, Tyler Richmond and Logan Wilkerson. His mother, Vicki Walker and sister, Michelle Turuc. His nieces; Mikayla (P.J.), Harley and Madison; his grandnephew Hudson and grandniece Emelia.

He was preceded in death by his aunt; Bobbie Walker, uncle; Kelly Walker, his father; Michael Walker Sr. and his sister; Misty Walker.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 29, 2026, at 2 pm at Victory World Outreach Church located at 429 East Main Street, Montrose, Colorado.



ISSUE 575 June 1, 2026

ART & SOL

HONK! JR TO OPEN AT MAGIC CIRCLE IN JUNE

By Lisa Rediger

MONTROSE-Based on Hans Christian Andersen's beloved fable *The Ugly Duckling*, *HONK! JR* is a heartwarming, award-winning musical celebrating the beauty of being different. When Ugly hatches looking quite unlike his darling duckling siblings, the other barnyard animals are quick to point it out.

Feeling rather foul about himself, Ugly embarks on a journey of self-discovery -- all while unknowingly outwitting a very hungry Cat. Along the way he meets a whole flock of unforgettable characters and discovers that what makes him different is exactly what makes him special. Witty and hilarious but also deeply moving, *HONK! JR* is a sparkling celebration sure to delight audiences of all ages.

At the heart of the story is Ugly, (Lucia Owens) the misfit duckling whose journey from outcast to swan is in equal parts funny and tender. His devoted mother Ida (Adelaide Lebsack) -- sweet, feisty, and fierce -- refuses to give up her search for her missing son and ultimately teaches him that it is perfectly wonderful to be exactly who you are. Drake, (Isaiah Kubin) Ugly's sarcastic father, provides comic relief throughout. The villainous Cat (Elliott Shelton) lurks perpetually hungry and perpetually foiled. And Greylag, (Rowen Ullevig) the proud goose serving as Admiral of the squadron, leads the charge to bring Ugly safely home, assisted by a cast of wonderful characters, played

by Caroline Latham, Amelia Fishing, Harper Kilby, Lukas Kurtz, Campbell Shelton, Quinn Shelton, Harper Shelton, Olivia Simmons, Claire Rediger, Brielle Hatch, Caraline Perpar, Sam Rickey, Cambria Hatch, Tucker Stegmann, Tina King, Pierce Shelton, Enola Neilson. *HONK! JR* is proudly directed by Dru Weaver, with Assistant Director Corie Smith and Music Director Patti Sciffiny. Performances: June 11-13 & 17-19 at 7:30pm | June 13, 14 & 20 at 2pm | Youth Tickets: \$10

The mission of Magic Circle Players' Youth Theatre is to engage youth in live theatre experiences that educate, excite, and build community. Youth Theatre on Stage Productions began in February 2002, and what began as adult actors performing for children quickly evolved -- by the fourth season, young performers of all ages were sharing the stage alongside adult actors. In 2012, we expanded the vision further by producing

large-scale musicals cast entirely with youth; Disney's *Aladdin JR* in 2012 featured 32 actors aged 10 to 18. On Stage productions run each summer -- primarily fully cast with young actors 8 to 18 years old -- but always focused on giving young audiences the joy of a live theatre experience.

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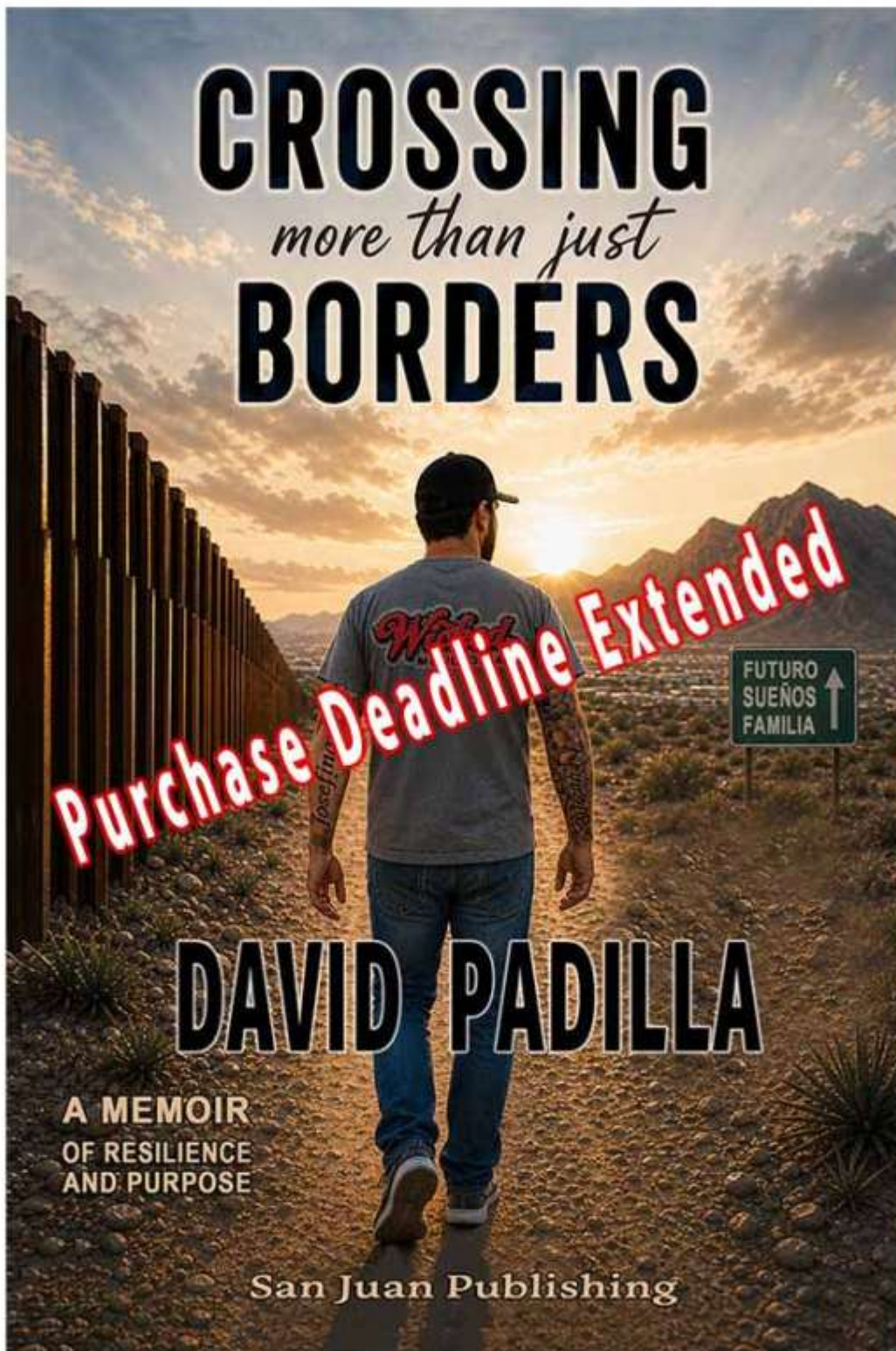
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CATH LAB CAREGIVER GIVES VOICE TO THE EMOTIONAL REALITIES OF HEALTHCARE

Recently published book explores burnout, resilience, and the unseen challenges of caregiving

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— After nearly 30 years working in cardiovascular care, Montrose Regional Health cath lab caregiver George Dewiliby recently published “The Light I Had to Fight For,” a book that explores the emotional realities often experienced by healthcare professionals.



Mrh cath lab caregiver George Dewiliby recently published “The Light I Had to Fight For. Courtesy photo.

“The world only sees the scrubs, not the scars beneath them,” Dewiliby said.

Drawing on decades of experience in hospitals and catheterization laboratories, Dewiliby's book examines the challenges healthcare workers face behind the scenes, including grief, burnout, emotional exhaustion, and the pressure to remain composed during difficult moments.

Much of Dewiliby's career has been spent in the catheterization laboratory, or cath lab, a specialized hospital unit equipped with advanced imaging technology used to diagnose and treat cardiovascular disease. While many patients leave the cath lab with renewed hope, healthcare professionals are often left carrying the emotional weight of loss, trauma, and high-stress situations. “Healthcare workers often have to remain composed in moments that are breaking something inside them,” Dewiliby said. “They have to move from one patient to the next, one room to the next, one crisis to the next, without always having space to process what just happened. Over time, that can become grief, burnout, emotional exhaustion, or a kind of quiet disappearing that people on the outside rarely recognize because the person is still functioning.”

Through his writing, Dewiliby hopes to encourage conversations about burnout, resilience, grief, and the emotional impact of caregiving. Since its publication in February 2026, healthcare professionals across the country have shared the book with colleagues as a source of encouragement and understanding.

Dewiliby and his wife, Heather, have worked in the MRH cath lab since August 2025 after years of traveling for medical assignments across the country. They recently decided to make Montrose their permanent home.

“This community has come to mean a great deal to us,” Dewiliby said. “The people, the pace, and the mountains have made Montrose feel like home.”

For more information about George Dewiliby and his writing, visit georgedewiliby.com.

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The Satisfied Self

THE SATISFIED SELF: WHY CONNECTION IS A BIOLOGICAL NEED



By Gia Pirelli

Most of us think of connection as an emotional experience. Something that feels nice when it's present and painful when it's absent. But connection is more than a preference. It is a biological need.

Human beings evolved in groups. For most of human history, belonging wasn't simply a matter of happiness—it was a matter of survival. Being connected to others increased the likelihood of protection, cooperation, and access to resources. Isolation, on the other hand, often meant vulnerability.

The nervous system still carries this ancient programming.

Which is why loneliness, grief, rejection, conflict, and disconnection don't just affect our mood.

They affect our physiology. When people feel disconnected, the nervous system often interprets that experience as a threat. Not necessarily a conscious threat, but a biological one.

Stress hormones increase. Sleep may become disrupted. Recovery becomes more difficult. Thoughts become more negative and repetitive. Small problems feel larger than they are.

This is one reason periods of loneliness or grief can feel so physically exhausting. The body is working harder than we realize. And unlike a broken bone or visible injury, these experiences often go unrecognized by the people around us, and sometimes even by ourselves.

We tell ourselves we should be over it. We should move on. We should be stronger.

Meanwhile, the nervous system is still trying to make sense of what happened. The good news is that understanding this process changes how we respond to

it. Many people assume that if they feel lonely, disconnected, overwhelmed, or emotionally depleted, the solution is simply to "think more positively" or stay busy enough to distract themselves.

But distraction is not regulation. The nervous system doesn't respond primarily to logic. It responds to experience.

This is why genuine connection feels different from scrolling through social media. Why a meaningful conversation can change your state more effectively than an hour of mindless distraction. Why a hug from someone you trust can calm your body in ways that are difficult to explain.

The nervous system recognizes safety through experience.

This also explains why practices like yoga, breathwork, meditation, and sound healing can be so supportive during difficult seasons.

At first glance, they may seem unrelated to connection. But what they often provide is a felt experience of safety. A slower breath. A calmer environment. A chance to be present in your body rather than trapped in your thoughts.

A moment where the nervous system receives a different message.

Not:

"What's wrong with me?"

But:

"I'm safe right now."

That shift matters.

When connection with others feels unavailable, we can still create conditions that support regulation. We can move our body. We can spend time in nature. We can breathe intentionally. We can reach out to someone rather than waiting to be reached. We can participate in community even when we don't feel particularly social.

These aren't substitutes for meaningful relationships.

But they are ways of supporting the nerv-

ous system while those relationships develop, heal, or evolve.

Perhaps one of the most important things to understand is that needing connection is not weakness.

Wanting support is not dependency.

Needing belonging is not a character flaw. It is part of being human.

The nervous system was never designed to function entirely alone. And while self-leadership is important, self-leadership does not mean self-isolation.

Sometimes the strongest thing we can do is allow ourselves to receive support rather than convincing ourselves we shouldn't need it.

If modern life has taught us anything, it's that we can be more connected digitally than ever before while feeling increasingly disconnected in our daily lives.

Which means the solution may not be more information. It may be more presence. More conversation. More community. More experiences that remind the nervous system that it doesn't have to carry everything by itself.

Because feeling better isn't always about doing more. Sometimes it's about feeling supported enough to finally let go of what you've been carrying.

In next week's article, we'll explore the difference between being alone and being lonely, and why solitude can be one of the most powerful tools for self-awareness, creativity, and nervous system recovery when approached intentionally.

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

TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL SHARES DAILY SCHEDULES

June 18-21, 2026, in Telluride, Colorado; Limited tickets and camping passes available

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE- With May coming to a close, summer and **Telluride Bluegrass Festival** are officially on the horizon. As music fans are fine-tuning their travel plans and Festivarians are gearing up for the weekend, the folks at [Planet Bluegrass](#) have released the daily schedules for their summer solstice celebration, June 18-21 in beautiful Telluride, Colorado. Rest assured, it's not too late to plan the trip of a lifetime to the box canyon this year. **A very limited number of tickets and camping passes are still available** for this year's Telluride Bluegrass Festival and can be purchased at [this link](#).

The music starts on **Thursday, June 18** with Telluride Bluegrass veteran and mandolin master, **Chris Tile**, and closes on **Sunday, June 21** with 2007 Troubadour Contest winner **Gregory Alan Isakov**. In between, fans will be delighted with plenty of bluegrass and musical discovery from Telluride legends, newcomers, and special collaborations. The full schedule can be found below or right [here](#).

Haven't made the pilgrimage to the bluegrass mecca before? Let this be your sign. [We made a how-to Telluride guide just for you.](#)

For more information, please visit bluegrass.com/telluride.



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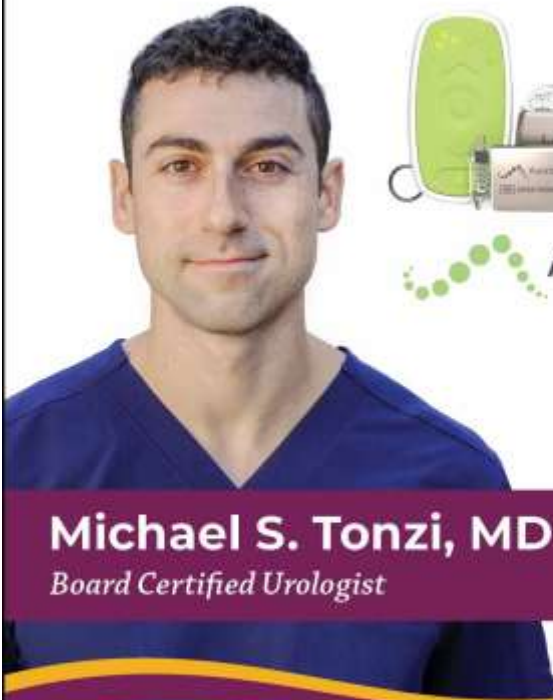
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MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS: HONK! JR-SHOW DATES

Magic Circle Players: HONK! JR

Thu Jun 11, 2026 - Sat Jun 20, 2026

Ugly looks quite a bit different from his darling duckling brothers and sisters. The other animals on the farm are quick to notice and point this out, despite his mother's protective flapping. Feeling rather foul about himself, the little fowl finds himself on an adventure of self-discovery, all the while unknowingly outwitting a very hungry Cat. Along the way, Ugly meets a whole flock of unique characters and finds out being different is not a bad thing to be. Score by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. Directed by Dru Weaver. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838. Family discounts available through the box office!

Thursday, June 11, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Friday, June 12, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, June 13, 2026 - 02:00 PM MDT

Saturday, June 13, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Sunday, June 14, 2026 - 02:00 PM MDT

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Thursday, June 18, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

JOHN MACKER OF SANTA FE FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ON JUNE 2 AT 7 PM

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE -Poet, playwright and essayist John Macker of Santa Fe will be the featured performer for the Telluride Institute’s first Tuesday Talking Gourds Bardic Trails virtual reading series June 2nd at 7 pm MDT.

Macker grew up in in Colorado (Denver and Glenwood Springs) and has lived in northern New Mexico for 30 years. He attended the Univ. of Missouri where he studied journalism and The Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa Institute where he survived being Gregory Corso’s teaching assistant. While in Denver, he wrote for community newspapers and published his first broadside of poetry.

In the 90’s he edited the *HARP* arts journal. He has published 14 full-length books and chapbooks of poetry, 2 audio recordings, an anthology of fiction and essays, and several broadsides over 35 years. His most recent are *Alchemy of Headwinds*, *Belated Mornings*, *Atlas of Wolves*, *The Blues Drink Your Dreams Away*, *Selected Poems 1983-2018*, (a 2019 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards finalist), *Desert Threnody*, essays and short fiction, (winner of the 2021 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards fiction anthology prize).

He won a Fischer Poetry Prize finalist award in 2019, judged by Rafael Jesus Gonzalez, the first Mad Blood Magazine Literary Arts Award and the James Ryan Morris Memorial “Tombstone” Award for poetry in 2000.

For several years, he was contributor to Albuquerque’s *Malpais Review* and edited the *Desert Shovel Review* from his home near Bernal, New Mexico. His most recent work can be found in *Main Street Rag*, *New Mexico Poetry Anthology 2023*, *Solstice*, *Cholla Needles*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, *Chiron Review* and *Contemporary Haibun Online*. His trilogy of one-acts, **Black Range**, was produced by Teatro Paraguas in Santa Fe in 2023. His full-length play, **Blue Desert** was produced by Teatro Paraguas in 2025. He lives in Santa Fe with his artist wife, Anne and two rescue mutt.

Here’s an excerpt from "Sixteen Directions to my House" from *Alchemy of Headwinds*.

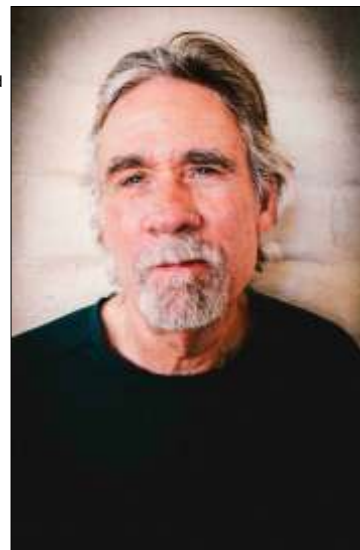
"15. Pass the incandescence of youth: every bar a star, every entrance an event, every sentence a chorale, every word gospel, there’s always a somewhere ruptured by war, if you have to be sure don’t write, Berryman told Merwin one day in the dry heat of eternity."

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

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

Participants are encouraged to visit <<https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren’t already on our mailing list. Or email Art Goodtimes directly.

Thanks to the Cantor Family, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our program and projects.



John Macker. Courtesy photo.

Brain food. Feed your starving mind.

The Montrose Mirror

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

TOWN OF PALISADE HOSTS TOWN GROUCH CONTEST 2026

Special to the Mirror

PALISADE-Saturday June 6 – Wednesday, August 12 the Palisade Lion’s Club will be hosting its 41st annual Town Grouch Contest. Every year the Palisade Lions Club helps the community select it’s most prestigious representative, the Town Grouch!

This year voting begins June 6 with the announcement at Bluegrass Festival and ends with the “Crowning” of the new Grouch at the Peachfest Icecream Social by last year’s Grouch. Some famous, some infamous, all the former Grouches are immortalized on signs in and around Palisade. You or someone you nominate could join this group of local grouchy superstars! This year’s proceeds with benefit Palisade Parks.

Nomination forms are available at the Palisade Lions Club Facebook page

Some additional information on recent podcasts:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1kYGbuxAv6GnJVppZXCVYj?si=S4zVnDXIQdCpaU6qykI9QA>

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Dr. Augustine Lee, MD, FACS, FASCRS



Dr. Vanessa Lee, MD, MS



Marie Abbinante, MSN, AGPCNP-BC



Victoria Oliva, DNP, APRN, FNP-C



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose,
 CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

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

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out
 soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation
Address Office hours N/A
Contact: 720-951-9941,
office@ccfmontrose.net,
www.ccfmontrose.net

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian
Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM - 12PM

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:

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716,
office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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'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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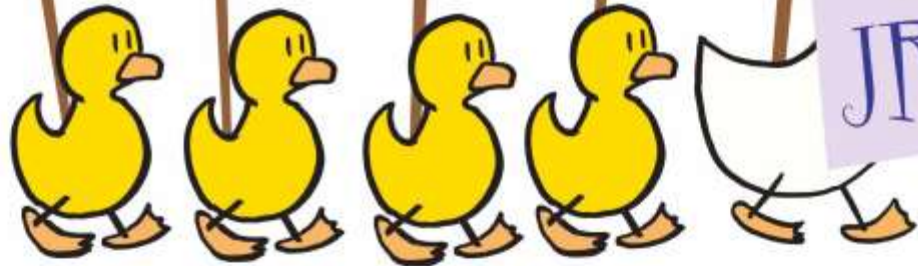


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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

ALTRUSA INT'L believes in "Leading to a Better Community" and is always looking for new members. We meet in Montrose on the first three Tuesdays a month at the Field House: 25 Colorado Ave, 12-Noon. Pick a day that works for you & please join us! Through our local Altrusa Club, members unite their varied talents in service to others, achieving as a group what individuals cannot do alone." <https://www.altrusamontrose.org/> P: 970-765-7666 E: Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY provides a monthly program on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Montrose Field House, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. blackcanyonaudubon.org

Tuesday - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays-Black Canyon Audubon Society hosts monthly birdwatching field trips in the Montrose area on 1st Tuesdays of the month and in the Delta area on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Check out the website for field trip details at blackcanyonaudubon.org.

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 @ Friendship Hall, 1001 North Second, Montrose, 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

June 2-On Tuesday June 2 at 5 at Hispanic Affairs 404 N 1st-National organization Citizens' Climate Lobby, Montrose branch hosts Nonpartisan, environmental gathering to help mitigate pollution in our community, All Welcome info 970-765-9095.

June 2-Tuesday, June 2. 7:30 pm. Let Ignite Montrose Spark Your Interest! Enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, passions and curiosities. 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 3-On Wednesday, June 3, 7 pm, in the Montrose County Historical Society general meeting and program will be in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Please enter through the small door just to the left of the North Second Street main entrance to Friendship Hall. Montrose County Historical Society presents Dr. Steve Metheny, administrator of the Montrose Campus of Colorado Mesa University, its development in Montrose, programs offered and community impact. This program is free and open to the public. Light snacks are provided.

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

June 6-9am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose. Social time is at 9:00, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments and a program. Sue from LadyBugz Quilting will be explaining how to prepare a quilt for long arm quilting and discuss different battings. For more information: Paula millsappscoqui@gmail.com or Cheryl 970-462-3849 Visitors are always welcome.

June 6-Delta Rock, Gem and Mineral show coming June 6, 9 to 5 Bill Heddles Recreation Center Delta Free, Free, Free.

June 11-From 7 -8:30 pm Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Sue Riffe who will speak about a different way of learning bird sounds. Sue will explore musical vocabulary to analyze bird songs we hear and will introduce different ways to learn these songs. The next morning, you will have the opportunity to use your newly gained musical vocabulary to identify bird sounds on a [field trip](#) to Billy Creek SWA (please register for the field trip beforehand). The Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubon.org

June 12-13 - Car show. Black Canyon Classics 31st Annual Colorful Colorado Car, Truck, and Rod Show, Montrose CO. Friday downtown Main Street closed off for free car entry and public display at 4pm until dusk. Saturday show at Cerise City Park, 8am -3pm, register your car online at blackcanyonclassics.org. Kids events, pin-up girls, food vendors. Call 9705964523 for more information.

WEEKEND ROAD RAGE SHOOTING RESULTS IN CRASH, DEATH



Photos of North San Juan location, above, are by David White; Crash Burger photo at top right is by Harry Switzer.

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—On Saturday, May 30, Crash Burger (646 East Main Street) restaurant temporarily closed due to a motor vehicle crashing into a concrete pillar outside. According to Crash Burger Manager Kyndra McMillan, no employees or staff were injured, although the restaurant was closed for the remainder of the weekend following the incident.

The Montrose Police Department issued a news release on Saturday, stating, "The Montrose Police Department has responded and is currently working a shooting incident. There currently is no known danger to the public. Officers are working on two scenes at the following locations:

- The 200 block of N. San Juan Ave. and
- The area around Crash Burger in the 600 block of E. Main St."

The Montrose Police later announced that both scenes had been released, and that there remained no known danger to the public, and asked that anyone with any information about the incident call dispatch at (970) 249 1010.

The Mirror has learned that the crash began as a road rage situation that culminated in another driver being shot on the North San Juan Bypass by the operator of the vehicle that hit Crash Burger. The individual who was shot on San Juan Avenue is expected to recover. The shooter continued onto Main Street, ultimately shooting himself before crashing at the restaurant. The shooter is deceased. No further information has been released by Montrose Police and phone calls to police had not been returned by the time of this publication.

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