



ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION



SAVE A TREE, READ THE MIRROR!

© Issue No. 695 June 22, 2026

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## CONSTITUENT ASKS COUNCIL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PLANS TO HELP UNHOUSED RESIDENTS OF MONTROSE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Councilor Dave Frank was not present for the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, June 16; the remaining councilors were in attendance. Mayor Michael Badagliacco called the meeting to order and began to discuss rules of public comment. He was reminded that the Pledge of Allegiance comes first.

"Please rise and join me," Badagliacco said, and led in saying the Pledge.

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

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Badagliacco read the rules for public comment and added a comment of his own.

"It's time to restore the decorum that these meetings require," he said. "Decorum and respect for everyone in this room must be maintained at all times...respectful dialog is critical to conducting the peoples' business efficiently..."

Councilor Adam Woodden asked that there be no

**Continued pg 33**



All members except for Dave Frank were present for the Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, June 16. Councilor J. David Reed ended the meeting with two "quips" about the difficulty of having to serve with councilors who do not agree with him.

## COUNTY APPROVES GEOTECH DRILLING TO ASSESS KINIKIN ROAD

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With all commissioners present and a chamber filled with constituents, the June 17 [regular meeting](#) of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) began with the Pledge of Allegiance, and an invocation delivered by Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond.

Richmond said, "Our kind and loving heavenly father, we're so grateful to be here today, we're grateful for another day on this beautiful earth as created, we're grateful to be here in this beautiful community of Montrose, please bless us today at this Board of County Commissioner's meeting...please bless the commissioners with thy spirit of wisdom in their decisions this morning, and the good members of our community who have comments

**Continued pg 23**



BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said that the closure of Kinikin Road resulted from a failed French drain.

[Telluride Bluegrass Festival photos!](#)

[Mayor's Minute: By Mayor Michael Badaqliacco!](#)

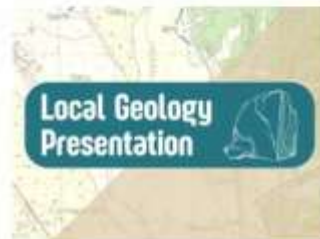
[Sour Grapes: Cartoon by Tim Jones!](#)

[Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!](#)



# Local Geology Presentation

Tuesday, June 23  
5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Library Meeting Room



Join us for an informational talk with Vince Beresford from the Bureau of Land Management. This talk will focus on local geology and is open to all ages. This is a free event and no registration is required. Email Christine at [ctharp@montroselibrary.org](mailto:ctharp@montroselibrary.org) for more information.

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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,  
Montrose Mirror Editor*

## 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  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## HAMS PARTICIPATE IN FIELD DAY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Hams from the Montrose Amateur Radio Club will participate in the annual Field Day on June 27 and 28, 2026 operating amateur radio stations on Sunset Mesa, Montrose, attempting to contact as many other stations as possible. The event is organized by the Amateur Radio Relay League, the national organization for amateur radio.

Set up will begin at 8 AM on Saturday the 27th. "We will be ready to operate by noon and will continue to operate until noon on Sunday" said Royce Seymour the event coordinator. "The objective of the event is to contact as many stations as possible while operating independently from the grid as we would in a grid down emergency" he said.

The public is welcome to visit the site and see what ham radio is about. There will be an opportunity for unlicensed visitors to get on the air and make contacts across the nation and possibly around the world.

To reach the site, drive west on Main Street. Turn left, south, on to Chipeta. In about one half mile turn left again to climb the hill to Sunset Mesa. At the top of the hill turn left once again and look for our antennas to the north. Look for signing directing the way.

For additional information call Lew French, amateur call sign KOLMF, at 970-417-6142.

### WEST SLOPE FIRE SUMMIT SAVE THE DATE

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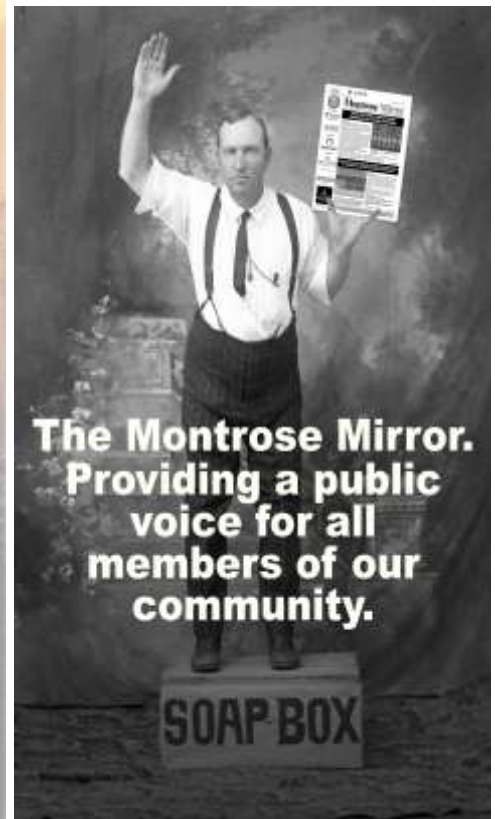
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## SLOW DOWN AND GET THE CHARTER RIGHT

*Editor:*

The City of Montrose operates under a Home Rule Charter that was first ratified in 1914. That charter serves as the city's governing document, outlining how our local government functions, defining municipal powers, and establishing election procedures. In many ways, it is the foundation upon which our city government is built.

Because of its importance, I believe any changes to the charter deserve thoughtful consideration, public engagement, and a deliberate process. That is why I am concerned by the apparent rush to place charter amendments on the November ballot.

A few weeks ago, Mayor Badagliacco expressed support for creating a Charter Advisory Commission made up of Montrose residents. The purpose of such a commission would be to review not only the proposed amendments but the charter as a whole, identifying outdated provisions, correcting errors, and recommending improvements. That approach made sense to me. It would have provided an opportunity for citizens to participate in a meaningful review of one of the city's most important documents.

Now, however, the direction appears to have changed. The advisory commission concept has been set aside in favor of moving amendments forward quickly for the November election. I find myself asking a simple question: Why the rush?

Before we change our city's governing document, shouldn't we take the time to ensure we fully understand the implications of those changes?

Two of the proposed ideas raise particular concerns for me.

The first is moving the Police Chief and the City Clerk from the supervision of the City Manager to direct oversight by City Council.

My first question is straightforward: **What problem are we trying to solve?**

Across Colorado, cities similar in size to Montrose generally operate under a council-manager form of government. Communities such as Durango, Fruita, Glenwood Springs, Steamboat Springs, and Grand Junction all have department heads reporting through the City Manager. Under this model, City Council establishes policy and community priorities, while the City Manager oversees daily operations and supervises staff.

This separation exists for a reason.

If the Police Chief were to report directly to City Council, the position could effectively have multiple bosses. That raises questions about conflicting direction, political pressure, and accountability. Who ultimately evaluates the Police Chief? Who is responsible when disagreements arise? One of the strengths of the current system is that accountability is clear.

The proposal regarding the City Clerk raises similar concerns. The City Clerk maintains official records, oversees elections, supports the legislative functions of City Council, and serves as the custodian of public records. Those responsibilities require independence and impartiality. Any change to the reporting structure deserves careful public discussion and a clear explanation of why it is necessary.

The second proposal is moving municipal elections from April to November.

The argument in favor of the change is that November elections produce higher turnout. That may be true. However, turnout is not the only consideration.

City Council elections are intended to be nonpartisan. Local government works best when discussions focus on roads, water, housing, public safety, economic development, and quality-of-life issues rather than national political debates.

When municipal elections are placed on a November ballot alongside highly partisan state and federal races, there is a risk that local issues become overshadowed. Many voters understandably focus their attention on the top of the ballot. By the time they reach local races and ballot questions, they may be fatigued or less informed about the candidates and issues before them.

Many Colorado communities continue to hold municipal elections in the spring, including Delta, Durango, Glenwood Springs, Cañon City, Paonia, Fruita, and Orchard City. These communities recognize the value of keeping local elections focused on local issues.

Whether one ultimately supports or opposes these proposed charter changes, I believe Montrose residents deserve a transparent process, ample public input, and sufficient time to evaluate the consequences. The Home Rule Charter is too important to be amended in haste.

Before we make changes that could shape city government for decades to come, we should slow down, ask difficult questions, and make sure we get it right.

*Beth McCorkle*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ABLE EXCAVATION COMPLETES MAJOR 20,000 SQ. FT. EXPANSION PROJECT FOR CITY MARKET IN MONTROSE, COLORADO

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Able Excavation, a leading excavation and earthwork company with over 25 years of experience serving Western Colorado, announces the successful completion of foundational and utility work for the 20,000-square-foot expansion of the City Market in Montrose, Colorado. The large-scale commercial project underscores the company's commitment to delivering reliable, high-quality infrastructure solutions to support the region's growing community.

The City Market expansion required comprehensive site preparation and structural enhancements. To pave the way for the new addition, Able Excavation began by

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In addition to the structural foundation work, Able Excavation handled the installation of critical new utilities to support the expanded facility. The project also included the expansion of the existing parking lot to accommodate increased customer traffic, as well as the implementation of a brand-new storm drain and irrigation system to manage water runoff and maintain the property's landscaping.

"We are proud to have partnered on the

City Market expansion, a project that directly benefits the Montrose community," said a representative for Able Excavation.



*Able Excavation courtesy photo.*

"Handling everything from the initial demolition of the car wash to moving 10,000 tons of fill dirt and installing complex utility systems is exactly the kind of comprehensive, large-scale commercial work our team is built for. Our four generations of experience working this land ensures that when results matter, we deliver."

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For more information about Able Excavation and their commercial excavation services, visit [www.ableexcavation.com](http://www.ableexcavation.com) or call (970) 596-9687.

**About Able Excavation:** Based in Montrose, Colorado, Able Excavation is a family-founded company built on four generations of honest work with the land. With over 25 years of hands-on experience, the company provides full-service commercial, residential, and agricultural excavation across Western Colorado. Services include commercial site prep, utility installation and repair, septic system installation, trucking and hauling, and subdivision development. Able Excavation is fully insured, bondable, and a nationally certified septic installer.

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# TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS NOTES ... BY B. SLATE

By B. Slate

TELLURIDE-If memory serves me, the first Telluride Bluegrass Festival that I attended was in 1987, but memory doesn't always serve me that well these days. So, when we (my photographer, Harry and I) drove into Telluride last Friday, with our "press pass" which allowed us to park in town, I was noting how different the 2026 energy seemed... It was a good energy. I'll only mention a couple of performers who impressed me, but all of the music was outstanding, as usual!

Jake Shimabukuro is an electric ukelele player from Hawaii, and he gave an electrifying performance playing all genres of music from classical to frenzied psychedelia. Very entertaining. Leftover Salmon followed Shimabukuro and put on their high energy typical slam grass show. Salmon front men Vince Herman and Drew Emmitt, who have been playing together for 36 years, don't seem to be slowing down much. Also, very entertaining.



Leftover Salmon is tasty when warmed up. Photo by B. Slate.

More Telluride Bluegrass photos pg 80

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**BALLOTS  
ARE DUE BY  
JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>**



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### PARENTS LIKE ME HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT HOW MCSD FINANCES ARE BEING MANAGED FOR OUR STUDENTS

*Editor:*

I am a Montrose resident with three kids in Montrose County School District (MCSD) schools. I voted for new school board members hoping to see actions taken regarding my concerns and those shared by other MCSD parents for years. Yet, while the newly elected school board is willing to do the hard work, investigate concerns and complaints, and thoughtfully listen to those who have been silenced, the previous board was clearly no match for MCSD Superintendent, Dr. Carrie Stephenson. And some of the results of that imbalance have left the school district in a predicament.

Parents like me have concerns about how MCSD finances are being managed for our students.

We hear about higher funding going to the Superintendent's favorite projects like the Teaching and Learning Academy at Johnson Elementary, while hearing about

budget issues at Cottonwood Elementary. We hear about more funding going to students attending Outer Range – another of Stephenson's pet projects – while efforts were underway to close Pomona Elementary, regardless of the impact to the community.

Many of us wonder how the previous board allowed the Superintendent to go on such a personal spending spree with the school district's credit cards.

How was the process to purchase the Field House and establish a new pre-K learning center commenced before she knew the amount of funding coming from state and federal agencies? It is clear from recent school board meetings this certainly wasn't something the newly elected school board members were aware of. Apparently, in Superintendent Stephenson's mind, MCSD has all the money it needs for what she likes and everything else must stand before her like Oliver

Twist begging, "Please sir, I want some more."

It is time for the school board to investigate how the funds are managed and re-insert themselves into the decision-making process. This is the only way to ensure MCSD leadership acts as stewards of public funding rather than kingmakers. Sunlight is the greatest disinfectant. So, before we spend more money on Superintendent-favored programs or buildings – like the recent voter-rejected request for an opulent, new high school – we need to make sure public school administrators are being thoughtful and responsible with what the taxpayers give them.

Voters live on set incomes and must prioritize what is important and what is not. We hopefully teach our children to do the same and how to live with the consequences of their actions. I would expect the same from our community leaders.

*Dylan Self, Montrose*

## PROPERTY TAXPAYERS ARE TREATED LIKE SERFS

*Editor:*

I believe Gov DeSantis may be one of the country's more effective chief executives ever experienced.

However, I am in disagreement with the basic points of proposal of reducing property taxes because it, largely, carves out school district taxes from accountability. School district taxes account for nearly 59% of the property tax bill. Why? There is a plethora of empty school classrooms within our district. The reasons, chiefly, are falling birth rates and competition from the State of Florida's Universal School Voucher program. The Universal School Voucher forces all schools to do a much better job.

Yet, we, property tax payers get zero respect or representation. When was the last time you heard a school board mem-

ber candidate address their plans to represent the taxpayer?

The candidates always spout "it's for the children" or "I'm for teachers". The lack of representation, for the taxpayer, results in little oversight and runaway spending, which ultimately becomes increased property taxes. Montrose, remember the proposed high school bond malfeasance?

School district spending must reflect judicious use of precious resources. Property taxpayers are not an endless supply of revenue. However, school administrators and school board members will not control spending unless there are realistic limits on spending. Capping the plundering of property taxpayers will compel better stewardship of taxpayer resources.

We, property taxpayers, are treated like serfs where we must pay a fee to local

government otherwise the local government will take our hard-earned assets away from us.

The school districts and municipal government have no skin in the game when it comes to our assets. They didn't save and work hard to pay off the mortgage. They didn't work hard to pay the taxes or to remodel and improve the property assets. No, the school districts and municipal government view us taxpayers as if we are their servants and serfs.

It is time the property taxpayers are represented.

It is time we, property taxpayers, rise up and collectively protect what is ours and push back, hard, against the plundering of our assets.

*Robert Franco  
Montrose County*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## LEFTISTS EMBRACE A WORLDVIEW IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS MUST BE NEUTRALIZED

*Editor:*

Thomas Sowell is a well-known black conservative economist and historian. I have been reading a lot of his work recently, and I have to say his intellect and insight are truly exceptional. Here's one of the things he has said about capitalism: "No government of the left has done as much for the poor as capitalism has. Even when it comes to the redistribution of income, the left talks the talk but the free market walks the walk. What do the poor most need? They need to stop being poor. And how can that be done, on a mass scale, except by an economy that creates vastly more wealth. Yet the political left has long had a remarkable lack of interest in how wealth is created. As far as they are concerned, wealth exists somehow and the only interesting question is how to redistribute it." Those comments tie in with two significant occurrences during the past week. First, Gallup/NBC released a poll that confirms what has become obvious: Democrats hate America. Second, leftist attacks on trillionaire Elon Musk confirm both their hatred and their utter ignorance of capitalism.

The poll reveals that Democrats are sore losers who are only proud of their country when they are in charge. Republicans, by contrast, love the country for what it is, not for who is in charge. According to the poll, most Republicans love America -- 90% are very proud to be Americans. That is unchanged from the 2001 polling. By contrast, only 29% of Democrats are very proud to be Americans. That is down from 85% in the 2001 polling. The leftists' total meltdown over the Tesla founder's business success is inextricably tied to their lack of love for this great country. After developing reusable rockets, launching more satellites than anyone in history, and rescuing stranded American astronauts from outer space, Elon Musk launched an IPO for his space company, and a lot of intelligent people decided to invest in the new stock. That made the man who laid out the capital and took all the risks a trillionaire. The investors gave Musk their money, feeling confident that he would make more of it for them. They knew it wouldn't go to Somali or Colo-

rado Medicaid fraud the way their tax money does. That belief, by the way, also made Juan Hernandez a millionaire. Hernandez, who came from Mexico, welded rockets for SpaceX at \$28 an hour. SpaceX gave him \$10,000 in stock when he went full time, and he bought more with every paycheck for ten years. His stock is now worth over a million dollars. He is one of 4,400 other SpaceX employees who are millionaires thanks to Elon Musk. Musk worked in the line, slept in the factory, and turned regular employees, welders, technicians, and even cafeteria staff into millionaires through stock ownership.

Are Democrats celebrating? Not in the least. Democrats would rather have people be dependent on the government and stay poor than have opportunities like this. They know nothing, nothing, about how economics works. Unlike Elon, they create nothing of value and think they have to put a stop to those who do. Leftists embrace a worldview in which individual success must be neutralized. Their entire agenda is to keep individuals dependent on the state rather than being dependent on themselves. That's why the minute anyone achieves any success, Democrats swoop in with demands to "tax the rich" and redistribute their wealth. Of course, this standard only applies to other people's money. Many people have gotten very rich because of their government connections and positions rather than risk and innovation -- Nancy Pelosi, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, the Clinton family, the Biden family, the Obama family, and many more. And of course, the left's sugar daddy George Soros is also off limits for criticism. (It's kind of weird that the left is fond of calling Trump a "Nazi," when the only person on today's political scene who actually collaborated with real live Nazis was George Soros -- against his fellow Jews during WWII.

Musk wasted no time responding to Democrat Chuck Schumer's accusations that Musk is "stealing food from American tables." Musk: "I provide over a hundred thousand jobs and did a full audit of the U.S. Government for free. Senator Schumer should worry about his own fraud and

abuse." The American dream isn't dying because of Elon Musk becoming a trillionaire. It's dying because we elect incompetent morons that have a huge spending problem. Musk created \$1 trillion of value. Congress created over \$39 trillion of debt. Just the annual interest on that debt is much more than Musk's net worth. Elon's wealth is not the problem. One side talks about wealth and how to confiscate it; the other side creates it. One side claims to help the poor by controlling them through social welfare. The other side actually helps the poor by lowering their taxes, creating jobs and opportunities, destroying onerous federal regulations, and helping people create and be successful in businesses.

I mentioned Colorado Medicaid fraud. It seems Colorado is working to keep up with Minnesota and California in the fraud sweepstakes. A federal audit has revealed that Colorado's Medicaid program paid millions of taxpayer dollars on behalf of nearly 9,000 deceased enrollees. Colorado was once a much-desired destination for many Americans, but not anymore. We are now the 3rd most expensive state in the nation. U.S. News also ranked us the third most dangerous.

Once known as one of the nation's most innovative and business-friendly states, Colorado's business climate is in decline, with many companies choosing to relocate and expand elsewhere.

First, we were told that bringing the lottery and casino gambling to Colorado would fix our roads, schools, and jails.

Then we were told that legalizing marijuana would fix our roads, schools, and jails. Now, they want us to believe that stealing our TABOR tax refunds will fix our roads, schools, and jails. Don't even get me started on Colorado's multiple anti-gun laws and sweeping violations of the Second Amendment. I mention Colorado because it is an up-close example of what happens when Democrats have political control. We are now the People's Republic of Colorado, controlled by the same anti-capitalists and anti-Americans we see elsewhere in the country.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED

Dear Editor,

### What The Hell Happened

I was discussing the proposed changes to our Charter the other day with a friend and he said, it is up to the young people to make decisions about what kind of government they want. It's the one they will have to live with and that we may be too old to make that decision for them.

I agree with him in the sense that the younger generation does need to be more active with the civic duty of voting and engaging with their elected officials. The younger generation should not rely on me or my peers to set the course for their political livelihood. But then I recall a conversation I had with a young man a few years ago. He said he does not vote because he felt his vote did not carry any weight. That was the same sentiment expressed by a few of his peers.

As I ruminate over the apathy toward voting by the younger generation, 35 and below, I can't help but recall the battles won by the young. The young voter won the right for women to vote. The younger generation had a tremendous impact on the civil rights movement. The younger generation turned around the effort of disenfranchising those of color. And ironically, it was the younger generation who won the right of eighteen-year-olds to vote.

I can understand their apathy to some degree. The two major parties are seemingly always at odds with one another. There is no middle ground today. That is discouraging. But as a reminder, you do not have to commit to a political ideology as your parents may have. Being registered as an unaffiliated voter gives you options. Uncertain about which choice to make, discuss the candidates and issues with friends and family. Weigh their opinions and make a decision.

This is a critical year for our country. Make sure you are registered to vote for the primaries and the mid-terms. DO NOT LET POLITICAL COMPLACENCY SET IN. Don't be that person that in thirty years from now may be asking, what the hell happened?

Dave Stockton – Montrose



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE CSU EXTENSION OFFICE MOVES TO NEW LOCATION TO EXPAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose branch of the Tri-River Area Colorado State University Extension has moved locations to 949 N. 2 Street – next door to the old location at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. The expanded space, first-floor reception, and more centralized location will increase accessibility and allow the organization to keep expanding its operations in the local community as a free/low-cost resource for all.

The Montrose CSU Extension has several areas of public resources related to agriculture and natural resources, including assistance with small acreage management, STEM educational outreach with local schools, classes and resources for food and consumer science, diagnostics and education through the volunteer Colorado Master Gardener Program, and the Montrose County 4-H Program which is currently in preparations for the upcoming Montrose County Fair and Rodeo. Further resources are also available in entomology, horticulture, agronomy, and livestock/range through the larger Tri-River Area Extension serving Montrose County.

With resources reaching thousands throughout the Western Slope, CSU Extension already has a foundation in educational outreach and community support that it intends to expand upon with the introduction of the new space. The office is currently open and ready to receive inquiries, with several classes and events slated to take place throughout the year.

To connect with the Montrose County CSU Extension, please call 970-249-3935 or email [traextension@gmail.com](mailto:traextension@gmail.com) – or stop by the new location Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (closed 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM for lunch).

TRA Extension – Montrose  
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[traextension@gmail.com](mailto:traextension@gmail.com)

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## INFLATION (Over 4% last month!)

By Don Stott

**MONTROSE**-The definition of inflation:

"An increase in the currency supply."

Very simple. Also simple, is "Stott's Law," which states that, "The more of anything there is, the less they will be worth," and conversely, "The less of anything there is, the more they will be worth." Look at any substance, such as water in the desert, or the Colorado River at its end, with water being scarce, it will be worth more, and perhaps in Americas' upper west, where it rains many inches a year, water is cheap. Antique furniture and paintings, or reproductions? Repros are cheap, as they can be reproduced easily. Since there is far more silver than gold in existence so far, my law applies. Silver is cheaper than gold. Any entity you may choose, will fulfill the law, INCLUDING DOLLARS.

There are far too many dollars in existence. How many? A year ago, there were 2,322.9 billion dollars extant. Ten years before that, in 2016, there were 1,163.4 billion dollars in existence. Ten years earlier, in 2006 there were 783.5 billion dollars in circulation, and ten years before that, in 1996 there were 448 billion dollars, being used as we all use them, to purchase things we need or want. The more dollars there are, the less they are worth, and will always take more to buy things.

Let's put the previous two paragraphs together, and now we see that inflation is caused by too many dollars, and the number of dollars have increased each year, for the last 30 years, and 93 years previously, when gold was \$20.67 an ounce, and a candy bar was a nickel. An obvious question then, is "Why do they keep printing dollars, and are they backed by anything? The answer is the increase is needed to pay government bills, and welfare. The dollars are backed by "The full faith and credit of the Federal Government."

What does the Federal Reserve have to do with inflation? All we ever hear is that the Fed is trying to control inflation by increasing the interest rate. The Federal

Reserve's interest rate, is actually the interest rate charged between member banks, and has nothing to do with mortgage rates, other than the bank to bank interest rate, is a convenient measuring device. It would be foolish to loan money at less than the inflation rate, as that would be committing economic suicide. Mortgage and other interest rates, therefore usually follow the Fed's inter-bank rate. The Fed also takes directions from the U.S. Treasury, who needs dollars to pay federal bills. The Treasury orders and the Fed supplies them.

The Fed, by increasing interest rates, figures that when things gets expensive because of high interest, people will stop buying, thereby decreasing the numbers of dollars in circulation, possibly lowering inflation. Not the number of dollars in existence, but by keeping them out of circulation, it may decrease inflation. The dollars are still there, and if inflation goes down a point, maybe a few will buy, or if mortgages go down a point a few will buy a home. It must not work, because last month, inflation was over 4%. Not for a year, but for ONE MONTH.

Why does the Federal Government have so many bills needing to be paid? Answer: Because politicians of both parties, voted for the basic welfare state we are now in, plus the huge size of government and its employees, need to be satisfied. It's the law. If politicians voted America out of its welfare situation, not only would they lose their next election, but if enough politicians decided to balance the budget by cutting out the welfare state, there is no question but mass violence would occur, to a degree that the nation could get into other civil war, with those collecting, fighting against those voting against providing money from the public trough. That possible domestic civil war would probably destroy major cities, which is where most welfare recipients live. The answer is, that in order to preserve peace and civility, You might as well print the money, and hope it won't become worthless, as have all previous un-

baked currencies in the known world.

By consulting consumer prices over the last 93 years, (1933 is when FDR took office and began the welfare state, with government beginning its huge leap up), it has worked! As nickel Cokes, automobiles, and every single consumer price have escalated, with real estate, taxes, health care, transportation, and wages following in lock-step, there has been no civil war, only mild protestations as prices have gone up every single year.

The current situation has been caused by "gradualism." The welfare state has gradually been voted into law, so slowly, that no one was watching, and after all, "The government is paying for it." Really? Since the increase in dollars to pay for what politicians have voted for, to satisfy the poor, sick, lazy, inept, down trodden, and any other explicit situation where people are in need; politicians voted to 'help' those 'needy.' Every other nation in earth's history, has voted itself into extinction by politician approved wars, and politician voted welfare, in all of its facets. It isn't just welfare, but literally hundreds of federal government offices, agencies, and bureaucracies, needing to be paid. With dollars, of course.

As I am writing this on Friday, the Wall Street Journal just arrived and in bold headlines on the front page is, "HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS IN LOANS, FAILS TO DENT GLOBAL POVERTY." It's a very long article, but rather than just printing money, "Microfinancing banks," endorsed by just about every liberal politician, to 'eliminate poverty,' have failed to make a dent into poverty, but made millions fail to make payments on silly loans, and they're worse off now than before. Same as printing money, but handing it out in loans everyone knows will never be repaid, and ruining their recipients' credit ratings. Politicians and foolish banks only made poverty worse, and as the old saying goes, "The poor will always be with us."

Go back into history as far as you please, even before there was paper money, and

# INFLATION (Over 4% last month!) From previous pg

and the same thing happened. In ancient Rome, which had silver coinage, and as the politicians voted more and more welfare and government grew, each silver coin was 'clipped' to save valuable silver, but the clipped coins were required to buy the same things at the same prices. After clipping became so bad, government simply made coins out of diluted silver, and finally out of base metals, as the U.S. did in 1964. A U.S. silver quarter, is now worth \$11.75. In 1964, it was worth a quarter! See why smart people save in silver and gold?

In our Civil War, the North printed its 'greenbacks' to pay its bills, and they became worthless. The South printed their confederate money to pay their bills, and they also became worthless. We all know what happened to the German reichs-

mark after WW I, when it became worthless. I bought my first new diesel Mercedes in 1962 for \$3,000 and diesel fuel was 35 cents a gallon. Now it's over \$5.00 and I don't think Mercedes makes any more diesels. Wouldn't truckers love 35 cent a gallon diesel?

Gradualism, has kept us afloat for almost a hundred years. Prices have gone up a smidgen at a time, and we got used to it and only mildly complained. It wouldn't have done any good anyway, as inflation isn't our fault. If we printed our own dollars, we'd go to jail. What choice do we have? Stop buying food, paying for electricity, gas, or taxes which are imbedded in everything we buy? We can only protect ourselves by insuring ourselves with a policy which goes up in benefits as the dollar goes down. Gold and silver of

course.

As happened in 2011, a couple of months ago, both metals went sky high, and the rush was on. I cannot predict the future, but when something happens very quickly, it all seems to smooth itself out eventually. This past week, with gold up \$125, and silver up \$3.50, I bought a couple of Gold Eagles, which I didn't need, but I couldn't resist.

Last week, a dear elderly lady called me and said that 'Don Stott' sold her some silver in 2009, and was surprised that I was still here. I am, and we had a nice talk. Also a long time customer called and he's six months younger than me, but was delighted to know that his 500 ounce mint box of Silver Eagles were worth \$34,900, if he needs it. Have a good week! [Don@coloradogold.com](mailto:Don@coloradogold.com)



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## COUNTY APPROVES GEOTECH DRILLING TO ASSESS KINIKIN ROAD From pg 1

to make, please bless us all..."

Prior to opening the floor to public comment, BOCC Chair Sue Hansen informed those present that there would not be a public hearing on the Kinikin Road Project. She encouraged those with comments on that Agenda item to bring them forward during the Public Comment Period. Montrose County has been struggling with slope instability at Kinikin Road in recent years following the failure of a buried French drain.

A news release issued by Montrose County in 2023 states, "*Kinikin Road will be closed to traffic between Q72 Road and R71 Road beginning Monday morning, Nov. 20, due to concerns about the stability of the slope along the west side of Dry Cedar Creek, north of R71 Road. The decision to close the road was made following a geotechnical engineering analysis that concluded that the slope is not stable and a catastrophic failure could occur. The analysis also found that there is no quick easy fix to stabilize the slope due to the steepness of slope, the numerous slope failures and shifting of soils near the toe of the slope, and the underlying weathered adobe shales. Sudden slope failures are not uncommon in Western Colorado where roads have been cut into hillsides consisting of adobe clay soils.*"

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Those who spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting addressed the Kinikin Road Agenda item. Common themes emerged during the commentary, although not all speakers were in agreement.

Here are some of the constituent comments: "Vote no on the Kinikin Road Project...I do not believe it is the highest and best use of our taxpayers' money..."

"Seven years of runoff could have been avoided by putting in pipe or some kind of rock wall." "Please keep Kinikin Road going so it is usable..." "Please, please give us our road back..." "The entire hillside is sliding down the hill onto my property..." "You have not conducted a single inspection by an engineer, there's no plan to address the cause of the problem, the water...the cost estimate does not address the problem--water. If you move forward, it will fail..." "It's an insane, catastrophic failure..." "Don't close the road, in fire season it's the only way out..."

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items.

### **MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY**

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority. Two items were approved:

- Renewal of the Beer & Wine Liquor license for Billy Goat Hop Farm, 67181 Trout Road, Montrose, CO 81403, by Billy Goat Hop Farm LLC, license #03-17112; and
- A Special Events Permit for the Montrose County Fair Board, on July 24, 2026, at 1001 N 2nd Street.

### **MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

The BOCC convened as the Montrose County Board of Health.

The first item to be approved was the proposed Amendment to the Board of Health Resolution concerning Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems.

Public Health Director Mirza Ahmed presented a Quarterly Update and Review.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said that the

Kinikin Road situation is a painful process, and that the origin of the water flow is not any one landowner but the failure of a buried French drain. "...This is not any landowner's fault...What we'd really like to do is get this right this time and make sure we assess that flow of water...once complete we're going to have a better idea of the problem at hand."

The board voted to approve geotech drilling to assess the scope of the problem as recommended by Public Works Director Brandon Wallace. Drilling is estimated to cost around \$60K.

### **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Commissioners voted to approve the Pioneer Rezone [RZ26-001] proposal to rezone from General Business (B) to General Commercial at Parcel 376728300032.

The BOCC voted to continue the second planning and development item, a requested waiver from the Subdivision Regulations 3.26.C, wherein each lot will front on an interior dedicated County Road at Parcel 376526400026. The property is a family farm that has been in existence for 100 years, and the owners hope to keep it in existence. The matter was continued until the meeting of July 1, with public comment left open.

The Thornburgh Estates Final Plat [MA26-005] proposal to divide 32.70 acres into 14 lots at Parcel 399335108003 was approved.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioners entered Executive Session with the County Attorney pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f)(I), personnel matters, to discuss the County Attorney's annual performance evaluation.

Following the Executive Session, the meeting was adjourned.



# NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN



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7:00AM-10:00AM

**Monday, August 3**

Olathe High School Gym  
410 US-50, Olathe, CO 81425  
6:30AM-9:30AM

**Tuesday, August 4**

MRH Employee Day  
800 S. 3rd St., Montrose, CO 81401  
6:30AM-9:00AM

**Wednesday, August 5 - Friday, August 7**

Montrose Pavilion  
1800 Pavilion Dr, Montrose, CO 81401  
6:30AM-9:30AM

August 5 & 6, No Walk-Ins  
(registration required)

### Health Fair

**Saturday, August 8**

Montrose Pavilion  
1800 Pavilion Dr, Montrose, CO 81401  
6:30AM-11:00AM

Free community event with blood draws, screenings, wellness booths, giveaways, and expert info!

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## June is Men's Health Month Focus on Your Swing, Not Your Prostate

The Bridges Golf & Country Club

Thursday, June 18

Doors open at 4:30 PM

**Presentation Begins at 5:00 PM**

Join MRH Urology physicians Dr. Craig Peterson and Dr. Michael S. Tonzi for a free community event focused on common urinary and bladder health concerns affecting men as they age. Complimentary appetizers provided.

### Topics to include:

- Urinary difficulty • Frequent urination • Urgency
- Weak urine stream • Bladder/bowel dysfunction
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## MONTROSE CSU EXTENSION OFFICE MOVES TO NEW LOCATION TO EXPAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose branch of the Tri-River Area Colorado State University Extension has moved locations to 949 N. 2 Street – next door to the old location at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. The expanded space, first-floor reception, and more centralized location will increase accessibility and allow the organization to keep expanding its operations in the local community as a free/low-cost resource for all.

The Montrose CSU Extension has several areas of public resources related to agriculture and natural resources, including assistance with small acreage management, STEM educational outreach with local schools, classes and resources for food and consumer science, diagnostics and education through the volunteer Colorado Master Gardener Program, and the Montrose County 4-H Program which is currently in preparations for the upcoming Montrose County Fair and Rodeo. Further resources are also available in entomology, horticulture, agronomy, and livestock/range through the larger Tri-River Area Extension serving Montrose County.

With resources reaching thousands throughout the Western Slope, CSU Extension already has a foundation in educational outreach and community support that it intends to expand upon with the introduction of the new space. The office is currently open and ready to receive inquiries, with several classes and events slated to take place throughout the year.

To connect with the Montrose County CSU Extension, please call 970-249-3935 or email [traextension@gmail.com](mailto:traextension@gmail.com) – or stop by the new location Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (closed 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM for lunch).

TRA Extension – Montrose  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE COUNTY IMPLEMENTS STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – Due to worsening dry conditions, high temperatures, and elevated wildfire danger throughout the region, Montrose County Sheriff Gene R. Lillard has ordered Stage 1 Fire Restrictions for the unincorporated areas of Montrose County effective 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

The restrictions apply to both the east and west ends of unincorporated Montrose County and are intended to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires during a period of heightened fire danger. The restrictions do not apply within the incorporated limits of the City of Montrose, the Town of Olathe, the Town of Naturita, or the Town of Nucla.

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, open burning of any kind is prohibited, including agricultural burning, open campfires, and the use of fireworks. Smoking outdoors is prohibited except when inside an enclosed vehicle or building or within a developed recreation site. Campfires are permitted only in permanently constructed fire grates or enclosed fire pits located in approved campgrounds, state parks, or similar developed recreation areas. Fireworks remain prohibited on publicly managed lands.

The Montrose County Sheriff’s Office works closely with federal agencies and neighboring jurisdictions to monitor local conditions and determine when restrictions are necessary to protect public safety and natural resources. Residents and visitors are encouraged to take proactive steps to reduce wildfire risk by creating defensible space around their homes, adhering to fire restrictions while recreating outdoors, and ensuring any permitted fires are completely extinguished.

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions will remain in effect until they are formally rescinded or until conditions warrant additional restrictions. For the latest information, monitor official communications from [Montrose County](#), [Montrose County Emergency Management](#), and the [Montrose County Sheriff’s Office](#). Regional fire restriction information can be found at [www.westslopefireinfo.com](http://www.westslopefireinfo.com).

## MIRIAM RENTERIA OF SHEPHERD’S HAND TO PRESENT AT FORUM



*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Shepherd’s Hand is a Christian nonprofit organization serving individuals experiencing homelessness and economic hardship in Montrose. Miriam has been a member of the Montrose community for 27 years and is driven by compassion, faith, and commitment to helping those in need. The Shepherd’s Hand provides practical support, resources, and hope to vulnerable individuals and families. Join Forum on Wednesday, June 24th, 8-9 AM, to hear of services provided: meals, clothing, showers, laundry services, housing assistance, employment support, and community-based solutions to help move people toward stability and self-sufficiency.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## RED CROSS URGES WILDFIRE, FLASH FLOOD PREPAREDNESS THIS SUMMER

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION — The American Red Cross of Western Colorado is urging residents to take steps now to be prepared for increased wildfire risks this summer across the region, while also being mindful that rainfalls across burn scars may lead to flash flooding and debris flows.

"This year's warm, dry winter has raised everyone's attention to the possibility that we could have a significant wildfire season in Colorado and Wyoming," said Christie Caster, executive director of the Red Cross of Western Colorado.

"However, any rainfall this summer across new burn scars could also lead to a dangerous flood risk. A few simple steps today can make a big difference if conditions change quickly."

### Three tips to be prepared for wildfire

-Harden your home and yard today, before wildfire risks increase. Clear leaves and dry debris from decks, gutters, patios and near propane grills. Move flammable items like doormats, outdoor furniture cushions and firewood away from your home.

-Have a go bag and a plan. Pack essentials you can grab in minutes: medications, important documents, chargers, water, sturdy shoes, pet supplies and a few days of basics. Set a meeting place and plan at

least two ways out of your neighborhood. -Stay alert and act early. Sign up for local emergency alerts, watch for changing conditions and evacuate immediately if told to do so.

Do not wait to "see what happens" because wind-driven fires can move faster than expected.

Additional [wildfire safety tips](#) can be found on the Red Cross website.

### Flash flooding, debris flows possible across burn scars

In addition to wildfire risks, flash flooding caused by heavy rainfall on top of burn scars remains a danger across the state. According to the National Weather Service, burnt soil can be as water-repellant as pavement, decreasing the amount of rainfall required to cause flooding while also sweeping up debris and remaining ash.

These flows can move faster than you can travel by car and can also cause road closures, as was seen on Interstate 70 in Glenwood Canyon near the Grizzly Creek Fire burn scar.

If you live near a burn scar or in an area prone to flooding, follow these tips from the Red Cross and National Weather Service:

-Have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts and know the difference between a

flash flood watch and warning:

**-A flood/flash flood WATCH** means a flood or flash flood is possible.

**-A flood/flash flood WARNING** means flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or will occur soon. TAKE IMMEDIATE PRECAUTIONS!

-Be prepared to evacuate even without a warning from authorities, as a flash flood or debris flow may happen before a warning can be issued.

### -Remember: Turn Around, Don't Drown!


Never walk, swim, or drive through floodwater and never cross a road or bridge with water or debris flowing. Just 6 inches (15 cm) of fast-moving floodwater can knock you over, and 12 inches (30 cm) can carry your vehicle away.

-Designate a place on higher ground that you can get to quickly. Plan to move to higher ground before flooding begins if you are in an area that is vulnerable to flash flooding or near a burn scar.

Additional [flood safety tips](#) can be found on the Red Cross website.

The Red Cross also encourages everyone to download the free Red Cross Emergency App to help monitor hazards and find safety information.

You can find the Emergency App by searching "American Red Cross" in your app store or by visiting [redcross.org/apps](https://redcross.org/apps).




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## CONSTITUENT ASKS COUNCIL TO MOVE FORWARD FOR UNHOUSED From pg 1

applause, a longtime rule enforced by previous mayors.

First to speak was Charles Vanderwist, who addressed the clerical error-induced budget shortfall facing the City's DART (Development and Revitalization) organization.

"I am aware that there is a \$43,000 asset sitting in the basement of City Hall right now," Vanderwist said. "That depends on DART funding in order to be put to use." The item is a video projector awarded to the custody of DART through a state art grant, he said, to be put to use for a video mural. Not to fund the DART program would be throwing money away.

Cliff Faurer spoke. He said that the City of Montrose is not a constitutional republic, but a home rule city. Also, "As a citizen of Montrose living in District 3, I am grateful that my representative, David Reed, values the non-partisan nature of our Council-Manager form of government, and that he supports having Council elections in April, not November.

"I ask all of you to keep partisan politics out of the City's day-to-day operations and continue to have the Montrose Chief of Police and City Clerk report to the City Manager.

"Please focus your energy on putting the common good above special interests." (*Editor's note, the Montrose City Charter was amended in 2014 to have the Police Chief hired by and under the authority of the City Manager. (Res. No. 2014-06, 1 (Att.), 2-4-2014).*

Dave Stockton spoke next. "As a straight white man, I've never experienced being marginalized..."

Stockton said that he was raised with two gay men who served their country and were marginalized. "They were viewed as outsiders to society."

He noted the lack of a PRIDE Proclamation by the City this year and issued an apology on behalf of himself and his wife, "to the LGBTQ family."

John Brown spoke, commending Council for allowing the interactions and sharing of ideas between the community and council.

Speaker Jennifer Jones discussed the Shepherd's Hand non-profit, which serves the unhoused population of Montrose.

"As of today, it has about two months of operating funds remaining and services are at risk," she said. "...The Shepherd's hand has been largely successful in managing the daily need. If it closes, the majority of the burden will shift to the local population in the form of increased trash, panhandling, loitering, nuisance, petty theft, complaints from businesses, mental health and crisis remediation, incident reports and interactions with police. Enforcement will become the primary mode of management, with varying degrees of success regardless of the severity of enforcement.

"Most municipalities of our size deploy a combination of enforcement with a diversity of resources. If Shepherd's closes it would be the expected and natural outcome of the historical failure of City Management to appropriately partner with service entities to address a critical, longstanding need.

"The issue of homelessness is a major pillar of Mayor Badagliacco's platform. In the March editions of the *Montrose Mirror*, he identified the need for a dedicated City grant writing team to secure grants and public-private partnerships for a full-service unhoused support center."

Jones noted the efforts of a neighboring city. "The City of Delta has successfully implemented a homeless resource center and emergency shelter since 2022. The city owns the infrastructure and secures the grants, however the city made the mistake of allowing city government to oversee the center instead of a service league that specializes in unhoused populations. The City of Delta is now attempting to secure that service entity.

"Mayor Badagliacco rightly identifies the city as a critical partner but an inappropriate lead in steering municipal homeless services," Jones said. "The Mayor's platform goals are needed now. Since January 2026 the Shepherd's Hand has helped 27 chronically unhoused individuals with dual diagnoses secure employment, housing, or treatment, and (Shepherd's Hand) partners with the Workforce Center, Advocates for Recovery, and mental health providers to achieve these outcomes..."

Jones invited the City Council to attend a

special fundraising work session of the Shepherd's Hand board on July 1 at 2pm.

Dennis Vanderwist spoke in favor of correcting the clerical error in DART funding and allowing it to proceed. "...I can't see a reason for not doing it, the funding is there..."

Mayor Badagliacco said that the item is on the agenda for July 7.

Tony Hoag spoke about charter amendments and the process used by the City of Delta to amend its charter in April of 2024 with an elected commission.

Ryan Sedgeley also spoke about the process for amending the charter. "...You're not actually interested in any type of public discussion or anything. This is an agenda from a very small minority and you're trying to ram it down our throats," Sedgeley said. "Ya'll are not the victims and you do not have the majority on your side. So we're watching closely and it really bothers me that you're so willing to just recklessly change the, you know, the charter that says all of the things legally for the city. So willy nilly. So forcefully. And without the consent of the people.

"It's disappointing."

Mayor Badagliacco said that any charter changes would be put on the ballot for the people to vote on.

Councilor Reed thanked Mr. Sedgeley and said that what he has said all along repeatedly is that voting is just one part of the process. "I believe citizens should be involved in developing what the voters will ultimately vote on relative to potential charter amendments...at this time I do believe there's probable support to create the charter commission, and I would encourage you to continue to speak out in favor of that because I believe that's the only way we truly involve our citizens. We can't involve 'em a little bit, We have to involve them in total."

Mayor Badagliacco said, "The charter also has a provision for citizens to present their own amendment that they would like to put in, regardless of whether or not there's a commission. So there is a process for that."

The matter has not been voted on yet but will come before the city in two weeks when Councilor Frank returns, Badagliacco said. "There's not a single person up

## CONSTITUENT ASKS COUNCIL TO MOVE FORWARD FOR UNHOUSED *From previous pg*

here that gets to make that decision, it's...a majority of the council that makes that decision."

Jim Haugsness spoke. Haugsness said that he has three goals in life, to be kind, to be positive, and to be informed. He said that he learned about DART at the recent work session and it is a perfect example of what the city does. "The city uses its resources to help groups succeed in their mission and bring the Montrose community together." Haugsness also praised the State of the City event, and praised City Manager Bill Bell for using city resources to uplift the community. "That's what drives him," Haugsness said. He thanked Bell for creating such an effective organizational culture. "...I just want to say to everybody, I think you are a unique leader."

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

### QUASI-JUDICIAL ITEMS

Council voted to approve an [application for a new Hotel & Restaurant liquor License](#) at 44 S. Grand Avenue/116 W. Main Street, for Star Cajun Seafood Boil Inc., for consumption on the licensed premises.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 3 (CIP3) SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Council voted to approve [\\$4,321,422.25 in expenditures](#) for construction of the Capital Improvement Project 3 (CIP3) Sanitary Sewer Extension Project.

### ORDINANCE 2716 - SECOND READING

Also approved was [Ordinance 2716](#) on second reading, amending Title 5 Chapter 15 Sections 7 and 22, to reflect recodification of certain sections of the Colorado Revised Statutes, creating a Sales Tax Exemption for Precious Metal Bullion and Coins.

Prior to approval, Constituent John Brown asked what percentage of the City's tax base would be lost due to the amendment; Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker said that with around \$26M in General Fund collections in 2025, the loss would be less than one percent.

Ryan Sedgeley asked Council not to pass the Ordinance. "...I'm just confused why this particular business would get an exemption from sales tax. I don't see any additional value...I don't see why that would be extra beneficial to the point we would not want to tax it...we're going to lose that tax revenue which is also concerning on top of that." Mayor Badagliacco said, "It's actually a tax that the people don't pay. It has no relief for the business itself. It's a relief for the people."

### STAFF REPORTS

#### SALES, USE AND EXCISE TAX REPORT

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker delivered the Sales, Use and Excise Tax Report for April, by [collections](#) and by [area](#).

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Adam Woodden said that, with the exception of law enforcement sites, the City's social media platforms would be opened to allow comments.

Councilor J. David Reed said he wanted to share some humorous quips.

"I didn't write these," he said.

The first "humorous" quip was, "I've learned that Democracy isn't the art of agreeing with each other. It's the art of surviving meetings with people you disagree with and coming back next week."

And the final quip, "As one observer of local government said, City councils are proof that Democracy's alive, because no one would admit this process on purpose."

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



## DECORUM IN THE CHAMBERS

We have opened both work sessions and regular Council meetings to greater transparency and public participation. This was done in good faith to honor our commitment to more open government.

In some cases, however, this opportunity has been used to create an atmosphere more like a football game than the official proceedings of this City Council. While this was allowed in previous meetings and work sessions, it is time to restore the decorum these meetings require and deserve. The rules of order read at the beginning of each meeting will be followed. We appreciate the high level of participation we have received and the support from both our citizens and for the proceedings. Showing support for those who come forward to speak is always welcome. However, decorum and respect for everyone in the Council Chambers must be maintained at all times.

If disruptions occur, the proceedings may be recessed or adjourned. **This is the last thing we want to do.** We want to return to the level of decorum that these official proceedings warrant. Respectful dialogue is critical to conducting the people's business efficiently. We convey this expectation clearly to the citizenry and ask for the same in return.

Thank you!

The City Council will not conduct any official meetings over the next two weeks. **We look forward to our nation's 250th anniversary celebration and Colorado's 150th anniversary celebration on July 4th, 2026.** Look for the day's official agenda in next week's Mayor's Minute.

Our next work session is scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2026 at 10 AM. Our next regular Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 6 PM at the City Council Chambers **107 S. Cascade (the old BPOE Civic Building)**

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

Thank you,

**Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"**

Mayor – Montrose, CO



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## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## RESTORING COUNCIL OVERSIGHT IN MONTROSE'S COUNCIL-MANAGER GOVERNMENT

**By Michael J. Badagliacco**

During the 2026 campaign, charter amendments formed the central theme of my platform. Voters in Montrose responded positively to proposals for stronger elected oversight, changes to election timing, term limits, and other reforms. Many voters shared ideas they wanted us to pursue if elected. Two of those ideas involved restoring the Police Chief and City Clerk to the roles they held prior to the 2014 charter amendments. These proposals stood out because they would restore accountability to the people through their elected representatives. However, some now suggest that we should form a citizen commission before advancing any amendments. This approach contrasts with the process used for similar changes in the past and raises questions about consistent standards. When citizens disagree with the outcome of an election it does not and should not compel the elected Council set aside its principles to satisfy those who voted differently. That is not character, that is unfounded capitulation, and *“you don't unplug your values like unplugging a toaster”*. And, I believe it was President Barack Obama who said, *“elections have consequences”*.

### **Home Rule and the Council-Manager**

**Form:** Montrose operates as a home rule municipality under Article XX of the Colorado Constitution. Since adopting the Council-Manager form in 1914, the city has placed policy-making authority with the elected Council. The appointed City Manager, who serves at the pleasure of the Council, executes those policies through daily administration. The City Attorney and the Municipal Judge also report directly to the Council. Until the 2014 changes, the Chief of Police and City Clerk followed the same structure. This structure reflects the republican form of government, with elected representatives

directly accountable to voters at the ballot box.

**Council Policy-Making Authority:** The Council adopts ordinances, approves budgets, sets priorities, and provides overall direction. The Manager's role is administrative execution within the framework established by the Council. The Manager holds no independent policy-making power. The job is administration and execution of Council policies.

**When the Manager Crosses into Policy Territory:** Difficulties arise when an appointed manager gains control over positions that shape policy in practice.

- The Police Chief determines how public safety policy takes shape on the ground. This includes departmental culture, enforcement priorities, and community engagement within the legal and policy boundaries set by the Council. Granting the Manager sole authority to hire, fire, or direct the Police Chief effectively transfers to an unelected administrator the practical authority to implement policy in a critical area where responsibility properly rests with the elected Council.

- The City Clerk serves as custodian of official records, keeper of the city seal, and administrator of elections and Council proceedings. These duties protect transparency and the integrity of processes. Direct accountability to the elected Council helps ensure these functions align with the will of the people rather than becoming insulated within the administration.

**The 2014 Change:** *Resolution 2014-06* shifted hiring, firing, and reporting responsibility for the Police Chief and City Clerk from a shared Council and Manager process to the Manager alone. That change gave the appointed administrator policy-level leverage over two of the city's most visible and consequential functions and lengthened the accountability chain.

**Restoring the Proper Balance Through Home Rule:** Many Colorado home rule

municipalities have retained Council appointment or confirmation authority over the Police Chief and City Clerk in their charters. They recognize that these roles carry policy weight and that clear lines of responsibility from voters to elected representatives strengthen good governance. Those municipalities that have not taken this step risk blurring the lines between policy-making and administration. Home rule equips Montrose residents with strong tools, ***citizens have the right to petition directly for charter amendments for direct placement on the ballot.*** While the Council can propose amendments, debate them in public, and place them before voters for approval. This honors the principle that local citizens, through their elected representatives, hold final authority over the structure of their government. *With a citizen commission the Council has the right to accept, reject any or all of the commission's recommendations or propose their own amendments before submitting for voter approval on the ballot.*

Both the 2014 change and the proposed 2025 amendments followed the normal Council process *without a citizen commission*. Applying a different standard now simply because the majority has shifted does not strengthen public trust. Consistent rules, applied evenly, build confidence in local government.

**Realigning with Representative Governance:** Restoring meaningful Council oversight through ***voter-approved charter amendments*** would realign Montrose with the foundational premise of its Council-Manager form. The people, acting through their elected Council, would once again hold clear policy-making authority while the Manager focuses on the important work of execution and administration.

That is the promise of home rule and representative governance in action.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CONCRETE WORK UNDERWAY AT MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL



Alliance Ready Mix pouring concrete at the new Montrose Veterans Memorial site June 17, 2026. Photo by J. Bob Brueske.



Double A workers finishing the concrete in the forms at the Montrose Veterans Memorial site June 17, 2026. Photo by J. Bob Brueske.



Raul Pallares, owner of Double A Landscaping, has offered a variety of in-kind services to the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition. Photo by J. Bob Brueske.

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- "Like a kid at Christmas." That is what J. Bob Brueske, Montrose Veterans Memorial Board of Director chairman, said as he witnessed Alliance Ready Mix pouring concrete at the new memorial site at 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colo. Wednesday, June 17, 2026. "It was like opening presents watching this finally happening." A memorable day. "Alliance is one of our major in-kind donors," Brueske said, "and the same with Double A." It was two of the bigger donors to the memorial coming together in a big

way, he said. "It went well," he said, "and now we're going to have construction meetings with Stryker Co. once a week starting next week. "Keeping the process moving," he said. Stryker Co. senior project manager Brian Stahlin was onsite monitoring the work as the bases were being formed and he agreed with Brueske that it is now time for weekly meetings to help keep everything on track. Brueske said construction of the Montrose Veterans Memorial should be wrapped up this fall and at that time there

will be ribbon cutting and brick-laying ceremonies. Details on upcoming events and donations and much more at [www.montrosevmc.org](http://www.montrosevmc.org).

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO STATE PATROL WANTS RIDERS TO ANTICIPATE THE UNPREDICTABLE

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO – Taking in the breathtaking rock formations and snow-covered peaks of Colorado’s Western Slope on a motorcycle is frequently regarded as some of the most enjoyable and memorable experiences for any rider. Each year, hundreds of riders make it a priority to experience routes like the San Juan Mountain Skyway, the Waldon Loop, or the Peak to Peak Highway. If a Colorado route is in your summer plans, the Colorado State Patrol wants you to get prepared by knowing your route before heading out.

In addition to not bringing cold-weather gear, one of the most concerning mistakes a rider can make is failing to mentally prepare for the changing weather, elevation, and road conditions that are a part of any ride through the Rockies. “Taking the time to watch some of our troopers’ dashcam video footage of popular routes can be a helpful way to plan and anticipate a variety of conditions that are common here on the western slope,” stated Major David Rollins, District 4 Commander of the Colorado State Patrol.

“The roads are often bumpy and uneven due to extreme weather, and while these things aren’t new to bikers, we want you to stay alert and focused on the road as you enjoy the serenity of riding in the mountains.”

In 2025, Colorado State troopers investigated 688 motorcycle crashes, 441 of which caused injury and 54 were fatal. Looking specifically at the western slope of the state, 156 of these crashes occurred there. The top causal factors for motorcycle crashes investigated by the Patrol are lane violations, speed and distracted driving. Each year, troopers cite dozens and dozens of riders for operating without the proper motorcycle endorsement on their license.

In addition to watching for changes in the surface of the road, Troopers also want riders to plan on encountering several conditions throughout their ride:

- Blind corners with sheer rock face on both sides of the road
- No shoulders or narrow shoulders with sharp drop-offs
- Rocks, gravel and other debris from snow melt
- Switchbacks and tight corners with little preparation time
- Congestion from RVs and vehicles towing boats/ATVs
- Potholes, bumps, weather-damaged surfaces


To help get ready for your ride, visit [Colorado State Patrol’s Super Cruising](#) web page to watch videos on your selected roadway or similar ones in the area.

As part of a recreational travel awareness campaign to Colorado’s western slope, Super Cruising in Colorado, the Colorado State Patrol has created a web resource to help visitors prepare for the scenic byways and mountain roadways throughout the area, as well as common traits of two-lane roads.


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is an agent  
handling the problems  
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DMEA HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING: EXPECTS FUTURE YEAR RATE INCREASES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) welcomed over 500 members and guests from across Montrose and Delta counties to its 2026 Annual Meeting on June 18 at Olathe High School. The event combined cooperative business with family-friendly activities, highlighting the power of membership and the cooperative's continued commitment to reliability, affordability, and community investment.

This year's theme, "Activate Your Superpowers," celebrated the unique role members play in shaping the cooperative's future. Attendees participated in interactive activities, enjoyed food and entertainment, connected with employees and directors, and learned about the accomplishments that defined the past year.

"Our cooperative's strength comes from our members," said CEO Jack Johnston.

"Whether you attended the annual meeting, voted in elections, participated in community programs, or simply trusted us to power your home and business, you play an important role in our success. Together, we're building a strong future for the communities we serve."

During the business meeting, DMEA leaders highlighted a strong year of financial performance, electric reliability, broadband expansion to 10 zones and the City of Delta, participation in the Commitment

to Zero safety initiative through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and community impact with sponsorships to over 70 organizations. Members heard updates on the retirement of \$3.4 million in capital credits, investments in system modernization and wildfire mitigation, participation in the Light Up Navajo initiative, and more than \$100,000 in scholarships awarded to local students.

A key topic during the meeting was rates. "We want to be upfront with our members about what we see on the horizon," said Johnston. "We expect there may be a need for rate increases over the next few years. Rising transmission costs, new resource adequacy requirements, and inflation are all increasing the cost of providing safe, reliable electricity. It's our job to manage the costs we can control before we ever ask members to pay more."

Johnston stressed that the cooperative is working on finding ways to keep costs down without sacrificing the reliability our members depend on.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, DMEA operates differently from investor-owned utilities. Every decision is made with members' best interests in mind, not with shareholder returns in mind. Through prudent financial management, strategic power supply partnerships, and ongoing investments in reliabil-



*DMEA Courtesy photo.*

ity and efficiency, DMEA continues to provide dependable electric service while positioning the cooperative for a strong future. "Our fundamental responsibility and promise to our members is to deliver reliable power to their homes while keeping bills as low as is responsible," finished Johnston.

Lastly, members also voted on a proposed amendment to DMEA's Articles of Incorporation regarding director term limits. The measure did not pass. A strong voter turnout yielded 4,843 votes overall; 2,336 for and 2,507 against.

DMEA extends its appreciation to the members, employees, and community partners who helped make the 2026 Annual Meeting a success. To view the livestream of the meeting, please visit [fb.com/dmeacoop](https://fb.com/dmeacoop). Members can view the [2025 annual report online](#).

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By Connor Visser, AAMS®

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One of the most important questions I receive along these lines is, "Are you a fiduciary?" A fiduciary financial advisor is one who is legally and ethically bound to put your best interests first, even above their own compensation. They must provide unbiased advice and eliminate or fully disclose any potential conflicts of interest. It's also important to understand that there is a difference between an advisor acting as a fiduciary versus specific account types that may be held to a fiduciary standard, regardless of how the advisor, themselves is regulated.

Knowing how your advisor and the firm they work with are compensated, as well as any potential risks or limitations, is a great first step to understanding how the partnership works.

Whether you're preparing for retirement, running a business, or simply seeking greater confidence in your financial future, knowing that your advisor is acting in your best interests can provide peace of mind and hopefully a little more sleep at night.

**Investment advisory services offered through Holistic Planning, a registered investment adviser. The views expressed represent the opinion of Holistic Planning. Information does not constitute investment, tax, or legal advice.**



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## NONE OF US HAVE A MONOPOLY ON WISDOM

*Editor:*

In a healthy democracy, public service does not belong only to elected officials. Citizenship is also a form of public service.

When I served as a Montrose County Commissioner, the people I worked with, whether elected, appointed, or employed, were not merely representatives of an ideology. They were stewards of institutions, budgets, infrastructure, public safety, and public trust.

Their responsibility was not to champion ideas. Their responsibility was to make decisions, accept accountability, and adjust when circumstances changed. That requires something more than conviction. It requires humility.

One of the most important lessons public service taught me is that ideology starts with answers, but governance starts with questions.

-What problem are we trying to solve?

-What are the tradeoffs?

-What evidence do we have?

-What happens if we are wrong?

Those questions sound simple. In practice, they are difficult and uncomfortable.

As I watch local boards and committees today, priorities continue to compete for attention and resources. Should we repair roads or expand facilities? Spend more today or save for tomorrow? Those questions rarely come with perfect answers.

What I learned over the years is that better outcomes often emerge when people are willing to listen, reconsider, and be persuaded by better information. None of us have a monopoly on wisdom.

Public service is open to everyone. But governing well requires more than a willingness to serve. Can you listen? Can you evaluate competing information? Can you manage a budget? Can you work with people who disagree with you? Can you make difficult decisions when every option carries controversial consequences?

Those are governance questions.

And they matter regardless of ideology.

I have had the opportunity to serve on boards, councils, committees, and in elected office. I have met people with strong opinions who struggled to govern effectively. I have also met people whose politics differed dramatically from my own, but who knew how to listen, deliberate, compromise, and solve problems. Almost invariably, the enduring work was accomplished by the latter. That may be the most important lesson public service taught me. Communities are not built by certainty. They are built by people willing to learn, listen, adapt, and keep showing up.

Like any craft, governance is never mastered; it is learned, applied and refined over time.

*David Gann*

*Neighbors for Good Governance*

*David Gann is a 48-year Montrose County resident whose experience includes farming, ranching, County Commissioner, natural resource management, and consultant for the Gateway Canyons Expert-in-Residence Program .*



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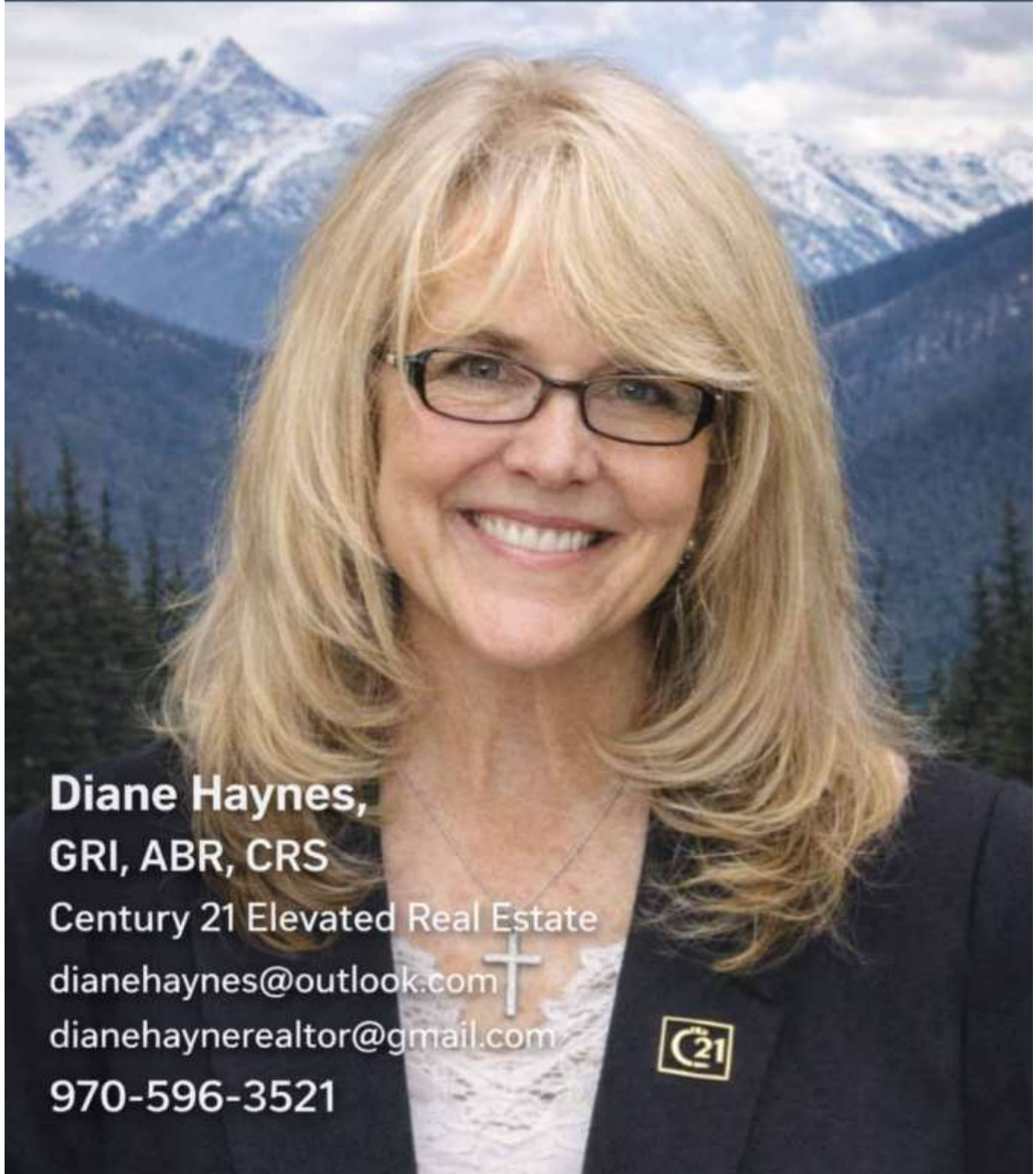
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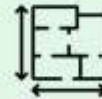
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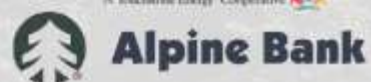
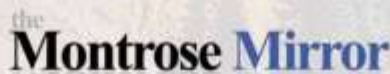
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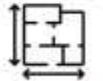
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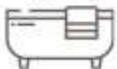
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## TELLURIDE ARTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TELLURIDE HISTORICAL MUSEUM PRESENT *THIS IS COLORADO (IN ONE SQUARE FOOT)* *More than 120 Community Artists Share Their Colorado Story*

### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE - What does Colorado look like through the eyes of the people who live here? This spring, as part of the local effort to celebrate America's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th anniversary, Telluride Arts in partnership with the Telluride Historical Museum invited the community to explore this question by submitting artworks for *This Is Colorado (In One Square Foot)*, the region's first community-wide art project. More than 120 artists, ranging from first-time participants to professional creatives, accepted the challenge of telling a Colorado story on a canvas measuring just one square foot, and now their work is ready to be unveiled to the public.

"As San Miguel County's lead representative to the State of Colorado's Southwest Region Local Organizing Committee for the commemoration of the twin anniversaries, the Museum was looking to get the community involved in the festivities in a way that was both meaningful and appropriate to the county," Telluride Historical Museum Executive Director, Kiernan Lannon explained.

"What better way to engage this community than through art and history? When I

mentioned the possibility to Jessica Galbo, Telluride Arts' Executive Director, she took the idea and ran with it in an incredibly exciting direction, creating this new community art project."

Designed to be as inclusive as possible, Telluride Arts offered multiple opportunities for participants to create together, hosting free community canvas events at its gallery headquarters, Ah Haa School for the Arts, and in Mountain Village. These gatherings welcomed artists of all ages and experience levels, resulting in more than 100 completed canvases and creating new opportunities for community members to connect, share stories, and celebrate Colorado through art.

Presented with the generous support from the Town of Mountain Village, TMVOA, and CCAASE, *This is Colorado (In One Square Foot)* will be on view from June 24 through Aug. 1, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, at two locations: Telluride Properties on the Plaza in Mountain Village and Telluride Arts HQ Gallery in Telluride.

"Seeing these beautiful individual works come together in a single exhibition has been both inspiring and moving," said Melannie Tavano, Telluride Arts Commu-

nity Partnerships Coordinator, who is installing the exhibition. "The project transforms over one hundred personal stories into one powerful community portrait of Colorado."

The public is invited to a progressive opening reception on June 24, beginning from 4–5 p.m. at **Telluride Properties on the Plaza in Mountain Village** and continuing from 5–6 p.m. at **Telluride Arts HQ Gallery in Telluride**.

Visitors will have the opportunity to meet participating artists and experience the exhibition across both venues.

"It's been an absolute pleasure to partner with Telluride Arts on this effort," Lannon added. "Knowing how passionate and creative this community is, I can't wait to see what the participants cooked up. I'm guessing that folks will really enjoy this exhibit."

Following an overwhelming response in its inaugural year, Telluride Arts plans for the project to become an annual tradition with a different theme each year, creating a growing archive of community stories and artistic perspective. Visit [www.telluridearts.org/co-250-150](http://www.telluridearts.org/co-250-150) for more information or email [info@telluridearts.org](mailto:info@telluridearts.org).

News, if unreported, has no impact.  
It might as well have not happened at all.

Thank you for reading *The Montrose Mirror*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CITIZEN CHARTER COMMISSIONS ARE A ROOTED IN GOOD GOVERNANCE

Editor:

Every decade, the U.S. Census tells us who we are and how we've changed. It shows how our neighborhoods have grown, how our demographics have shifted and how our needs as a city have evolved. But while we regularly update our demographic data, we rarely update the document that defines how we as a city govern ourselves — the city charter. That should change with a Citizens Charter Commission.

On July 7, the City of Montrose City Council will vote on whether to create a Citizens Charter Commission to review THE ENTIRE City of Montrose charter. A "Yes" vote to a Citizens Charter Commission review, means the City of Montrose City Council is committed to transparency, self-reflection, accountability, civic engagement and improvement. A "yes" vote would mean residents will have a formal role in shaping how their city operates. And it means our government will hopefully be better connected to the people it serves.

Mayor Badagliacco is proposing eight consequential amendments be sent directly to Montrose voters for this November 2026 election. But he objects to the participation of citizens in a Citizens Charter Commission BEFORE making these very consequential changes to the City of Montrose charter. He essentially believes his job is to legislate for ALL the citizens having been elected on a slim margin of 31 votes, (City of Montrose, Elections).

Citizen Charter Commissions are a simple idea rooted in good governance: when needed or once every decade, the city could and should convene a group of residents — qualified electors from across our neighborhoods — to take a thoughtful look at our charter, engage the public and recommend improvements to ensure our government remains accountable, transparent and responsive to the people it serves. It provides a mechanism to modernize our structure of government. The City of Montrose is not the same city it was 50, 20 or even 10 years ago. We've seen new residents move in, new industries move in (MayFly Outdoors) and some leave (Russell Stovers), new environmental and economic realities and new expectations of what local government should be. That logically means that many of the city's charter provisions may reflect a Montrose of the past and not the Montrose of today.

Citizen committees can improve coordination, transparency and accountability. When done right, this process gives the public a voice with a structure, purpose and follow-through. The city government should never be afraid of review — in fact, the healthiest governments invite it. Creating a Citizens Charter Review commission ensures we never fall behind on our progress. Citizen Commissions aren't a new or radical idea. Across the United States, cities have long relied on charter review committees every decade or as needed. These commissions have given residents a formal seat at the table to assess how their local government is working, served as a "check and balance" on their electeds and whether the charter still meets community needs. Utilizing these commissions is how strong, self-aware cities govern themselves. By establishing a Citizens Charter Commission to review the proposed amendments to our charter, we are embracing the inherent civic spirit that resonates with many Americans and our neighbors in Montrose. Please call and email all the City of Montrose City Council members and ask them to vote "yes" for a Citizens Charter Commission. And then attend the next City Council meetings: July 6 at 10 am & July 7 at 6 pm, 107 S. Cascade Ave, Montrose, Upper Chambers.

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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## JENNIE (LEDESMA) CRUZ

### *December 14, 1925 — June 18, 2026*

On June 18, 2026, our Dear Aunt Jennie, passed away peacefully exactly where she wanted to be, in her own home and in her own bed. Her niece, Shirley Barnes, remained by her side from the first day she was under Hope West Hospice care until the day she passed away.

Jennie (Ledesma) Cruz was born in Delta, CO on December 14, 1925. Her parents, Antonio and Francisca (Vasquez) Ledesma settled in Delta's "Gunnison Valley" in the 1920's.

Jennie grew up in Delta with her parents, four brothers and two sisters.

On November 19, 1949, Jennie married Joe Cruz from Montrose, CO and they shared 49 years of marriage before Joe passed away in 1998. Joe and Jennie lived in Sunnyvale, CA and Brigham City, Utah and after Joe retired they decided to move back to the Western Slope of Colorado and bought their home in Montrose, CO in 1991. Together they enjoyed traveling, enjoyed fishing for trout in CO, UT and ID, visiting family, hosting family get-together's, playing Bingo, playing cards and would take trips with family to Mesquite, NV to play the slot machines.

On December 14, 2025, Jennie celebrated her 100th Birthday and she received many, many Birthday cards from family

and friends that wanted to celebrate her milestone birthday. Jennie was asked what her secret was to living to 100 and she would reply that she did not know and that it was a mystery to her why she lived to 100. We think her secret was that she always lived an active life, never overweight, never smoked, never drank alcohol, always helped others and was always ready to make a trip to explore a new area and take on another adventure. Jennie was known to tell younger family members to "Enjoy your life" and "Do it while you can" which is great advice from someone who did just that.

Jennie's husband, Joe Cruz; her brothers, Joe Ledesma, Miguel (Michael) Ledesma, Lane Ledesma and Tony Ledesma; her sisters, Frances Mena and Margie Lobato and all of her in-laws preceded her in death. Jennie leaves behind many nieces and nephews and a dear friend, Jo Trice, who for the past 10 plus years has played cards with her on weekends and referred to her as "Mama Jennie."

We would like to thank everyone that made it possible for Jennie to remain in her home until her death. The Shepherd's Hand Senior Meals program, especially the volunteers that delivered her meals and volunteers Lucy and Susan who al-



ways spent time talking with her and made a point to check on her. Her physicians, Dr. Gayle Frazetta, Dr. Charles Harper and Dr. Dane Stewart who all treated her with compassion and provided the best medical care. Hope West Hospice staff and nurses that assisted in her care during the last days of her life.

At Jennie's request, there will not be a memorial service. At a later date, Jennie will be placed with her husband, Joe Cruz, in Cedar Creek Cemetery.

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## ROSE MARIE ROBINSON

*June 1944 - June 6, 2026 -Age 81*

ROSE MARIE ROBINSON, 81, of Montrose, Colorado passed away June 6, 2026 — brave and real and completely herself until the very last breath.

A lifelong Montrose resident, Rose was a woman of deep faith, she retired here as an office manager for a local medical practice. She loved gardening, reading, golf, and in her younger years, horseback riding.

She was grit wrapped in grace — the kind of person people chose, not because they had to, but because they wanted to be near her.

She is survived by her daughters Collette and Pam; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; one sister; two brothers; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Curtis Robinson; her daughter Jill; sister Anna; niece Janice; nephew Billy; and her former husband Martin Pierson.

A Celebration of Life will be held September 6, 2026.

"We love you, Momma. Every single real, complicated, beautiful part of you." — Collette and Pam



## PHOEBE JEAN (MILLER) KIRK

*March 30, 1929 — June 10, 2026*



PHOEBE KIRK has been a resident of Montrose, Colorado since 1992. She is pre-deceased by her husband Robert E. Kirk in 2018. She was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas and eventually resided in the Fort Worth, Texas area where she worked as an Office Administrator for the railroad and various construction companies all while raising "four" children.

She is survived by her loving son Dwayne Allbritton and his wife Anita Allbritton of Delta, Colorado, a daughter Lana Driggers of Montrose, Colorado, a daughter Mickie Holcomb of Weatherford, Texas, grandson Brett Allbritton of Crawford, Colorado, and Courtney Sands of Houston, Texas, Kristopher Driggers of Montrose, Colorado., Larry Jr., Bubba, and Carrie of Weatherford, Texas, Wesley Jr. and Crystal from the Cleburne, Texas area.

She is also survived by 12 great grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren. She outlived her brother

Wayne Miller of Grand Prairie, Texas.

Phoebe Kirk was wholly devoted to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, she was fully committed to carry out her earthly mission to share the unconditional "love", mercy, and saving grace of our Lord. Her favorite Bible verse among many was Romans 8:18; "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

## MARY JEAN BOWER

*1933-2026*

Teacher, student, poet, painter, and friend. Jean died peacefully at her home in Montrose, Colorado. There will be a family memorial at a later date.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## SUZANNE SCHOTTEL

*April 18, 1954 — June 10, 2026*

Loving Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother

SUZANNE BLACKE was born on April 18, 1954, in Denver, Colorado, to William Railey Blacke and Frances Irene Hinkle, who later remarried and became Frances Irene Clapper. She attended school in the Denver area and enjoyed a lively childhood with her brothers Stephen, William, and Reginald, later welcoming her sister Julia.

Suzanne was the proud mother of four children: Michelle, Brett, Angie, and Jack. She primarily raised them on her own until March 1990, when she married Jewel Schottel. Suzanne and Jewel later divorced in 2019. Jewel preceded her in death in 2023.

Suzanne held many jobs throughout her life, but she found her calling in law enforcement. She earned her POST certification through the Delta-Montrose Vocational School and began working at the Montrose County Sheriff's Office in 1987 as a correctional officer. She retired in 1999 and later served as a deputy with the San Miguel County Sheriff's Office from 2000 - 2006. She returned to the Montrose County Sheriff's Office as a communications officer from 2006 to 2015 and concluded her law enforcement career at WestCo Dispatch in 2018.

Suzanne raised her children with a firm and loving hand, helping them grow into

strong, independent, and considerate adults.

Her children and grandchildren could always count on her for advice, a delicious home-cooked meal, a sense of humor, sometimes at the most unexpected or inappropriate moments, and Always unconditional love.

She cherished time with family, whether she was playing games, listening to music and dancing, cooking for holidays and special occasions, or sharing treasured memories.

Suzanne also loved the outdoors and found joy in gardening, tending flowers, fishing, and riding her four-wheeler in the mountains. Her love for animals earned her the affectionate nickname "Dr. Doo-little" among family and friends.

Suzanne will be remembered for her sense of humor, her compassion for others, and her willingness to speak her mind. She was quick with a joke to lighten the mood and equally ready to offer comfort and counsel in times of trouble.

After a long-fought battle with cancer, Suzanne is now at peace. Her legacy lives on through her family and all who loved her.

Children: Michelle Rae McKeehan; Brett Russell McKeehan (Jacque); Angela Jean Walraven; and Jack Russell McKeehan III.

Grandchildren: Nickolas William Chamblin Larkins (Rachel), Reanna Mae Law-



horn, Dawson Railey Walraven, Garrett Lynn Walraven (Anayeli), Colton Blake Walraven, Joshua Lee Walraven, Jeremy Lynn Walraven (Katelyn), and Jacob Landon Walraven; their father, Robert Lynn Walraven; her great-grandchildren, Liliana Mae Jones, Reign Elizabeth Larkins, Whit-lee, Isaac, Athena, and Jacob Jr. Walraven; her siblings, Reginald Blacke (Patty) and Julia Stockemer (Scott); and many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, William Railey Blacke (June); her mother, Frances Irene Clapper (Paul); and her brothers, Stephen and William Blacke.



## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **BRET GUNAR BRACHMAN-GOLDSTEIN** *October 20, 1993 — June 10, 2026*



Bret was born in Summit NJ and spent his formative years in Maplewood, NJ where he grew up in a happy home with mother Dina Brachman, father Neil Goldstein, sister Lara and brother Seth. Bret and Lara

were close to their maternal uncles, Erik and Armand. Bret attended St. Peter's Prep High School in Jersey City and went on to graduate from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA where he excelled academically and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology and Economics. Bret's competitive nature and work ethic led him to play numerous sports, but his true passion was lacrosse where he received numerous accolades including being named an All-State player in high school and he was a valued teammate in college. After college Bret was laser focused on moving to Colorado to be near the mountains. He went on to have a successful analytics career that propelled businesses forward at various companies. He received recognition awards in every job that he held.

Bret's love of the outdoors began early, nurtured by family trips to state and national parks that sparked his lifelong pas-

sion for the mountains. He moved to Denver after graduating from college and eventually settled in the San Juan Mountains where he lived in Montrose for the past 5 years. Bret found a home and a place where he was truly free among the peaks with a community of wonderful friends that shared a boundless enthusiasm for wild places only the mountains could provide. Bret's adventurous spirit found him hiking, climbing, running, mountain biking, and back country skiing. Bret tragically died in a fall while climbing one of his favorite 14K Colorado peaks, Mt. Sneffels. Bret had climbed this mountain countless times alone and with his friends and his soul eternally remains within her embrace. His friends and family celebrate a life lived well and fully. His spirit continues to inspire us to follow our passions with friends and family and to absorb the love and beauty that surrounds us.

### **KENT STRUBLE**

### *September 21, 1962 — June 10, 2026*

KENT STRUBLE, 63, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully at home on June 10, 2026, after a short battle with cancer.

Kent was born on September 21, 1962, in Denver, Colorado, to Donald and Lee Struble. He spent his childhood in Lakewood, Colorado, and graduated from Bear Creek High School. He later attended Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

Kent built a successful career in hydraulics and pneumatics and was the owner of Struble Fluid Power in Denver, Colorado. He was known for his strong work ethic, technical expertise, and commitment to serving his customers and colleagues.

On June 10, 2013, Kent married the love of his life, Barbara Struble, in Jackson, Wyoming. Together they shared many happy years and made their home in Ken Caryl, Salida, and lastly, Montrose. Kent was a devoted husband, son and brother.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Struble of Montrose; his father, Donald Struble; his mother, Lee Struble; and sister, Kari Struble. He also leaves behind many friends, extended family members, and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Kent was a member of Cross Roads Baptist Church, in Poncha Springs. In his free time, he enjoyed woodworking, fishing, skiing, and rescuing Labrador Retrievers. He found great joy in the outdoors, working with his hands, and spending time with family and friends. Those who knew him will remember his love of German food and his sense of humor.

Kent will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, determination, and the lasting impact he made on the lives of those around him. His memory will continue to live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

A memorial service will be held on July 11, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Cross Roads Baptist Church in Poncha Springs, Colorado, with



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## DARSHON WALKER

*January 14, 1982- June 12, 2026*

DARSHON WALKER was born in Lovell, Wyoming January 14, 1982 to Terry Sawyer Walker and Sharleen Rowley. Her family moved to Montrose, Colorado in July 1983. Darshon attended Olathe and Montrose Schools. She was chosen as the Montrose FFA Sweetheart and selected as the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Queen in 2000. She was active in 4-H and FFA. She graduated from Montrose High School in 2000.

Darshon met Tim Montover while working in Grand Junction, Colorado. They were married in July 2003. To that union was born Rosalie Joe Montover and Lukas Leno Montover. Her children were her whole world. They spent a lot of time jeeping, going to the family cabin and elk hunting. This marriage ended in divorce in 2018.

Darshon worked for Rifle School District RE-2 at Elk Creek Elementary in New Castle, emergency dispatch for Garfield County and Garfield County Courts. In the courts she started out as a Judicial Court Assistant and finished her career as Supervisor of the Rifle Courts. Darshon was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019. She fought the disease with chemo and surgery and beat it and the cancer came back in 2022. She fought it again with chemo, surgery and radiation and the final diagnosis was in November of 2024. She did chemo pills for a bit but decided to live her life to the fullest.

She met Diego Pina while working at Garfield County Courts. Her life with Diego was full of adventures and travels. Diego helped her through all of her sicknesses and surgeries, and they had a lot of fun together. Their dog Jizzy was the third child, and he brought lots of joy, comfort and support.

In the summer of 2025 and Diego separated, and she moved back to her hometown of Montrose to be near her family. Darshon was very outgoing, bubbly and her love was unconditional to everyone she met. She could light up a random stranger's day with just her radiant smile. She was a bright ray of sunshine in our lives. She will be missed terribly, and she fought until the end.

She was preceded in death by her Grandpa Robert Bassett Walker, Grandma Yvonne Sawyer Walker, Grandma Rosalie Gardner Rowley and sister Michelle Walker. She is survived by her Grandpa DeLyle Rowley (Mary), her parents Terry and Sharleen Walker, her sisters Helen Gray (Brandon), Brenda Brown, (Tanner), Cassie Gleason (Dusty), daughter Rosalie (Tanner Prestholt) and son Lukas, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

There will be a Celebration of Life held on July 3rd at 4pm. Please contact a family member for details.



## TAYLOR JOE RAY

*July 5, 1959-June 15, 2026*



TAYLOR JOE RAY passed away peacefully on Monday June 15, 2026, in Montrose, Co, surrounded by his loved ones.

Taylor was born on July 5, 1959, in Delta Colorado to Emory and Carol Ray. Taylor spent his childhood living in Big Cimmaron and later moved to Little Cimmaron in 1971. Taylor was a third generation sawmiller and at age 10 he began working for the family business by feeding logs to the sawmill from a pond. This early responsibility instilled in him a strong work ethic which he carried with him throughout his life.

Taylor attended Montrose High School where he excelled in basketball. He graduated from MHS in 1977. On February 24, 1979, Taylor married Cathy Trujillo in Montrose Colorado, and they welcomed three sons, Travis, Tyler, and Taylor "Cole".

In 1985 Taylor and his brother, Jim, took over the family sawmill. Taylor was the main log hauler for the company, and he loved to spend time in the logwoods. He and his brother ran the company successfully for 30 years.

Taylor is survived by sons; Travis (Norma) Ray, Tyler Ray, Cole (Elizabeth) Ray; grandchildren, Kirra, Jada, and Maya Ray, Samantha Ray, and Parker Ray; great grandchild Amara Ray; siblings, Jim (Sue) Ray and Sheila Menzel.

Taylor was preceded in death by his parents, Emory and Carol (Shelly) Ray.

A funeral service in honor of Taylor's life will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026, 2:00pm at Grace Baptist Church, 1020 S. 5th St. Montrose, CO. Interment will follow at Grand View Cemetery, Montrose, CO.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to Grace Baptist Church.

ISSUE 578 June 22, 2026

# ART & SOL

## MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS PRESENTS MATERIAL MATTERS 2: COLORADO FIBER ART

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) invites the public to join us for *Material Matters 2: Colorado Fiber Art*, where Colorado fiber artists share their love of fabrics, textiles, fibers, yarn, and threads and revel in their magical creations.

The exhibit runs from June 30 through August 7 in the MCA main gallery, located at 205 E. Main St., Montrose, Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The reception will take place on Thursday, July 9, from 5 – 7 p.m. (in conjunction with the Montrose Art Crawl 4- 8 p.m.). The gallery is always free to the public to visit.

There will be three artists' talks at the Montrose Center for Arts throughout the *Material Matters 2* exhibit. Each will start at 6 p.m.

-On July 15, Ann Dettmer "Trust the Process"

-On July 22, Jan Warren "Creating Original Fabric with Screen Printing, Color and Dyes"

-On July 29, Jo Fittsell "Explore the Work in Material Matters 2: Colorado Fiber Art"

The MCA exhibit will complement and enhance the Black Canyon Quilt Show taking place July 10- 12 at the Montrose Pavilion Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (visit [www.blackcanyonquiltshow.com](http://www.blackcanyonquiltshow.com) for more details).

The theme of the Black Canyon Quilt Show this year is "Stars of the Black Canyon." Tickets are \$5.

This year, the Raffle Quilt is titled "Snowflake." MCA is grateful to **Clubb's**

**Fabric** located in Delta, Colorado at 417 Main Street for sponsoring this exhibit.

Clubb's has a long tradition of providing fabrics, sewing supplies and more to the fabric art community on the Western Slope.

You will find fabrics of all kinds for your apparel, quilting, craft, costume, home decor, and auto upholstery needs, as well as all the sewing threads and notions to help finish a project. Visit the website at [www.clubbstore.com](http://www.clubbstore.com) for more information.

"The MCA is pleased to showcase quilts and other material and fiber arts during the Material Matters show," says MCA Board President Pat Chaloupek. "It is astonishing what our artists are able to do with thread, yarn, cords, and fabric."

### **That's not all...**

On July 13, The Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) will host a premier screening of a film the critics call "extremely powerful" and that "illuminates the magic and brilliance of **Georgia O'Keeffe** and her art." Narrated by Hugh Dancy and featuring Claire Danes as the voice of O'Keeffe, *Georgia O'Keeffe: The Brightness of Light* follows the extraordinary life and lasting influence of an artist who reshaped the American art landscape.

The premier screening will take place on Monday, July 13, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Fox Cinema Center, 27 S. Cascade Ave., Montrose.

General Admission tickets are \$20 for each of the screenings, and VIP tickets are \$30. VIP tickets include a gallery reception at MCA from 5:30-6:30pm with appetizers and O'Keeffe-inspired cocktails, and VIP



*Spice Market detail. Courtesy photo.*

seating in the theater and are available only in limited quantities for the 7 p.m. screening. All tickets are available on the MCA website at [www.MontroseCenterforArts.com](http://www.MontroseCenterforArts.com) — click on the Georgia O'Keeffe event for more details and to purchase tickets. Show your receipt of purchase (either print or save on your phone) at the door on movie night.

MCA has an amazing array of classes coming up... from painting to pottery, from creating storybooks and building your drawing skills, there is a class for everyone. Visit the website at [www.montrosecenterforarts.com](http://www.montrosecenterforarts.com) and click on the Classes tab.

While you are visiting, be sure to stop by the Ponderosa and Cottonwood Rooms to see the 250/150 exhibit, which will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S.A. and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Colorado.

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM INVITES COMMUNITY TO CARNIVAL OF CURIOSITY ON JUNE 27

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The Montrose Children's Museum is excited to invite families from across the region to its biggest fundraiser of the year, the **Carnival of Curiosity**, taking place on Saturday, June 27.

This family-friendly event will transform the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater grounds into a celebration of imagination, exploration, and play, featuring hands-on activities, live performances, games, food, and opportunities for children and families to discover something new together.

More than just a fun community event, the Carnival of Curiosity serves as a critical fundraiser supporting the museum's mission to provide engaging educational experiences for children and families throughout Western Colorado. Proceeds from ticket sales help fund exhibits, educational programming, scholarships, and daily operations that make the museum accessible to local families year-round.

This year's celebration will feature a variety of activities designed to spark curiosity and inspire learning through play. Families can enjoy interactive games, carnival treats, creative activities, face painting, a dunk tank, and special performances from jugglers, stilt walkers, contortionists, hand walkers and more!

The event has been made possible through the generous support of community sponsors, volunteers, and donors who believe in the museum's mission and the importance of providing enriching opportunities for local children.

Tickets are available now and advance purchase is encouraged. Community members who purchase tickets ahead of time not only help support the museum but also help organizers plan for a successful event. The museum also welcomes sponsoring purchases of tickets that can be shared with local organizations such as CASA and Partners.

The Montrose Children's Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring curiosity, creativity, and learning through interactive exhibits and educational experiences. Through hands-on exploration and community partnerships, the museum serves as a place where children and families can learn, play, and grow together.

For more information about the Carnival of Curiosity, tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or volunteering, visit the museum's website or contact the Montrose Children's Museum directly.

[montrosechildrensmuseum.org/carnival-of-curiosity](http://montrosechildrensmuseum.org/carnival-of-curiosity)



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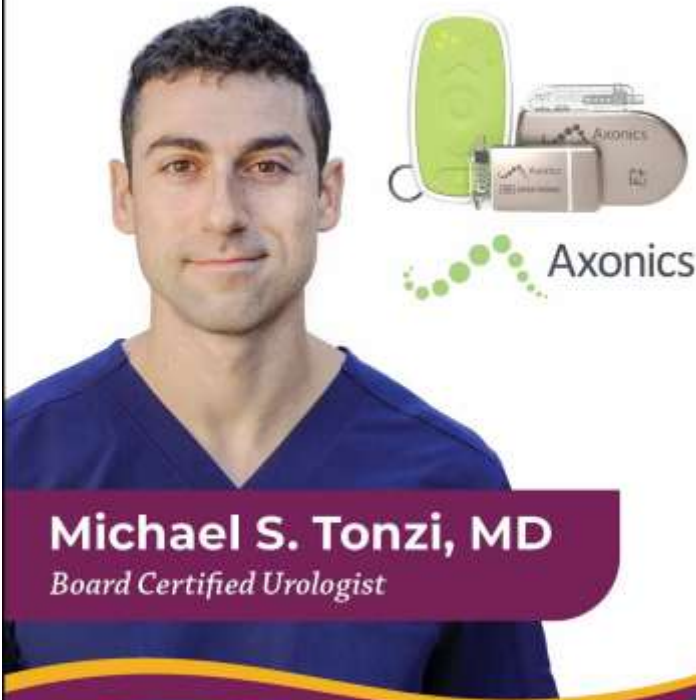
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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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## WATCH OUT FOR BEARS WHILE CAMPING, HIKING, BACKPACKING IN COLORADO BEAR COUNTRY

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER — Colorado is home to a large population of black bears—estimated at 17,000-20,000 animals—and the majority of them live in areas where humans camp, hike, and backpack. This summer, CPW is reminding the public to be [Bear-Wise](#) to avoid conflicts when enjoying our wonderful outdoors.

Most conflicts between people and bears can be traced to easily accessible trash, human food or other attractants with strong odors. A bear’s natural drive to eat can overcome its fear of humans. When bears become too comfortable around humans, they can destroy property or even threaten human safety.

As of June 12, 2026, CPW has received 1,192 reports of bear activity across the state.

“Most conflicts between people and bears begin when bears gain access to food, garbage or other attractants left by people,” said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Tim Kroening. “Properly storing food, securing trash and pet food, and keeping campsites clean helps protect both people and bears. If a bear visits your campsite, make loud noises by yelling, clapping, blowing a whistle or using an air horn, and always give the bear a clear path to leave. These actions can discourage bears from becoming comfortable around people and help prevent future conflicts.”

Bear reports are high this year, likely due to the generally warm and dry winter Colorado experienced impacting natural forage opportunities for bears. This year, it is even more important that humans not provide unhealthy, unsafe food attractants for bears.

“When camping or recreating in bear country, carry bear spray, stay alert and report concerning bear encounters to Colorado Parks and Wildlife,” Kroening said.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## LOCAL UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY STUDENT ANNABELLE HAWKINS EARNS PRESIDENT'S LIST HONORS

*Special to the Mirror*

ST. GEORGE, UT -- Students at Utah Tech University demonstrated remarkable academic expertise in the spring 2026 semester, with 869 students earning President's List honors. To qualify, students had to attain a semester GPA of 3.9 or higher and complete at least 15 credits.

Annabelle Hawkins from Montrose, CO was among the students honored for earning a place on the President's List.

"I offer my sincere congratulations to all the students who have earned a place on the President's List," Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Chris Guymon said. "It is deeply rewarding to see our students making the most of their opportunities and achieving such meaningful academic success."

Utah Tech University is a premier open-enrollment teaching institution that offers more than 300 academic programs at one of the lowest tuition costs in the Western United States. The University was built upon a rich tradition of determination and generosity that is still embraced by the campus community today. With the motto "active learning. active life." Utah Tech provides personalized and engaged learning experiences that prepare students for rewarding careers and enriched lives. Outside of the classroom, students have the opportunity to enjoy the unparalleled opportunities for an active life that accompany UT's location in beautiful Southern Utah.

For more information about Utah Tech University, visit [utahtech.edu](http://utahtech.edu).

## FERGUSON NAMED TO WARTBURG COLLEGE WINTER/MAY TERM DEAN'S LIST

*Special to the Mirror*

WAVERLY, IA-- Kaleb Ferguson of Olathe was named to the Wartburg College 2026 Winter/May Term Dean's List.


The college recognized 507 students for Winter/May Term.

The list honors students who earned a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or above in at least five course credits during the terms. Four of the five course credits have to be graded with a traditional letter grade.

Wartburg students take four courses during Winter Term, which runs from January through April, and one course during the one-month May Term.

Wartburg College is a four-year liberal arts college internationally recognized for community engagement. A college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Wartburg is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning. The college is characterized by vigorous academic expectations and community engagement within an environment of strong personal support.

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# The Satisfied Self

## THE SATISFIED SELF: THE STORIES WE MISTAKE FOR REALITY



By Gia Pirelli

More than 2,000 years ago, Plato told a story that is still being debated [today](#). In his Allegory of the Cave, a group of prisoners spend their entire lives chained inside a cave, facing a wall. Behind them burns a fire. Between the fire and where the prisoners are chained, people walk past carrying objects that cast shadows onto the wall.

The prisoners can only see the shadows. Because they have never seen anything else, they assume the shadows are reality. They make predictions about the shadows. They name the shadows. They create entire stories around the shadows. Then one prisoner is freed. For the first time, he turns around. Which is painful. He sees the fire. He sees the objects creating the shadows. Eventually, he makes his way to the entrance and leaves the cave and encounters the outside world. Finally he sees the sun, which represents the highest truth.

When he returns to tell the others, they reject and ridicule him. The shadows are familiar. The truth is beyond uncomfortable, it's unfathomable. For centuries, philosophers have debated what Plato meant. Was he talking about knowledge? Psychology? Politics? Human ignorance? Perhaps.

Plato's primary point was epistemological: most people mistake appearances for reality.

The cave represents ignorance.

The shadows represent appearances, beliefs, and social conditioning.

The journey represents education, philosophical inquiry, and awakening to truth. I've always thought the allegory contains a more personal lesson. What if the cave is not *out there*? What if the cave is *inside us*? What if the cave is a metaphor for unconscious programming, not of the world, but of us as individuals?

Most of us move through life believing we see reality clearly. We assume we're responding to facts. But are we? Or are we responding to our *interpretation* of those facts?

Modern neuroscience suggests that your brain is not passively recording reality. It is

actively constructing a model of reality from sensory input, memory, expectation, and prior experience. Essentially: your beliefs influence what you notice, your expectations influence what you perceive, and your past influences how you interpret events. Two people can experience the same event and walk away with completely different conclusions. One person sees rejection. Another sees redirection. One sees failure. Another sees feedback. One sees a closed door. Another sees an invitation to find a different one. The event is the same. The story is different. And often, it is the *story* that determines the outcome. This is where Plato, neuroscience, and modern psychology overlap. When someone believes "I'm not safe." "I'm not worthy." "I can't trust myself." They begin interpreting events through that lens. The lens becomes the cave.

The belief becomes the chain.

Every experience filtered through it reinforces the shadow on the wall.

The longer I live, the more I realize that much of what we call reality is actually perception. Not in the sense that reality isn't real. Like Einstein said, "I like to think the moon is there even if I am not looking at it." But in the sense that we experience life through filters.

Past experiences.

Beliefs.

Assumptions.

Fears.

Expectations.

These filters help us navigate the world.

But they also distort it. A person who was repeatedly criticized as a child may interpret neutral feedback as rejection. Someone who experienced betrayal may struggle to trust even trustworthy people. Someone who grew up feeling unseen may interpret a lack of response as proof they don't matter. The event itself may be neutral. The meaning attached to it is not.

This is where life becomes interesting. Because once we realize we are looking through a filter, we now have a choice. We can continue treating our interpretation as reality. Or we can become curious.

We can ask:

What if there is another way to see this?

What if the story I'm telling myself is incomplete?

What if I've been staring at shadows?

That question alone has the power to change a life. Not because it gives us answers. Because it creates possibility. Most breakthroughs don't happen when reality changes. They happen when *perception* changes. The relationship hasn't changed. The job hasn't changed. The circumstance hasn't changed. But suddenly we see it differently. And that changes everything.

Perhaps this is why growth can feel so uncomfortable. We become attached to our interpretations. Attached to our identities. Attached to our explanations for why things are the way they are. Attached to our shadows.

The familiar story feels safe, even when it causes suffering. The unknown requires us to question what we think we know. It requires us to act on faith and transcend fear.

In many ways, leaving Plato's cave is not a single event. It's a lifelong practice. A willingness to challenge assumptions. To examine beliefs. To question the stories we've inherited, adopted, and repeated. Not because they're always wrong. But because they may not be the whole truth. The expanded life begins with a simple realization: We do not experience life exactly as it is. We experience life as we are. Through our beliefs. Through our history. Through our expectations. Through our fears. And while we may not control every circumstance we encounter, we do have the ability to examine the lens through which we're viewing it. That examination can be uncomfortable. But it can also be liberating. Because once we recognize the shadows, we become free to seek the light.

And perhaps that's where real transformation begins.

Not by changing the world around us.

But by seeing it differently.

**Gia Pirelli is a writer, yoga teacher and sound healing practitioner, specializing in applied mind-body practices for self-leadership in modern life. Through her weekly column, she explores personal growth, reinvention, and what it means to live an expanded life. Learn more at <https://www.giapirelli.com>**



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# MIRROR IMAGES: TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS



*Jake Shimabukuro and Jackson, above.  
Top right, the view from behind the drums. Photo by B. Slate.  
Below left, festival crowd photos by Harry Switzer.*



*Above, Leftover Salmon. Photo by Harry Switzer.*



*Sam Bush. Photo by B. Slate.*



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# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

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

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

**Worship Service Times:** 9am and 10:45am  
**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

**Celebration Kids:** (age birth to 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com)

Website: [ccvmontrose.org](http://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](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:spirit@communityspiritucc.org)

Website: [communityspiritucc.org](http://communityspiritucc.org)  
 Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd  
**Worship service: Sundays at 11:30 am**  
 Mission: Our commitment to a more inclusive and accepting world is steadfast, and we will continue to work towards a

future where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation  
**Address Office hours** N/A  
**Contact:** 720-951-9941,  
[office@ccfmontrose.net](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),  
[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://www.ccfmontrose.net)

**Name of current Senior Pastor.** Led by elders  
**Worship service times.** Noon on Saturdays. Children's Church will be offered as needed.  
 Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene  
 Address: 705 South 12th Street  
**Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday** 9 am - Noon and by Appointment  
**Contact Information:** Office Phone 970 249 -9213, [mncfirst@gmail.com](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com),  
[www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)  
**Pastor: Pastor Ian Hyde**

**Services Sunday:** Worship 10:30 AM, Discipleship Hour: 9:30 AM. Discipleship Hour has classes across all age groups. Nursery for children UNDER 3 is available during Worship and Discipleship Hour. Youth Night (6-12th grade): Tuesdays, 6:30 PM. Weeknight Bible Study: Wednesdays, 6:30 PM. Mission Statement: Montrose First

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

**Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-form@fpcmontrose.com),  
[www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)  
 Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo  
**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM,  
*We strive to encourage, challenge and*

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

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ  
**Address:** 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office hours:** By appointment  
**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047  
 Email address: [office@montroseucc.org](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)  
 Website: [montroseucc.org](http://montroseucc.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd  
**Worship service times:** Sunday, 10 a.m.  
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.  
 Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)  
 We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

[montroseumc.org](http://montroseumc.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

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

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist  
**Address:** 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office Hours:** Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm  
**Contact information:**  
**Phone:** 970.249.4887  
**website:** [www.RosemontBaptist.org](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)  
[youtube.com/@rosemontbaptistchurch](https://youtube.com/@rosemontbaptistchurch)  
[facebook.com/RosemontBaptist](https://facebook.com/RosemontBaptist)

email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)  
**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson  
**Worship Service Time:** Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at 10:45 AM.  
 We also have small groups we call L.I.F.E. Groups for all ages on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.  
 We strive to have each of our small groups live L.I.F.E. together.

Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.  
 We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable.  
 We love meeting new people no matter where they are at in life .

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

[rose@yahoo.com](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://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?

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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

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970-249-6295  
970-787-9021

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970-964-4448

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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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:aheadaviation@outlook.com)

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET** (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

[www.valleyfoodpartnership.org](http://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](http://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 23**-The Western Colorado PACE program will host a moving Remembrance Ceremony and Butterfly Release on June 23, 2026, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Montrose PACE Day Center courtyard to honor participants who passed away while receiving care over the past year.

**June 25**-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, June 25, at Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fairgrounds, 1001 N Second Street in Montrose. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and share. Julia Reid of ArtSpeak will tell us all about the importance of Value as it relates to Color in our quilts. Questions? 360.448.0153.

**June 27**-Sharing Ministries presents the Back to the Future Festival-Food, Shelter, Hope. 8:30am to 4:30pm. Museum of the Mt. West 68169 Miami Road.

**June 28**-Sunday, 3pm, Montrose Pavilion- **Free Patriotic Concert**, Montrose Community Band. We have chosen songs that exemplify the patriotism, grandeur, and history of our wonderful country.

**June 30**-Montrose County invites residents to attend a Community Fire Summit on June 30 from 7:30 am. to 11:30 am. at the Montrose County Event Center.

The event is free and open to the public, however registration is required.

For additional information and to register, please visit [www.montrosecounty.net/fire](http://www.montrosecounty.net/fire) or email [pr@montrosecounty.net](mailto:pr@montrosecounty.net) .

Questions may also be directed to (970) 252-4508.

**July 10-12**-BLACK CANYON QUILT SHOW at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, CO will feature 150+ quilts, vendors, scissor sharpening, a boutique with handmade "quilty" items, classes and quilt artist lecture, and a raffle quilt. Food trucks will be available on the premises for the convenience of show visitors. Show hours are 9—5 on Friday and Saturday; 10—3:30 on Sunday. Adult admission is \$5, children free. For more information, visit the website <https://blackcanyonquiltshow.com>.

# HONEY ACRES FARM STAND OPEN IN TOWN



The local produce stand owned by Chuck and Jami English's Honey Acre Farms has reopened in the bank parking lot just off Townsend and East Oak Grove. There are plenty of tempting items on display, but as always, Palisade Peaches play a starring role. Mirror staff photos.



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