



ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION

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© Issue No. 696 June 29, 2026

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LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT FOR RE-1J BOARD MEETING



Ellen Angeles Spoke to the Board of Education during the meeting of Tuesday, June 23. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- At the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board meeting of Tuesday, June 23, the board once again heard from numerous constituents. Several of those who spoke expressed concern that an investigation into the situation at Olathe Elementary School has not yet concluded.

Directors present included Board President Neisha Balleck; Vice President Ted Valerio; District D Director Tom West; District E Director Tiffany Vincent; District F Director Jody Hovde; and District G Director Shane Daly. District C Director Scott Scarborough was absent. Board President Neisha Balleck called the meeting to order. The Board joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and took time for a Moment of Silence.

The Board voted to approve the meeting agenda.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Balleck said that Attorney Bryce

Continued pg 38

PROJECT 7 MOVES FORWARD WITHOUT CONSULTING TEAM

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-The Project 7 Water Authority convened on June 25 for a regular meeting.

The plan for a second water plant south of Montrose is off the table and the previous management team is no longer under contract. The board of directors, with the help of the Technical Advisor Group (TAG) comprised of experts from all six member entities, is in the process of accepting Requests For Proposals (RFP's) for expansion of the existing water treatment plant.

The Resiliency Project, which was first presented in 2023, was to build a second water treatment plant south of Montrose with direct access to Ridgway Reservoir. The Project 7 Board had turned the project over to the (no longer) contracted management team — Program Manager Engineer Rick Huggins, D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz (financial); Deputy Project Manager Miles



The Project 7 Water Authority met on June 25. The board will not pursue a second water treatment plant south of Montrose but rather consider expansion of the current facility. Financial Advisor D.A. Davidson gave notice of contract termination, which becomes effective in July. Photo by Gail Marvel.

Continued pg 35

[DMEA Elects New Board Officers!](#)

[The Fresh Taste of Home Grown World Wide Success: Snow capped Cider!](#)

[City of Montrose Fireworks Display Postponed, Fireworks Sales Prohibited!](#)

[Regional Events Calendar!](#)



Nature's Educators Digging Deep!

Tuesday, June 30

11 a.m.

Library East Lawn



Let's get together on the Library East Lawn at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 30 for Digging Deep! with Nature's Educators to learn about how and why animals burrow into the ground. This is a live animal show. Participants must be able to sit and listen quietly.

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MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

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The Storage Solution Inc, for Lilac Road Storage LLC, 1199 Lilac Rd, Montrose Colorado.

A sale will be held on June 30 @ noon to collect on a landlord's lien on the following delinquent unit:

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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

Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Harry Switzer

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

For information, advertising opportunities, or to submit content:

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



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CITY INDEPENDENCE DAY CLOSURES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — City of Montrose offices will close in observance of the Independence Day holiday starting on Thursday, July 2. All city offices, including the Montrose Police Department, will close for the holiday; officers will still be on duty and responding to calls. The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open. The Rusty Putter restaurant and the snack bar will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Thursday, July 2, will instead be served on Tuesday, June 30, and Wednesday, July 1. **For routes west of Townsend Ave., trash pickup will occur on Tuesday, June 30.**

For routes east of Townsend Ave., trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, July 1. Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit CityofMontrose.org/Trash

For information about the City of Montrose, visit CityofMontrose.org.

WEST SLOPE FIRE SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE

June 30, 2026 7:30AM - 11:00AM
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Speakers:

NOAA - Fire Conditions

Tri-State - Fire Safety

Montrose Fire District - Fire Precautions

More to come!

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This home is in the desirable Raven's Crest Subdivision.

The home was recently painted, and sits on a corner lot. The home is very open. The kitchen opens into the large living room with sliding glass doors to the private backyard. There is a lot of tile throughout the home, on the floors, baths, and showers. There are 5 bedrooms, making for a great family home. The kitchen is very open with lots of space and cabinets. There is a wood-burning stove in the living room which heats the whole home. The main bedroom is large with walk-in closets, and the bath has a large soaker tub. This location is about as good as it gets, close to schools and shopping. The backyard is very private for get-togethers and bar-be-ques.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LIBERTY ON THE LAWN – AMERICA 250

Dear Community Partners,
I hope you're doing well.

I'm reaching out on behalf of the organizing committee for Liberty on the Lawn – America 250 a free community celebration taking place on Saturday, July 4, from Noon to 7:00 PM at the Mesa County Fairgrounds, Lions Club Park.

We would greatly appreciate your consideration of running the following as a free public service announcement through your media outlets. As a community-driven event celebrating America's 250th birthday, our goal is to bring together residents and visitors for a fun, family-friendly afternoon of connection, celebration, and local pride.

Below is what we would like to offer for the event. I will attach a copy of the event flyer you are able to use as well.

Public Service Announcement

Liberty on the Lawn – America 250 will be held at the Mesa County Fairgrounds, Lions Club Park on

Saturday, July 4, from Noon to 7:00 PM

This free community block party is designed to bring together residents and visitors for an afternoon of connection, celebration, and local pride. Bring your neighbors, friends, and family—and don't forget your lawn chairs, coolers, and favorite lawn games! Free activities, refreshments, and prizes are planned throughout the day.

Event Highlights Include:

- Live local music
- Food trucks and local vendors
- Kids & family activity zone
- Community singing and patriotic moments
- Historic reenactments and readings of America's founding documents
- Community contests and interactive experiences

Join your community for this unique opportunity to enhance the July 4th experience in Grand Junction and be part of this once-in-a-generation America 250 cele-

bration!

In addition to sharing this announcement, we are still seeking event sponsors, vendors, food trucks, and volunteers to help make this celebration a success.

We encourage everyone to visit our Liberty on the Lawn – America 250 Facebook page to learn more, sign up to volunteer, make a donation, or inquire about becoming a vendor or sponsor.

If you have any questions or would be willing to share our event graphic or additional promotional materials, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for supporting community events and helping us make this historic celebration a success.

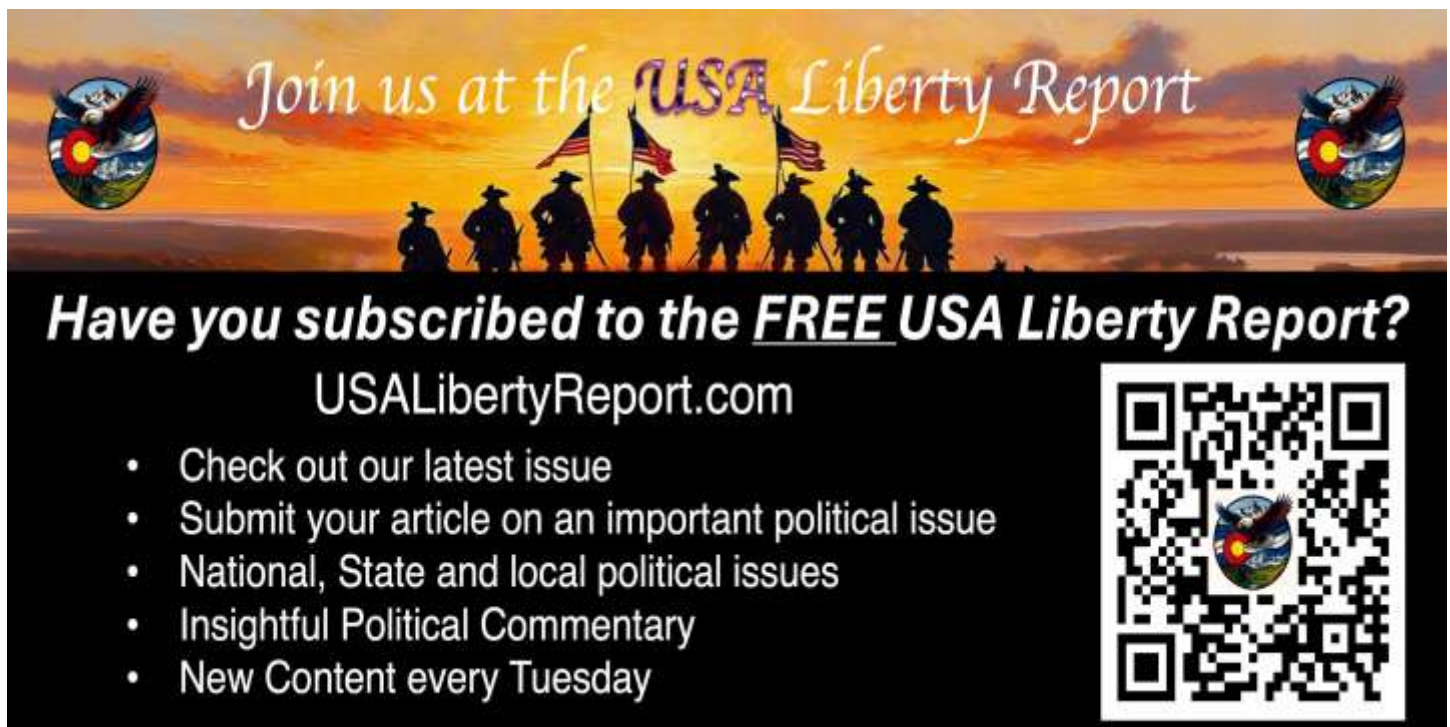
Sincere thanks,

Austin DeWitt

Liberty on the Lawn – America 250 Organizing Committee

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MLS #832835 | 266 Crossroads Circle | DEE HOLMAN
Charming townhome in Crossroads Park Subdivision. Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Crossroads Park Subdivision in Montrose, Colorado, this two-bedroom, two-bathroom townhome represents the pinnacle of comfortable living. With its meticulously maintained condition and thoughtful upgrades, this residence offers a welcoming and vibrant environment for its occupants. Features include an open floor plan that seamlessly connects living spaces, creating an inviting atmosphere. \$329,000



MLS #835742 | 62908 Lasalle Road | GARY COOPER
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MLS #836393 | Tbd 5725 Road | JUSTIN COVINGTON
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION RAISES \$50K AT 8TH ANNUAL BOOT STOMP *Community fundraiser benefits the Caring Friends Fund at the San Juan Cancer Center*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The Montrose Regional Health Foundation hosted its eighth annual Boot Stomp on June 5 at Storm King Mountain Ranch, bringing together community members for an evening of live music, dancing, barbecue, and auctions to benefit patients at the San Juan Cancer Center.

More than 170 people attended the event, helping raise \$50,000 for the Caring Friends Fund at the San Juan Cancer Center. The program assists cancer patients and other Montrose Regional Health patients with nonmedical needs during treatment, including transportation, lodging, meals, warm clothing, and other support services.

“The incredible generosity of our guests, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners made this year’s Boot Stomp a tremendous success,” said Kelly Anderson, executive director of the Montrose Regional Health Foundation. “Every contribution helps support patients and families during some of the most challenging times in their lives, and we are deeply grateful for the community’s continued support.”

The Montrose Regional Health Foundation also extends its appreciation to the many businesses and organizations that sponsored this year’s event and the numerous community partners whose support helped make the event possible. This year’s sponsors included A Storage Place, Alpine Bank, Avient Corporation, Clearnetworx, Culvers, FCI Constructors, Four Seasons Investment Advisors, High Country Beverage, Jeff & Janet Quay Foundation, Montrose County, Montrose Regional Health, Revenue Enterprises, Stryker & CO, and Timberline Bank.

Plans for the 2027 Boot Stomp will be announced in the coming months. To learn more about Boot Stomp, visit bootstomp.org.

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 - **Ya no es elegible para Medicaid**



TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK



OPINION /EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

COUNTERFEITING

By Don Stott

There are, according to the government, about 150,000 counterfeit hundred dollar bills in circulation, in spite of the vigorous, different methods to void and get rid of them, such as the blue line on hundred dollar bills, plus others not known to us. This is the reason, many times a store will run the hundred dollar bill through a machine which can detect a fake.

3.64 million hundred dollar bills are printed each day, and even the government says that a 1920 dollar today, will take a \$20 bill to equal the 1920 dollar bill's purchasing power, it doesn't seem to bother anyone, for some strange reason. This is an official notice of their dollars' debasement.

Counterfeiting isn't new, or the Treasury wouldn't do everything in its power to stop it. There are probably more fake \$20 bills in circulation than hundred dollar bills, since they rarely have to be sent through a counterfeit detection machine. The dollar bill has become so worthless, that they have become a laughing stock.

All it requires is a little forbearance, if you're worried about the U.S. dollar losing its purchasing power, since it has already lost over 95% of it since 1920. It has lost over 95% of its purchasing power, just sitting in your wallet, or in a savings account. There is nothing you can do about it, other than getting out of them and substituting dollars as a measuring device. Any measuring device is better than U.S. dollars, assuming they can be converted into dollars to purchase some-

thing such as food, electricity, gasoline repairs for anything, square feet in a building, or acres of land maybe.

From a book titled "George Washington's Secret Six," by Brian Kilmeade, on pages 122 and 123, it says: "The British were highly skilled counterfeiters, and one of their favorite ways to attack the Americans was by depreciating colonial currency. Recognizing the vulnerability of the American currency, it was fairly easy to inculcate the fake with the real, since they looked almost identical to each other. The continental congress had made some efforts to combat the counterfeiting but it saw limited success. Eventually, they developed a special paper of a very precise quality and thickness that would be used to produce the bulk of the money minted in Philadelphia, and it was hoped, would be extremely difficult to replicate. Several reams of the paper made for the last emissions struck by Congress had been procured from Philadelphia by the counterfeiters. The one safeguard, upon which the Americans were counting to protect their currency, had been breached.

On a grander scale, having a wildly inflated currency made it nearly impossible for American diplomats overseas to secure credit with foreign banks." Thanks to the French who hated the Brits, we won, but imagine the outrage of King George, who was defeated by his enemy, in this massive loss of this huge nation!

That was 250 years ago, and today, we have trillions of U.S. currencies in circula-

tion, and hundreds of thousands of fake ones. The presses can run on into worthlessness, and they virtually have already. It took only 3 ½ years for the greenbacks and confederates to become worthless, and 3 ½ years during WW II for the buck to lose 50% of its buying power.

How about stocks? There are 4 billion shares of Ford stock, 3.23 billion shares of General Motors, 3.23 billion of Tesla, and 1.3 billion of Toyota. Does anyone have a physical share of stock? Nope. It's all computer entries just like bit coin. There are 13 trillion dollars in mortgage debt, and 1.28 trillion in credit card debt, plus a trillion or so owed here and there.

Suppose a massive electrical failure occurred, or any of a hundred possibilities of computer entries failing, mysteriously disappearing, or endless electronic, physical, weather, war, political or other happenstance occur? Ever curse your computer? Why couldn't a local failure spread world-wide? World-wide catastrophe? If you have stocks, dollars, or any computer entry or paper 'savings,' denominated in dollars, where would you be? It scares me, and it scares me so much, that my net worth is in my home, physical items, vehicles, and gold and silver.

I have never owned a share of stock or had a savings account, and am debt free. I don't want anything bad to happen here or anywhere else, but a quick look at history will amply prove that disaster can happen any time, be it a tornado, financial collapse, or war. You decide!

The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.



MEDITATION S P A C E S



The Blessings of Water

The calming sound of moving water can bring peace, serenity and a connection with nature into any space. It helps reduce stress, improve sleep and focus, plus elevates the aesthetics of a room. Gain all that by adding a water fountain to your space.

Size: A water fountain comes in many sizes, small enough to fit on a table top, desk or counter, all the way to a tall, multi tiered design giving a feeling of an outdoor grotto. With dry Colorado summers, these fountains do help to add humidity in the air for a healthier environment for people, pets and plants.

Power and Water Sources: Some table top fountains run on batteries, including solar. The higher quality are an easy plugin. While most are easily refilled by hand, some can be connected to your main water supply. Using filtered water can help reduce hard water deposits and increase the life of your fountain.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TIMELINE

Dear Editor,

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, A TIMELINE.

(Drawn from [archives.gov/founding-docs/](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/).)

June 7, 1776 (Lee Resolution)

Richard Henry Lee, a delegate from Virginia, read a resolution before the Continental Congress "that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

June 11, 1776 (Committee of 5 appointed) Consideration of the Lee Resolution was postponed—the "Committee of Five" was appointed to draft a statement presenting to the world the colonies' case for independence.

June 11 through July 1, 1776 (Declaration of Independence drafted)

On June 11, Congress recessed for three weeks. During this period the "Committee of Five" (John Adams, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Thomas Jefferson) drafted the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson drafted it, Adams and Franklin made changes to it. Congress reconvened on July 1.

(A total of 21 days to draft the most precious document for America.)

July 2, 1776 (Lee Resolution adopted and consideration of Declaration)

On July 2, the Lee resolution was adopted

by 12 of the 13 colonies (New York did not vote). Immediately afterward, Congress began to consider the Declaration. Congress made some alterations and deletions to it on July 2, 3, and the morning of the 4th

July 4, 1776 (Declaration of Independence adopted and printed)

Late in the morning of July 4, the Declaration was officially adopted, and the "Committee of Five" took the manuscript copy of the document to John Dunlap, official printer to the Congress.

(*headnote*)

There is no surviving minute-by-minute hourly log for July 4, 1776. However, historical records from the National Archives and National Park Service outline the day's progression:

Morning: The Second Continental Congress convened at the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia. Delegates spent the morning debating, finalizing, and making minor alterations to the text of the Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

Late Morning (~11:00 AM - 12:00 PM): Congress officially adopted the final text of the Declaration. The manuscript was handed over to John Dunlap, the official printer to the Congress, to begin printing single-page broadsides for distribution.

Afternoon: Delegates concluded deliberations and dispersed. Evening/Night: John Dunlap worked through the night in his print shop to produce roughly 200 copies

(the Dunlap Broad-sides) so they could be dispatched the next morning. (Note: The actual physical signing of the document did not occur on July 4.)

July 5, 1776 (Copies of the Declaration dispatched)

On the morning of July 5, copies printed by John Dunlap were dispatched by members of Congress to various committees, assemblies, and to the commanders of the Continental troops. (On July 9, the action of Congress was officially approved by the NY Convention.)

July 19, 1776 (Congress orders the Declaration engrossed on parchment)

Congress ordered that the Declaration be "fairly engrossed on parchment, with the title and stile {sic} of 'The unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America' and that the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress."

August 2, 1776 (Declaration signed)

The document was signed by most of the members on August 2. George Wythe signed on August 27. On September 4, Richard Henry Lee, Elbridge Gerry, and Oliver Wolcott signed. Matthew Thornton signed on November 19, and Thomas McKean signed in 1781.

Writers footnote: I was emotional with pride as I researched and composed this letter. In spite of our struggles we are absolutely the best nation on the earth and "IN GOD WE TRUST"

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCHOOLS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN A COMMUNITY

Dear Directors,

I celebrated a cohesive, positive night with you at your 6/9/26 Board Meeting. I agree, Director Daly, "where is the press on your first smooth win, win nights?" One of the biggest highlights for me, as a retired teacher, was the approval of the negotiated Master Contract for ALL STAFF that will attract and keep good teachers here. Teachers are hard to come by these days. It's a tough job and better pay and benefits will help. Not to mention Montrose is the best place in the world to live! Another highlight, the extensive MCSD 2025-2026 finances and the good news that the proposed 2026-2027 budget should balance. That's if we don't get hit with high unexpected legal fees and other extras. Hats off to Ms. Imus and the whole financial team for the blood sweat and tears that went into that presentation

and 63pg document.

Finally, Hurray! You accepted the BEST Grant for \$ 6,192,542 to renovate the present Montrose Recreation field house for our Early Childhood Center. What a long-in-coming, forward-thinking project finally happening in Montrose...and Yes, Mr. Valerio, we were worried that you, this board, might deny it. It was a NOT rumor mill on-line, it's that you haven't earned your community's trust. Can you blame us when you consider the actions that you have taken since you all were seated?

First you fired a law firm that had served the district fine for many years and replaced them with a very controversial lawyer that we feared would cost the District a lot of money. So far they have been consulted frequently and HAVE cost the District significant money.

Next, you threatened to close one of two, long-time neighborhood elementary schools with very little notice. Then, you hired an investigator (recommended by Brad Miller Firm) without whole board involvement.


Last, you put the 6 year superintendent on leave causing major disruption, for how long? It's been a wild ride and we know we aren't finished yet. So no, your decision about the BEST grant was not a given. However, today, we are so grateful for our youngest students.

Looking ahead and possibly an agenda item soon, Montrose Classical Academy Update. I don't know how to submit an idea for a Board Agenda item.

I understand there are no board meetings in July. A much deserved summer break for you all. Possibly Dr. Kalb can catch her breath as she learns and fulfills new responsibilities and figures out who is covering her _____ responsibilities.

Thanks for stepping up and working WITH your community. Schools make the difference in a community!

Zoe Werden, Montrose



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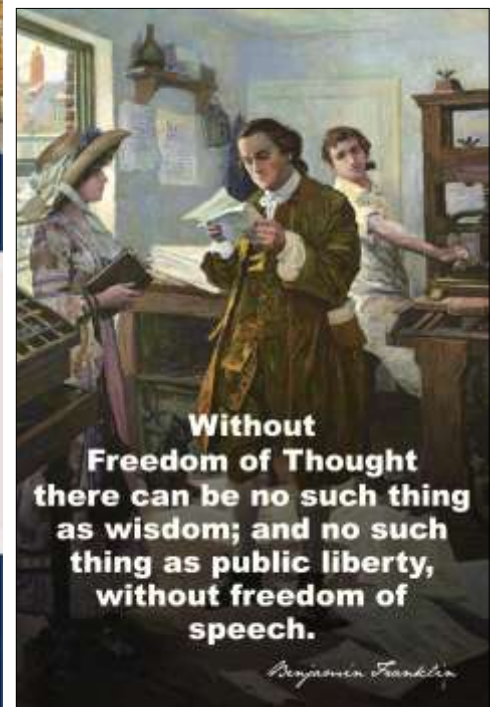
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TO MY DAUGHTER

Editor:

I bring my teenage daughter with me to meetings and conferences whenever I can. Beyond the distractions of her phone, I hope something reaches her heart and helps her understand what we're learning together. Building relationships, connecting with good people, and having a seat at the table are all part of public service, and I hope those lessons stay with her.

She loves her family, our home, our animals, and our West End community. Those are the qualities that make a good public servant. Maybe she'll never stand behind a microphone, but perhaps she'll be the one quietly doing the work behind the scenes, fulfilled simply by knowing she helped make something better.

In April, we visited Jamestown and Yorktown—a bucket-list trip. Standing where our nation's story began was humbling.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States and Colorado's 150th birthday, I wanted to leave my daughter with something more lasting than memories. The unabbreviated version of my letter to her follows:

To my amazing, wonderful, beautiful, perfect daughter (that's what you call yourself whenever you want something), I want you to understand that freedom is not an idea that simply appeared on paper. It was purchased through fear, hunger, exhaustion, grief, and blood. It was carried across frozen ground by soldiers with worn boots and empty stomachs. It was defended by families who waited at

home without knowing whether the people they loved would ever return. It was protected by men and women who accepted danger so that generations they would never meet could live with rights, dignity, and hope.

When we speak of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, we must remember the price behind those words. They were paid for by those who stood on battlefields, sailed across oceans, froze in winter camps, marched into gunfire, buried their friends, and still pressed forward because they believed freedom was worth defending. Some came home wounded in body or spirit. Some never came home at all. Some lie in marked graves, and some rest in places known only to God.

The Bill of Rights exists because liberty must be protected. The first ten Constitutional amendments limit government power and safeguard people's freedoms. They protect the right to speak, worship, assemble peacefully, petition the government, be secure in one's home, receive fair treatment under the law, and preserve powers reserved to the states and the people. These rights are the foundation that allows citizens to live freely and hold their government accountable.

Do not sit on the sidelines of your government. Read. Ask questions. Study history. Attend community meetings. Speak with respect, even when you disagree. Serve your neighbors. Defend the rights of others as fiercely as you defend your own. A republic cannot survive on complaints alone; it survives when its citizens care

enough to participate.

I pray you never have to see the true horror of war, hear the silence after a battlefield, watch a family wait for news that never comes, or understand the weight carried by those who return home changed forever. But even if you are spared those things, you must never forget them. Freedom has a cost and forgetting that cost is one of the easiest ways to lose respect for what we have been given.

Carry yourself as a good American and good Samaritan. Love your country enough to improve it. Respect the flag because it represents not perfection, but sacrifice, promise, and the ongoing work of liberty. Honor those who came before you by living with courage, gratitude, humility, and purpose. Build your faith, your home, and your family. Spread God's word and let those values guide you.

My hope is that you will never take your freedom for granted. May you protect it with your voice, your vote, your service, and your character. May you remember that liberty is both an inheritance and a responsibility. And may you always understand that the pursuit of happiness is made possible by the sacrifices of those who believed you were worth fighting for. I love you to the moon and back, Daughter.

Love,

Your outspoken, opinionated, amazing and not so perfect Mom.

Aimee Tooker

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SLOVENIA- A GLOBAL LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Who would guess that a very small central European country roughly the size of New Jersey would be the global lead in conservation! Slovenia, renowned for stunning natural landscapes is an ecologically diverse country demonstrating a profound commitment to conservation. It's an incredibly picturesque country with mountains, dense forests, and a rich array of biodiversity, that has historically influenced its conservation ethics. Environmental protection in Slovenia is not only a contemporary issue but also a reflection of the values that have been cultivated over generations.

The country boasts an impressive network of protected areas, including national parks, nature reserves, and landscape parks. In total, Slovenia has over 40 protected areas, more than 53 percent of its country, highlighting its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development. Among the most recognized of these areas is Triglav National Park, the only national park in Slovenia, covering more than 880 square kilometers of pristine alpine landscapes. Tom Wiard and Emily Schneider spent three weeks in this National Park enjoying the people, landscapes and birdlife. Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Emily and Tom as they present their travel experience, interactions with the local Slovenians, insights into the country's conservation ethos, "green" tourism as well as the incredible wildlife diversity of this national park. The Black Canyon Audubon Society is pleased to bring you this slice of a country on the cutting edge of global conservation. Please join us on July 9, 7 pm at (new location) Baldrige Hall, Montrose Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street. For more information about the speakers and topic go to



Slovenia, an incredibly picturesque country with mountains, dense forests, and a rich array of biodiversity. (photo/Wiard-Schneider)



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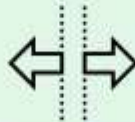
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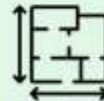
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Monday, August 3

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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
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FORUM WELCOMES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-You won't want to miss The Forum presentation on Wednesday, July 1, 8-9 AM, as we welcome Luke Fedler, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Since 1991, Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans has empowered more than 58 local families to help build and move into homes of their own. With a mission to

eliminate substandard housing, Habitat works to make decent, sustainable and affordable housing a reality for everyone. Habitat's model is building on providing a hand up, not a handout.

Future homeowners invest up to 500 hours of sweat equity, helping to build their homes while also qualifying for an affordable, nonprofit mortgage. Through this process, families gain not only a home but a strong sense of pride, responsibility, and community.

But Habitat for Humanity is about much more than building houses. It is a local

nonprofit that relies heavily on community support through volunteers, donations of gently used items, and patronage of its ReStore. The proceeds from the ReStore play a significant role in supporting Habitat's mission and expanding its impact through our region.

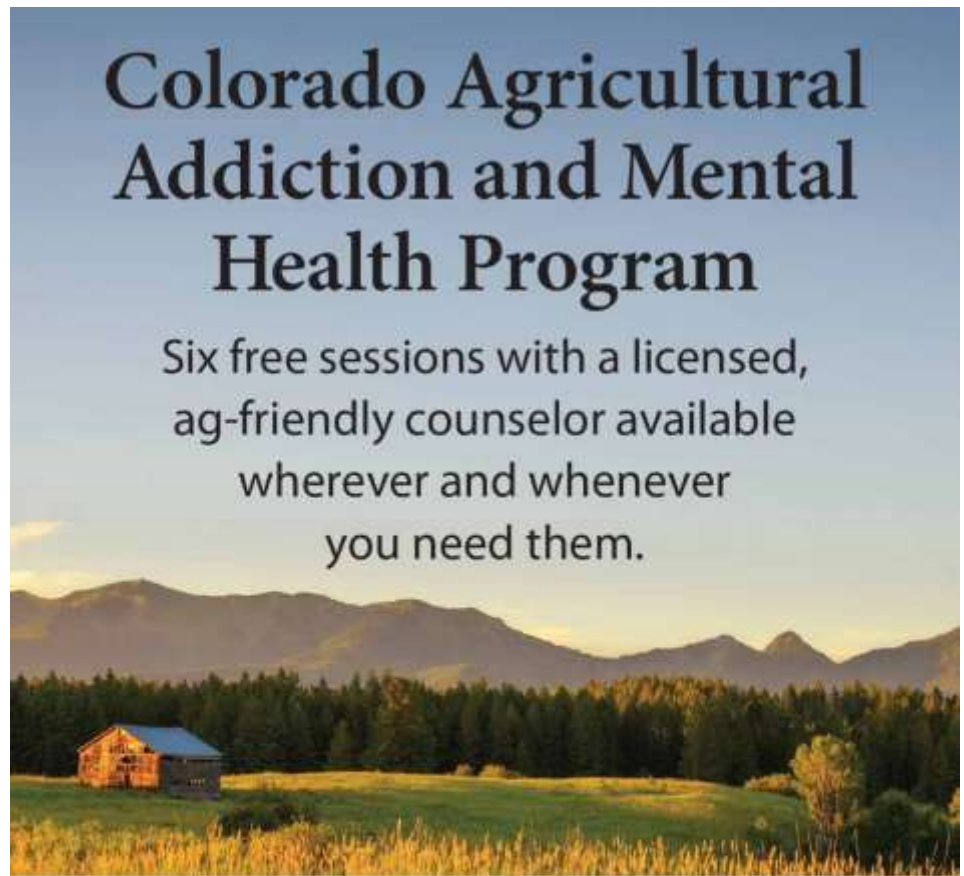
Please join us on Wednesday, July 1st, to meet Luke Fedler, learn about Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans, and discover how this remarkable organization is helping families achieve the dream of home ownership while strengthening our community.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HELP YOUR TEEN DRIVER REDUCE RISK FOR A CRASH

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – In 2025, Colorado State Patrol troopers investigated 521 injury or fatal, at-fault crashes involving distracted driving by drivers aged 16-21 years old. Gaining experience begins with 50 hours of supervised driving time with a permit and this is an opportunity to instill safe habits from the start.

“As parents work with their kids to earn hours behind the wheel, they have the opportunity to instill ‘non-negotiables’ right up front,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Require a hands-free device in the vehicle, put the phone on do not disturb, or have the student driver store their phone in the glove box before starting the car, every time.”

To help curb distractions, Colorado law prohibits drivers from holding their electronic devices while in the driver’s seat, even to change their music or check directions. In addition, under the Colorado Graduated License Law, new drivers with less than six months of driving experience are prohibited from having any passengers unless a licensed 21-year-old passenger is present. After the first six months, teens are allowed one passenger, and everyone in the vehicle, regardless of age or location, must be properly buckled.

The graduated license law solved a serious problem in Colorado. Data shows a nearly 50% reduction in teen driving fatalities from the inception of these laws in 1999 to 2019.

When a young or new driver hits the road, they encounter the same risky and challenging driving scenarios that you do,” stated Col. Packard. “That is why we hope parents will join us in encouraging young drivers to drop the distractions while behind the wheel. This means that parents should model the same behavior. Kids observe and learn from you as they age.”

If your teen or new driver does get into a crash, do they know what to do? Get involved and educate your young driver about their responsibilities.

-If the other driver leaves, never chase them. Instead, try to get the license plate number and vehicle description, and report it to the police.

-Don’t panic—call 9-1-1. No matter who is at fault, wait at the scene, and file a report with the police.

-Remain with your vehicle. The safest place is inside your car, with your seat belt on and hazard lights on.

-Be prepared to provide a driver’s license, registration, and proof of insurance to law enforcement.

-Exchange name, address, phone number, and insurance information of the other driver. Take photos of your vehicle’s damage and, if safe, the other vehicle



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CENTURY 21

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PROJECT 7 MOVES FORWARD WITHOUT CONSULTING TEAM From pg 1

Graham, and Jessica Johnson, a Garver employee.

Current Status:

June 25, 2026 meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicki Ripp. With the exception of Montrose Representative David Bries, who attended via Zoom, all other board members/alternates were present in person. Attorney James Silvestro was in attendance on Zoom. The two dozen attendees included members of TAG and interested citizens.

Presentation of May 28, 2026, meeting minutes:

Approved unanimously.

Changes to the Agenda:

Matt Miles asked to add an agenda item to new business. He said, "We need a complete [board] packet in a reasonable amount of time so we can review them."

Public Comment:

There was no public comment; however, Constituent Patti Hill requested that the board speak up so the audience could hear.

Manager's Report – Project 7 Manager Adam Turner.

Turner said, "May [2026] is surprisingly down from May 2025. A lot of that is the City of Montrose. It's dry and people are getting the drought message."

Consumption/Process Control Report for May

Turner said, "Process Control is a really good report. It's down a little. Operations are really running the plant in the sweet spot. There is less pollution of the ground water because lack of snowpack."

Updates for June 2026

Turner said, "Blue Mesa is 37 percent down. A lot of people are really nervous. They are not releasing more than they have to. Taylor is 63 percent, Ridgway is actually filled (94 percent), Silver Jack is 45 percent, Fairview 27 percent. Flows are slowing down."

Turner continued, "The RFP master plan has two responses. Fifteen signed up to tour [the facility]. They have a couple of weeks to work on their proposals, [due] July 16th. The vetting will start with TAG and will be awarded August 27th. I met with the USDA Director, and they still have funds available. The Uncompahgre Valley

Water Users pulled 200 pumps out of their system this year [permitting issues]. (On) June 30th our website switches to the new compliance site."

CFO Report – Aaron Hancey, Hancey Consulting.

New style Cash Flow/Financial Report.

Hancey said, "I hope to have the audit draft the next week or so and the final draft out by our next meeting to get that behind us." Hancey went over the new formatting for the financial report.

Throughout his presentation he paused and asked the board if they had any questions.

Hancey said, "Profit and loss [column], what did we earn and what did we spend? The budget was \$26 million for the entire year. Five months into 2026 operating expenses are \$956,000. Net income generated is \$2.1 million."

Legal Update – Attorney James Silvestro (Zoom).

Silvestro said, "I have two updates. The privileged memo of the Establishing Contract [a 1977 document]. The contract is getting pretty old, hard to read, and we put it in plain English. The other is the D.A. Davidson [contract through July] that is not going to be extended. They have given formal notice to disengage. Greg [Swartz] recommends that you don't have the need for a municipal advisor for the next 12 to 18 months." A stifled chuckle rippled through the room when Silvestro continued, "Greg's parting advice is when the board needs a financial advisor, he's not interested."

Old Business:

Review of D.A. Davidson Resiliency Program Financials – Aaron Hancey.

Hancey said, "The cost we've incurred with the Resiliency Project. I've got the information and walked through the summary. The board authorized expenditures, nine line items; \$33 million the board has approved. There has been \$19.6 million spent from the beginning of the Resiliency Project. We have \$18.9 million in invoices and document support."

Long-term liability includes four loans: one from 2008 (down to \$2 million) and three recent loans for the Resiliency Project (\$18.2 million). Questions from Matt Miles included the date the tracking start-

ed, and whether funds were co-mingled with operating funds.

Hancey noted that he was not an authority. He said, "I can connect all the dots to all the dollars. We've spent about 10 percent [for design, engineering, etc.], that's industry standards. Typically, 10 percent to get into a project. Fifty-five percent [can be] recouped from what was spent. That's Greg's [Swartz] professional opinion."

Supporting Swartz's professional opinion, Randy Meaker said, "I believe we can recoup 55 percent. By 2040 we can be looking at putting a plant south."

Miles said, "That's 14 years from now. Design recovery? Those plans will have no value. I don't see that it will have any value. From where I come from, if you can't eat it, it has no value."

Meaker said, "I disagree."

Miles said, "I'm not pointing fingers, it's just my experience."

New Business:

Discussion of 2027 Rate Share Structure

The board discussed the current two-pronged rate structure, the difficulty in explaining it to entities, and the need for a rate increase. The staff will formulate three options to bring to the next board meeting. Also discussed was the request for the board's need to have a full document packet prior to meetings, rather than getting material when they come to meetings. It was determined that documents should be sent to the board electronically 24 hours prior to a meeting.

Miles said, "I have another question, who do we talk to about getting something on the agenda?"

Ripp said, "You can call me or Adam."

In jest Miles said, "I'm afraid of you Vicki...I'll call Adam!"

Adjourned

Background-Project 7 Board meetings,

which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, begin at 4:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are available on Zoom. Board packet materials, which are unavailable to the public, are circulated to board members prior to the meeting.

Project 7 Contact Information:

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

PROJECT 7 MOVES FORWARD WITHOUT CONSULTING TEAM *From previous pg*

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

The City of Delta Ron White ronwhite@cityofdeltanet

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

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

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

The Menoken Water District Randy Meaker 970 249-5118

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

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LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT FOR RE-1J BOARD MEETING From pg 1

Carlson was present for the meeting.

The Board heard Advisory Committee Updates. District E Director Tiffany Vincent spoke about the meeting of the District Accountability Committee (DAC). DAC members (there are 19 committee members, 12 of whom had been present at the June 22 meeting) had voted against term limits and voted not to livestream meetings. They had recommended that the Board of Education run meetings differently and wanted to be included in school closure talks.

District F Director Jody Hovde discussed the committee that is working on school closure/consolidation. Also, "Tonight you'll see a first reading of a new policy on school closure."

There are community members who would like to be included in the school closure/consolidation committee, Hovde said.

The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Delegate Assembly will take place in September if anybody is interested in going, Hovde said. "...It's about board policy, governance, and what the legislature does."

Hovde said she is getting a lot of community engagement, "Probably a dozen or more emails and or phone calls a day."

COMMUNITY INPUT

Board President Neisha Balleck opened the floor to public comment.

Bob Nicholson spoke, questioning payments to the Investigator hired to look into the situation at Olathe Elementary School. "...I filed a CORA request a few days ago...there has been no record of payments or billings to or from Sally Roller law...Is the district board or the president slow rolling this and do you know where you stand? This is a serious question. Doesn't sound like it's going anywhere to me."

Zoe Werden said that she attended the Montrose Classical Academy Carnival and questioned who had paid for it. She wondered how much each student will cost the district. "I love charter schools...however, charter schools are also more expensive than a neighborhood public school...there is an increased cost...how many students are currently enrolled, what's the minimum to start

construction, how possibly can the Daily Press building be transformed into a functioning elementary school by fall of 2026...how does the addition of an elementary school not pull resources and students, money and teachers, support systems from other established schools...when will you make the decision about MCA for the 26-27 school year...

Ellen Angeles spoke. She questioned the cost of the out-of-area investigator's travel to Montrose. "...A ten-hour drive to our community is the equivalent of one of our paraprofessionals doing 137 hours work." She thanked the board for approving the ECC. "That decision will have a positive impact on our community for years to come." Angeles said she has deep concerns about division, the cost to taxpayers, and the strained community trust, "Two weeks ago, a friend of yours showed up at my home. I was happy to speak with her. Basically, she told me my voice was too powerful. It is because I speak to the truth and I support our staff, our students, and our community. That will not change."

Angeles said that giving Vista Charter School to the Charter School Institute was a failure. "...After that happened, there was a complaint made. The Sheriffs recused themselves, the police recused themselves, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation got involved. Is that the right thing for our families and our kids? I think not.

"That employee is no longer there, but it gives me great concern about transparency, responsibility, and supervision."

The Montrose Classical Academy was driven by outside interests and "forced down our throat," Angeles said. She asked whether enrollment targets had been met and how the financial impact would hurt neighborhood schools.

"...More importantly I'm concerned about the costs that we're spending on legal fees. We need to stop this financial hemorrhaging and focus on supporting our students...please consider our staff and our students, make right decisions."

Joan Wofford spoke about Miller Farmer Carlson Law. Wofford said that the independent investigator hired by the board was not really hired by the board.

"...clearly all members of the board were

not involved in that vetting...did the board act as a whole body in these decisions? I think not..."

Linda Gann spoke. Gann said she was disappointed that there was no agenda item regarding the investigation at Olathe Elementary. Gann questioned whether the whole board was involved in the decision to hire the investigator and the length of the investigation itself. "...It is now three weeks later. Has the board received the final report...three weeks ago we were told the investigation would be wrapped up by now. But tonight we don't know the status of the investigation, and we do not know of any findings...this board is not meeting in July. School starts in August...many of us are left wondering, who is steering this ship...when can this community expect a resolution to the investigation. What is the plan...who is accountable between now and the start of school..."

CONSENT AGENDA

All Consent Agenda items were pulled for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board spent time considering the items moved from the Consent Agenda.

With assistance from Attorney Carlson, Board President Neisha Balleck requested that minutes of the June 2, 2026 special meeting be revised to show that Director Scarborough was not asked to change his vote but had accidentally voted No when he meant to vote Aye. Scarborough was allowed to amend his vote to aye, to place Superintendent Dr. Carrie Stephenson on paid, non-punitive, non-disciplinary leave pending the outcome of the third-party investigation into employee complaints at Olathe Elementary School. The Board voted to approve the minutes as amended, as well as minutes of the June 9 regular meeting.

After the discussion, the Board voted to approve the following:

- Payment to CU Succeed for Spring 2026 concurrent enrollment in the amount of \$27,170;
- The annual renewal of Tableau in the amount of \$25,470;
- Renewal of Insurance Fees Agreement on July 1, 2026;
- The 26/27 Amendment to Renew the

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT FOR RE-1J BOARD MEETING *From previous pg*

Food Service Management Company Contract with Sodexo America, LLC, the second renewal year of a five-year contract that started in 2024/2025. The renewal contract is effective July 1, 2026 upon approval by CDE. The Contract renewal includes a fee per meal Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 3.97 percent, paid by the District;

-Personnel Report.

The Board also voted to approve Adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget and related resolutions 07-2026 Appropriation Resolution 2026-2027 and 09-2026 Use of Beginning Fund Balance Resolution 2026-2027. The Board voted to approve the Montrose Classical Academy proposed contract adjustments.

Two Board policies were presented on First Reading; no action was taken:

-FCB, Closing Schools - New policy.

-DID, Inventories - Revised to correctly align the financial value amount.

The Board voted to approve the Olathe Middle High School Survey, and waived the 30-day requirement for submission.

District G Director Shane Daly said that he would be open to a discussion of e-bikes, as suggested by Montrose City Councilor Adam Woodden during the previous Board of Education meeting.

Resolution 10-2026, "A Steady Path Forward" The Montrose County School District Strategic Plan 2026-2030, was approved as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board President Neisha Balleck asked legal counsel about listing all three Executive Session topics in one motion. Although Attorney Bryce Carlson advised that it would be advisable to exclude Executive Secretary to the Board Laurie

Laird, it was ultimately decided to include Mrs. Laird for recording purposes. The Board voted to take a brief recess, and then entered Executive Session with the Attorney and Mrs. Laird to consider three items:

- *Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) for conference with the Board's attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions related to the Board's obligations, process options, and response to the written grievance submitted by the Superintendent;*

- *Executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) for personnel matters related to the Superintendent's performance evaluation, consistent with Section 7 of the Superintendent's employment agreement;*

- *Executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) for conference with the Board's attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions concerning the Superintendent's employment agreement, including evaluation procedures, compensation provisions, and related contractual obligations.*

BOARD PLANNING

Upon returning to regular session, the Board discussed items for future consideration.

District F Director Jody Hovde said the Board will need to schedule a second reading of the Closing Schools Policy, including electronic participation, and will need to schedule a location for a full day work session in August to consider board goals and superintendent goals. "...I'm assuming the third-party investigation will be closing sooner rather than later, and we will have to have a special meeting to vote on those results and the reinstatement or non-reinstatement of Dr. Ste-

phenson."

Board President Neisha Balleck said that it would depend on the timing. "If it's before the next August meeting, for sure."

Hovde said, "I think we need to put that on our radar that that's something...I mean I don't think, if the conclusion finished in say two weeks, that we should wait until August to have a decision. I think since we made a board decision to do that, we need to make a board decision to undo that, or to do whatever we're going to do. Because there's a lot of hysteria in the community, and the morale among the staff and across these buildings right now, uncertainty is starting to wear....I've had some tears and phone calls from staff."

President Balleck said that she hoped to work with Interim Superintendent Kalb on some of the backlog tasks.

Board Vice President Ted Valerio said that the conditions at the current ECC location need to be addressed right away. "...I definitely would like to have some clarification on what we've done as a district so far...I just want to make sure that they're in...a healthy environment."

District D Director Tom West asked whether FCC (construction company) would be remodeling the new ECC.

Property Services Director Matt Smith said that no contract is in place and that hiring a contractor would be done through a procurement process.

Balleck said that the current ECC campus may have already been taken care of, but the public needs to know.

Interim Superintendent Jessica Kalb said that staff would provide an ECC update.

With no further business, the board voted to adjourn.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

This year, our country will celebrate our 250th Year since the signing of the Declaration of Independence as well as Colorado celebrating our 150th Year!

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July 4 (all activities except the market & parade will be at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater)

9 am - The Montrose Farmers Market begins

10 am - Patriotic 4th of July Parade begins

11 am - Food truck village opens

Taqueria el Jalisco, Corn to be Wild, Polar Express, Blue Ribbon BBQ, DK's Snack Shack, Grub:30, Dippidy Donuts, and Aila Thai

Dog show presented by Starry Waters Dog Training will begin

Noon - Family fun activities begin

This will be hosted by the Montrose Children's Museum, Twisted Critters N More, Paint Girl Face Painting, and Bounce & Slide Inflatables

Vendor area opens

12:30 p.m. - The Frontier Veterans Band begins its performance

2 pm - MRD Cornhole tournament begins

5:45 pm - National anthem

4 pm - Update: Horsefly Brewing will be hosting the beer garden and beginning service at this time

6 pm - Montrose Summer Music Series first performance begins - Coral Skye & the Soul Syndicate

7 pm - Intermission

7:30 pm - Montrose Summer Music Series headlining performance begins - The Wilder Blue

8:30 pm - Last call for food and drinks

We look forward to having all of you join us for the festivities celebrating our Nation and our incredible state and community!

Thank you,


Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor - Montrose, CO


mjb@cityofmontrose.org

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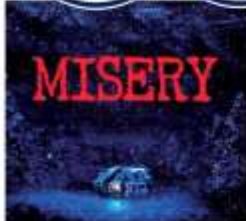
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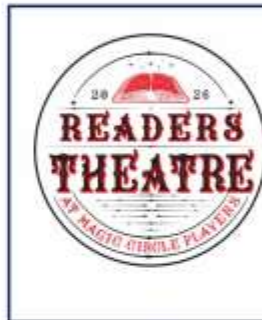
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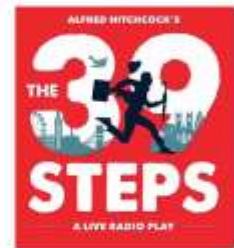
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DMEA ELECTS NEW BOARD OFFICERS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On June 23, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3pm. Damon Lockhart attended on Zoom, all other board members were present in person.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, determination of a quorum, and approval of the amended agenda.

Introductions: Attendees were comprised of board members, department heads, staff, and guest Tony Hoag (Citizen’s Climate Lobby).

Organizational Business

Action Item: 2026 Board Election Report - Chief Relations Officer & General Counsel Sarah Abbott.

PowerPoint slide:

Eligible Voters	30,594
Web Ballots	3,191
Duplicate Web/Paper	97
Final Web Ballots	1,652
Onsite Ballots	12
Total returns	15.87%

Abbot noted that when there was a duplicate Web/Paper ballot, only one vote was counted. The proposed amendment to DMEA’s Articles of Incorporation regarding director term limits was defeated (2,507 against; 2,336 in favor).

The board asked about ballots that were not counted. Abbot said, “One hundred and seventy one were not signed; and 126 were invalid [wrong signature, title of business signer not given, signing for deceased member, etc.] This year I reviewed six questioned ballots.” The major cause of uncounted and invalid ballots is the failure of members to follow clearly printed voting instructions.

Action Item: Elect Board Officers (elected unanimously)

- President - Stacia Cannon
- Vice-President - Kevin Williams
- Secretary/Treasurer - Jacob Gray
- Assistant Secretary/Treasurer - Steve Metheny

Action Item: Establish Financial Signatories (approved unanimously)

Action Item: Appoint Organizational Board Representatives
Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA)



The regular Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting was held on June 23. In a vote of confidence, all four directors were unanimously re-elected to their board positions. (L to R) Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Steve Metheny, Vice-President Kevin Williams, Secretary/Treasurer Jacob Gray, and President Stacia Cannon. Photo by Gail Marvel.

– Damon Lockhart, alternate CEO Jack Johnston
Western United Electric Supply (WUES) – CEO Jack Johnston, alternate Damon Lockhart.

Informational Item: Assignments of Committee Members & Chair
It is the purview of the President to make assignments and some changes were made.

General Business:

Consent Items:

- Membership & Meter Report
- May 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes (approved unanimously)
- June 2026 Annual Meeting of Members Minutes (approved unanimously)

Committee Chair Reports

Finance, Audit & Rates – Jacob Gray, Chair.

Gray said, “We had a pretty robust meeting...some rate pressure.”

Engineering, Construction & Energy Services – Steve Metheny Chair.

Metheny said, “We have not met.”

Member Relations – Kevin Williams, Chair.

Williams said, “We’ve not met either.”

Executive – Stacia Cannon, Chair.

Cannon said, “Did not meet.”

Informational Item - CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston said, “We are reviewing wildfire protocols. Some facility improvements in the training room. We needed more conference space. No major event days, We’re one to two weeks out for system design. Twelve new net metering. Hydro, we’re being told we’ll have a full season through October.”

Johnston’s report included Light Up the Navajo, vegetation management, phishing, and two prominent projects. He said, “We’re in the process of improving the [Montrose] hospital and airport with better reliability.” Montrose Regional Hospital is served by DMEA.

Referring to financials Johnston said, “Margins are trending better. Revenue trending slightly upward; May revenue is

DMEA ELECTS NEW BOARD OFFICERS From previous pg

slightly more than budgeted. The cost of power, no surprise, is trending in the red right now. The cost of services and rate study are underway."

Informational Item: Affiliated Organizations & Education Reports.

Western United Electrical Supply Corporation (WUES) Report – Jack Johnston.

Johnston said, "They are 14 percent below May 2025. Slower on non-member orders. Sales are flat throughout the territory. They are on a six-year retirement patronage credit schedule."

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

Lockhart said, "There was no meeting."

Conferences, Webinars & Meetings

Both Williams and Johnston attended the fourth consecutive Joint Organizations Leading Transition (JOLT) Energy Summit in Grand Junction. Williams said, "On Thursday there were about 200 people. I attended six sessions." Along with information gleaned from the sessions, Williams and Johnston networked with Montrose and Delta County Commissioners and members of city councils.

Cannon and Johnston attended the Co-operative Finance Corporation (CFC) in California. Cannon said, "I spent eight hours in classes." Cannon highlighted that industry has pushed off a lot of expenditures and very challenging times could be coming for the energy industry.

Montrose & Delta County Fair Junior Livestock Auctions

Metheny and Emily Sanchez will attend and purchase livestock at the Montrose County Fair.

Lockhart and Cannon will attend and purchase livestock at the Delta County Fair.

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

101: Director Responsibilities, Duties, and Standards of Conduct. Abbot said, "The proposed changes are clean-up items [terminology]."

Discussion included the need for the board, rather than the administrative staff, to have oversight of fees that directly impact members, i.e. disconnect fees, the \$2 fee charged to members for receiving a paper statement. Cannon noted that a previous staff recommended a \$5 fee

for paper statements, but the board determined the \$2 fee was appropriate.

Action on Policy 101 Director Responsibilities, Duties, and Standards of Conduct will be brought back for the July meeting.

Policy 102: Fiduciary Duties & Standards of Conduct and Policy 103: Conflicts of Interest.

No proposed changes.

Member Comments:

Tony Hoag (Citizen's Climate Lobby) met with Chief Technical Officer Mateusz Pena to help Hoag better understand data collection (net meter/production meter) as it relates to rooftop solar.

Hoag said, "There is potential for DMEA; half of what Garnet Mesa gives to DMEA. There are 2,130 homes that overproduce. They can become a dispatchable resource to DMEA...the resource is out there. Thank you for putting up with me and getting the answers [to questions] for me."

Changing topics Hoag said, "Two optics of other concerns. At the JOLT Summit, optic observations. Your power supplier [Guzman Energy] is running wild with data center development. You're talking about a rate increase, but you have \$4 million more with the past [rate] increase. Why a rate increase at this time with \$4 million more?"

Johnston said, "We do need a margin. We can't run at zero."

Chief Financial Officer Bob Farmer said, "[Part of] our ability to retire capital credits."

Hoag encouraged the board to reach out more to the community and explain the need for a rate increase.

Johnston said, "We can't run at zero. We can get some information out."

A short video clip was shown of bilingual CEO Johnston doing his first interview in Spanish. Johnston said, "At the annual meeting, after the business meeting, I did my first ever Spanish interview. I think it was a first for DMEA too." Johnston laughed and said, "I'm sure I spoke with an accent and I'm glad they asked me easy questions!" Johnston's interview was conducted by Enterate Latino, the Spanish Language Newspaper of Western Colorado.

Capital Credit Community Fund Donation Requests

Because presentations were scheduled for 6pm, the board went into Executive Session for half an hour and then returned to regular session for the presentations.

Requests from:

- Northside Elementary Parent Action Committee
- Montrose County Sheriff's Posse
- Surface Creek Valley Historical Society
- 7th Judicial District Domestic Violence Task Force
- Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club
- Miss Suzy's Educational Services

Each organization was given 15 minutes for presentation, followed by Q & A with the board. Board discussion on the requests took place in Executive Session.

Executive Session:

- Privileged CEO Report-Strategy
 - Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters
 - Bylaws
 - Capital Credit Community Fund Donation Requests
 - Confidential Board Governance Matters
- Executive Session Summary** – Amy Gavell, Chief of Staff.

An email from Gavell summarized the action taken by the board after exiting the executive session: "Upon motion from Director Williams, seconded by Director Sedgeley, the Board unanimously approved a donation of \$14,000 to the Northside Elementary Parent Action Committee for the purpose outlined in the donation application, contingent on written approval from the Montrose County School District for sign installation within six months.

"Upon motion from Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Heuscher, the Board unanimously approved a donation to the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse for \$15,000 for the purpose outlined in the donation application.

"Upon motion from Director Heuscher, seconded by Director Sedgeley, the Board unanimously approved a donation to the Surface Creek Valley Historical Society for \$20,000 for the purpose outlined in the donation application.

"Upon motion from Director Metheny,

DMEA ELECTS NEW BOARD OFFICERS From previous pg

seconded by Director Gray, the Board unanimously approved a donation to the 7th Judicial District Domestic Violence Task Force for \$25,000 for the purpose outlined in the donation application.

“Upon motion from Director Sedgeley, seconded by Director Williams, the Board approved a donation to the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club for \$20,200 for the purpose outlined in the donation application. Director Metheny abstained.

“Upon motion from Director Gray, seconded by Director Sanchez, the Board unanimously denied the donation request from Miss Suzy’s Educational Services.

“There were no additional Executive Session items to address.

With no further business to conduct, the Board adjourned its Regular Meeting at 9:34 p.m.”

Background

During meetings the board hears verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities. Co-op membership has access to some of the written staff reports submitted for board approval, i.e., minutes of the previous meeting, CEO report, and action items (resolutions). Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their DMEA accounts.

Dist. 1 – Ryan Sedgeley, 370-220-6086

ryan.sedgeley@dmea.com

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

jacob.gray@dmea.com

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

jacob.gray@dmea.com

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

emily.sanchez@dmea.com

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

kevin.williams@dmea.com

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

damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist. 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-

6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

enno.heuscher@dmea.com

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

stacia.cannon@dmea.com

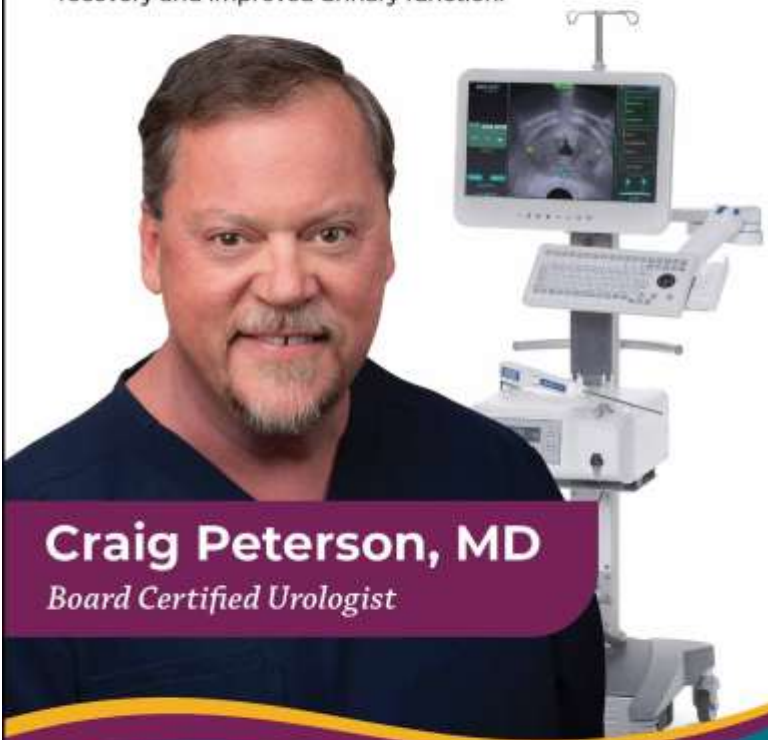
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY FIREWORKS DISPLAY POSTPONED, FIREWORKS SALES PROHIBITED

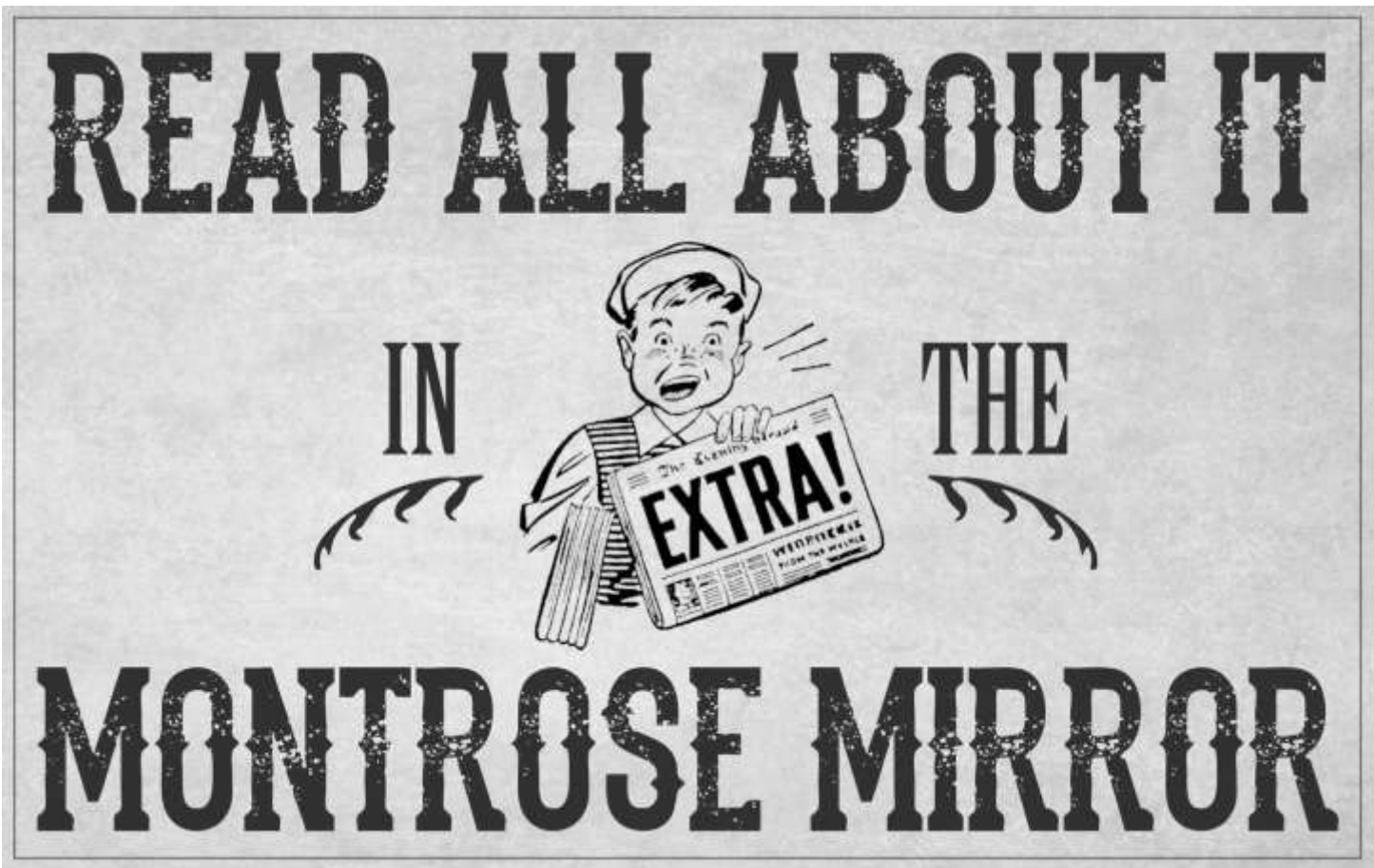
Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose in consultation with leaders from the Montrose Fire Protection District, Montrose County Sheriff's Office, Montrose County, and other emergency management officials, made the decision today to postpone the 4th of July community fireworks display in Riverbottom Park. The City of Montrose will also prohibit the sale of fireworks within the city limits effective on Monday, June 29, 2026 at 12 p.m.

This year's extreme wildfire conditions and nearby emergencies have created a more volatile situation in the City of Montrose and nearby surrounding area than previous years. The current and projected high temperatures, combined with low fuel moisture content and high winds, present a hazardous and dangerous situation for the region. The forecast for this week calls for more hot, dry, and windy conditions to include the possibility of temperatures in the low to mid 90's during the latter part of the week and into the 4th of July weekend. Surrounding counties and federal lands are currently under Stage-1 fire restrictions and will likely be moving to Stage-2 fire restrictions soon.

Fire protection resource availability is another significant concern given the fire activity in the region. In previous years, the Montrose Fire Protection District has relied on local, state, and federal mutual aid partners to assist with fire related incidents. With multiple large scale and resource intensive fires now active on the Western Slope, including the fire occurring in Ouray County, many of these resources are not available to assist with fire protection activities in Montrose.

Because of the current strain on fire protection resources and with the safety of the public as our primary concern, the City of Montrose is postponing the July 4th community fireworks display until a future date when weather conditions are favorable. The parade on Main Street, free concert and family-friendly events at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater will continue as planned. To report a fire, or other emergency, contact 911, or dispatch at 970-249-9110.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

DILUTING OUR COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

By Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

There is resistance to placing the proposed charter amendments on the November 2026 ballot in Montrose. At the heart of the debate is a push for a citizen's commission that some are promoting with unusual intensity. In my humble opinion, this effort reveals a deeper issue: a lack of respect for our foundational structure of government. Our Council-Manager Form of Government: Montrose operates under a council-manager system, a classic example of representative government. In this model, the people's voice is heard through their elected representatives. Council members make policy decisions and oversee the city manager who handles day-to-day operations, along with a city attorney and a municipal judge.

This is not direct democracy. We do not govern by popular vote. Instead, we rely on elected officials to study proposals, weigh options, and act in the best interest of the community. This system has served American towns effectively for generations because it balances public input with accountable leadership.

The Push for a Citizens Commission:

Those advocating for a citizen's commission argue that it would give residents more direct say in charter changes. Yet citizens already have a built-in mechanism through citizen petition-initiated charter amendments. With enough valid signatures, these proposals go directly to the ballot for voter ratification. Commissions, however, are typically filled with activists rather than everyday citizens. Any recommendations they produce can still be accepted or rejected by the elected council.

Why add this extra layer if the goal is truly to let the people decide? In my humble

opinion, those wanting this commission may simply be unhappy with the outcome of the last election. They appear to view the commission as an opportunity to derive undue influence over the people's choice because they disagree with the positions of those who prevailed.

Notably, no such commissions were formed for the charter amendments on the ballot in 2014 or 2025. Claims that changes like restoring council involvement in hiring and firing the police chief and city clerk require a commission seem inconsistent, as no commission guided the 2014 decision moving them away from the council's then joint decision with the manager.

The real motivation seems to be a desire to shift away from our representative republic toward something closer to direct democracy. This bypasses the deliberative process elected officials are chosen to provide.

We Are a Representative Republic, Not a Direct Democracy: No matter how often the phrase "democracy" is used, the facts remain clear. Our system is a representative republic. The only regular democratic actions citizens take are voting for their representatives to do the people's business.

When major changes are contemplated, like charter amendments, elected officials propose them, and the people vote to approve or reject those proposals.

This is how representative government functions at every level in the United States. Direct democracy tools, such as citizen commissions that seek to override this process, undermine the structure that protects minority rights and ensures thoughtful governance.

Fundamentals, Not Party Politics: This discussion is not about Republican or

Democrat labels as some are trying to position it, it is about the basic fundamentals of how government works in our country, state and locally. The United States Constitution guarantees each state a republican form of government, a principle that extends to our local communities.

Montrose voters elect council members and trust them to handle complex issues like charter amendments. Creating unelected commissions staffed by unelected, unaccountable activist's risks turning decisions into activist-driven exercises rather than representative ones.

Elected officials have a duty to listen to citizen input, study the issues, and place well-crafted proposals on the ballot when appropriate, which is what has happened pertaining to the proposed amendments. Short-circuiting that process weakens the representative system our founders designed.

Preserving What Works: As we consider charter changes, we must stay grounded in our proven form of government. Resistance to routing these proposals through a citizen's commission is not obstruction. It is a defense of the representative government we have that ensures accountability and true "consent of the governed" through elected leaders. Blurring those lines and roles can create unintended consequences.

Montrose deserves charter discussions that respect our council-manager system. We should focus on electing strong representatives who will bring forward thoughtful amendments for voters to decide in November, without unnecessary detours that erode our foundational structure. That is what I have proposed from the start of this journey.

Just one man's humble opinion.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST MOVES TO STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON-Based on persistent severe fire conditions, Gunnison National Forest will begin Stage 1 Fire Restrictions at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23. While the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests often coordinate restriction levels in tandem, current conditions require moving the Gunnison National Forest into Stage 1 independently at this time.

Fire managers base decisions about fire restrictions on fuel-moisture measurements, predicted weather, regional fire activity, and other risk factors. Fire danger is increasing, and these restrictions are being implemented to protect public and firefighter safety amid current and anticipated elevated wildfire risk. Restrictions will remain in place until further notice.

Forest officials will continue to monitor conditions and assess whether further action is needed, including potential additional restrictions if hot and dry conditions persist — or easing restrictions if widespread moisture develops.

Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, the following are PROHIBITED:

Igniting, building, attending, maintaining or using a fire — including fires fueled by charcoal or briquettes — outside of a permanent metal or concrete fire pit or grate that the Forest Service has installed and maintains at its developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas). 36 CFR § 261.52(a). EXCEPTIONS:

Stoves or grills solely fueled by liquid petroleum fuels; or

A fully enclosed metal stove, grill, or sheep-herder-type stove with a chimney at least five feet in length and a mesh-screen spark arrestor with openings of ¼ inch or less; or

A permanent metal or concrete fire pit or grate that the U.S. Forest Service has installed and maintained at its developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas).

Using an explosive. This includes, but is not limited to, fuses, blasting caps, fireworks, rockets, exploding targets, tracers, and incendiary ammunition. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(b)

Smoking is prohibited, except in an enclosed vehicle, building, or a developed recreation site, 36 CFR § 261.52(d)

Blasting, welding, or operating acetylene or other torches with an open flame without being in a cleared area at least 10 feet in diameter and keeping a chemical-pressurized fire extinguisher (minimum 8 oz. capacity and rating of 2A) with the operator. 36 CFR § 261.52(h)




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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FRUITA AREA CHAMBER ANNOUNCES CONGRESSMAN JEFF HURD AS FEATURED SPEAKER FOR STATE OF THE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA – The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Congressman Jeff Hurd will serve as the featured keynote speaker at the 2026 State of the Community Breakfast on Tuesday, June 30, at Absolute Prestige Ranch.

The annual event brings together business leaders, community members, non-profit organizations, and elected officials for a conversation about the issues, opportunities, and priorities shaping Fruita, Mesa County, Western Colorado, and beyond.

In addition to Congressman Hurd's keynote remarks, attendees will hear updates from local, state, and federal representatives before participating in interactive roundtable discussions designed to encourage meaningful dialogue and direct engagement with elected officials.

Confirmed participants include Mayor Matthew Breman, Mesa County Commis-

sioner Cody Davis, Senator Janice Rich, Representative Matthew Soper, Representative Rick Taggart, and representatives from the offices of U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper.

"This event is one of the few opportunities each year where community members can hear from leaders at every level of government and engage in direct conversations about the issues impacting our businesses and our community," said Kayla Howell, President & CEO of the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We're excited to welcome Congressman Hurd and create a space where attendees can ask questions, share feedback, and gain valuable insight into the future of our region."

Unlike traditional presentations, the State of the Community Breakfast emphasizes engagement. Following the keynote and panel discussions, attendees will participate in a series of facilitated roundtable conversations with elected officials, allow-

ing for deeper discussion on topics such as economic development, workforce challenges, housing, infrastructure, public policy, and community growth.

The event aligns with the Chamber's mission of empowering businesses to thrive and grow by fostering connections between the business community and public leaders who help shape the policies and decisions affecting the region.

Event Details

State of the Community Breakfast

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Absolute Prestige Ranch (1351 Q Rd. Loma, CO)

Breakfast will be provided by Flavors Grill, courtesy of our partners at Family Health West.

Registration is currently open. For additional information or to register, visit fruitachamber.org or contact the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce at (970) 858-3894.



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STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Effective June 29, 2026



#KnowBeforeYouGo - Neighboring counties, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service lands may have fire restrictions which differ from Delta County.

[Visit WestSlopeFireInfo.com](http://WestSlopeFireInfo.com) for the latest fire restrictions in Western Colorado

PROHIBITED

FIRES

- NO campfires or bonfires
- NO open burning/agricultural burning,
- NO portable chimineas, charcoal BBQs, wood fire pits or tiki torches,
- The burning of trash or use of a burn barrel is always illegal in Delta County



SMOKING

- NO smoking outside in/near combustible materials or the disposal of a lit cigarette butt from a vehicle



DRIVING OFF ESTABLISHED TRAILS/ROADS

- NO use of a motor vehicle/OHV outside an established road or motorized trail or parking outside an established parking area where flammable vegetation is within 10 feet of the vehicle.



EXPLOSIVES/FIREWORKS

- NO use of explosives, fireworks, exploding targets or tracer ammunition of any kind



ALLOWED WITH CAUTION

CHAINSAWS

- Use of a chainsaw WITH a USDA/SAE approved spark arrestor, a class 2A extinguisher at least 8oz capacity and a rounded point shovel

WELDING

- Welding or operating a torch with a flame **must take place in a cleared area at least 30 feet in diameter** while in possession of a class 2A pressurized fire extinguisher

DRIVING ON OFF ROAD TRAILS

- Use of a motor vehicle or OHV on **established** road/trails and parking in an established parking area void of flammable vegetation

ALLOWED

GAS STOVES/LANTERNS/BBQs

- Propane, natural gas and pellet BBQ grills and stoves*,
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- *All devices must be equipped with a shut off valve and may only be used in an area 3 feet from any flammable material



SMOKING INSIDE

- Smoking within an enclosed vehicle or building (where legally allowed) or outside while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter void of flammable materials



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE THE LEGACY OF SMALL TOWN LEADERSHIP

by Sieglinde Carpenter

MONTROSE-President Kerri Catlin of Montrose Republican Women (MRW), proudly presented \$2,000 scholarship awards to Kyra Redd of Nucla and Azure Wallace of Olathe. The recent 16th annual scholarship award luncheon welcomed keynote speaker, Sydney Schoen, an Orion Associate Manager of Planning Support. She enthusiastically shared complex elements about the Artemis II spacecraft in her presentation, "To the Moon and Beyond". Sydney's passion was evident. Her continued drive to learn, explore and challenge herself aligned with the core values of the Republican women of Montrose and the characteristics of high school graduates awarding women in good governance and



Azure Wallace with her parents. Courtesy photo.



Kyra Redd with her parents. Courtesy photo.



Her continued drive to aligned with the core Montrose and the char-Kyra and Azure. Edu-awarding high school

scholarships are the core values and hopes of every MRW member, it's become their legacy. District Senator Marc Catlin presented each graduate with an American flag and MRW symbolic Medal of Education Excellence.

Scholarships help lessen some of the financial burden placed on parents to provide higher education opportunities for their children. In some cases, receiving a scholarship is the catalyst that enables a graduate to take the next step. Both recipients exemplify the qualities of scholastic achievements, the drive to excel, accountability for the actions and the desire to make life better – making the world better. These qualities were first instilled by their supportive and encouraging parents, family, teachers and a community that recognizes the value of awarding their hard work.

Kyra Redd from Nucla will be attending Colorado Mountain College studying Diagnostics Medical Radiology; her goal is to become an Ultrasound Sonographer. Kyra's essay was on the 10th Amendment, "... the balance of power between federal government and the states...any powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or the people. In my rural community, decisions are often made by those who don't fully understand our way of life... small population voices are often drowned out by bigger populations. I'm particularly concerned about reintroducing the gray wolves into Colorado. Wolves prey on livestock which creates immense stress and financial loss for ranchers whose voices often aren't heard. Wildlife management should involve more local control and stronger input from those most affected. It reminds me that the government works best when it considers the voices of the people living with the consequences of these decisions."

Azure Wallace from Olathe will be attending Cornell College, studying Business with the desire to open a local Farm-to-Table restaurant. Azure chose to write her essay on the 1st Amendment. "It's the most important protection we have as Americans. Freedom of Speech help people grow, challenge ideas and better understand each other. The person who helped shape my view on freedom of speech is Charlie Kirk. With a respectful tone, he invited others to express themselves, he didn't shut people down, he simply listened. How can someone be forever silenced for speaking about their beliefs? Free speech isn't always comfortable, but it's necessary. We use this right to strengthen our communities and move toward greater understanding, perhaps eventually healing a fracture country."

Montrose Republican Women are on the frontline of political issues and actively educate, support Republican officials and candidates. As part of the National Federation of Republican Women, volunteers conduct programs for elected officials and candidates, participate in community events, and support charitable organizations in Montrose, meeting the 3rd Friday, 12n-1:30pm at the Hampton Inn. For more information, please contact Kerri Catlin 970-209-5170.

by Sieglinde Carpenter, freelance writer who writes for The Love of the Story in support of local non-profit organizations.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SAME OLD WORN-OUT DEMOCRAT PLAYBOOK

Editor:

When our new school board members were elected, I congratulated them and wrote that their election was confirmation that area voters have had enough of woke insanity. I also cautioned that area conservatives must be prepared to aggressively support their new board because area liberals would use the same mob rule tactics at school board meetings they used at county commissioners' meetings when the election didn't go their way. Like arrogant Democrats nationwide, they are so convinced of their superiority that they cannot accept defeat and let the people chosen by the majority do the jobs they were elected to do. That same vocal mob of liberal extremists are now bombarding the new city council members. It's the same old worn-out Democrat playbook. When they win an election, it's to hell with bipartisanship and the public welfare. When they lose, all of a sudden, the elected officials are supposed to kowtow to the losers. Our school board and city council members have bent over backwards to listen to all parties, which they should continue to do. The City Council has even taken steps to make that communication much easier. The "local vocals" may find this hard to understand, but our elected board members have absolutely no obligation to the opposition beyond listening. The boards don't have to convince every person in disagreement with them before taking action, and they certainly don't have to change direction to accommodate liberals who lost an election. Like the majority of Montrose voters, I very much appreciate our conservative school board and city council members. Stay the course. Pay as little attention to the noise as you can. It's just noise. The *Montrose Press* is in that same category, just a little louder noise.

Our local Democrats are not that much different from their national counterparts. No matter how much fraud is ex-

posed throughout government programs, they will ignore or deny it. No matter how corrupt USAID was and how much taxpayer money is stolen and funneled back to their party, they will deny it. These are the same people who believe Obamacare made healthcare affordable. They refuse to acknowledge how corrupt the SPLC is or how ActBlue funneled illegal foreign contributions directly to the Democrat party. These people don't want to talk about deaths caused by illegals or arrests of dangerous illegals, especially child traffickers. They will deny all the new information about how many of the previous reports on climate change were pure garbage. They will never admit that Fauci used USAID to give millions in taxpayer dollars to fund Wuhan gain-of-function research that sparked COVID and resulted in millions of deaths worldwide, that the intelligence community covered it up, and that Fauci blatantly lied to Congress about it. Most importantly, local Democrats are no different than Democrats nationally in that they are either totally ignorant of the fact that a minority of America-hating Muslims and socialists control their party, or they don't care. Last week, Democrat voters chose the most repulsive sort over Democrat establishment-endorsed candidates to win three New York primaries, driving their party even farther left. The winners are from the kind of left that makes Rep. Ocasio-Cortez look like a moderate. All were Democrat Socialists of America (DSA) endorsed by NYC Mayor Mamdani. In a blatant example of anti-semitism, Mamdani continued to confirm his radical credentials this week when he referred to the Jewish lobbying group AIPAC as "monsters." The trope of Jewish people being less than human is a central and recurring theme among Jew-haters throughout history. Mamdani also mourned an Al Jazeera "journalist" this week who, as it turns out, was a Hamas sniper. Mamdani's three "winners" hold

positions so thoroughly insane they should be politically disqualifying – but this is today's Democrat party. One is the founder of the CUAD organization that calls for death to America and the "total eradication of Western civilization." According to the them, 9/11 was America's fault. One raised a Hamas headband at a rally. One said she wipes her hands with the American flag. One wants to nationalize the airline industry. One called white women "ugly colonizers" and demanded defunding the police and prisons. Democrats seem to have no problem with mini-Mamdanis popping up all around the country. They have complete amnesia about the horrible history of socialists and Muslims. History shows that aggressively evil people win not because of their numbers. They win because the people around them – in this case everyday Democrats – are initially too passive, and eventually too frightened, to stop them. The truth is, socialists and radical Muslims are actively responsible for hundreds of millions of deaths over the centuries.

Given the anti-American, antisemitic, anti-capitalist, eat-the-rich, defund-the-police, trans-everything positions of the Democrat party, it's hard for me to give local Democrats any credibility. I don't really care that the "local vocals" don't like the school superintendent being put on paid leave. I don't care what they think of proclamations about June Pride Month. I don't care that they want a citizen commission appointed to hamper the effectiveness of City Council and slow them down.

People foolish enough to think Democrats are using Muslims to usher in socialism, when the truth is Muslims are using Democrats to usher in Islam, make it difficult to care about their opinions about anything, including what they think of our duly elected school board and city council members.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MCSO JUNE 23 MEETING MISINFORMATION FROM PUBLIC COMMENTS

Editor:

As I listened to the Community Input from several people at the last Montrose County School Board Meeting, I heard the same misinformation as at previous meetings. It's the same adage Hitler used. His "Big Lie" basically states that if you say a lie often enough, people will believe it. Let me address some of them.

- "Charter schools are more expensive than a neighborhood public school."

First of all charter schools **are** public schools. They have to be creative in raising funds for costs that are not covered by the \$12,400/per pupil revenue (PPR) from the State of Colorado minus the 5% the District receives. The staff and maintenance, busing, furniture, etc., mentioned by the speaker does not create a burden on the District as Montrose Classical Academy (MCA) will be responsible for those costs. To clarify this issue, reference C.R.S. § 22-30.5-106 "...the district cannot deny the application solely because the charter would reduce district revenue."

- More than one person brought up the fact that all this "trouble" was for only 200 students.

What they do not understand is that usually charter schools start with five to six grades and add a grade each year. MCA might begin with 200 students, but as they add higher grade levels, that number will expand annually.

- The question was asked: "Who paid for the MCA registration gala?"

MCA's Board and supporting individuals held and paid for a community celebration where families could meet their teachers, look at curriculum, ask questions and tour the new facility along with games, food, etc. The District had no financial involvement.

- A speaker asked about the cost of refurbishing the old Montrose Press building in order to be ready for this Fall semester.

Why be concerned about the cost? MCA is responsible for this, not the District. Again, these concerns aren't real because they do not affect the District's finances.

- The oversight of the Vista Charter school in the District was transferred to the Charter School Institute was objected to by a speaker because it works with the Farmer, Miller & Carlson Law Firm. The fact is that oversight of Vista was greatly lacking, and regardless of the law firm used, CSI has a good record overseeing charters. MCA is still under District authority.

- One speaker complained about the Board's legal fees. She said the District is "financially hemorrhaging" due to the amount of hours this Board is racking up with the law firm. Let's get a reality check about numbers. In 2023-2024, the previous MCSO Board spent approximately \$25,000 on legal fees, and \$56,000 in 2024-2025. If we compare that to Delta County School District, which is much smaller than MCSO, they spent \$43,000 in 2023-2024, and \$46,000 in 2024-2025. Is this truly "financial hemorrhaging"?

- MCA "was driven by outside interests."

This is absolutely not true. Parents and community members (including myself) pursued looking into starting a Classical Charter School in Montrose because we saw a need. There is no school offering a classical curriculum here, and many families were interested in this for their children. We reached out to several individuals with expertise and experience in the development of charter schools.

- A speaker said that MCA "was forced down our throats."

MCA went through the proper procedures to become a charter school. They jumped through dozens of hoops, and the previous Board denied their application twice (using \$12,000 of legal hours just for the State Board appeal) until the State Board remanded the application back to the District with a vote of 8-1. Only then did the previous Board vote for approval. MCA went above and beyond what was required because of the immense opposition they received.

- "Will MCA meet their target regarding enrollment?"

That is up to MCA and should not be a concern to anyone. MCA is doing daily and weekly check-ins with the District and sends updates upon every request and scheduled date. They send progress summaries in good measure even when not required. They have already met eight of nine opening conditions. The remaining milestone is the achievement of e-occupancy (Condition 6), with construction underway, and tracking towards the August 1 deadline.

MCA should be given a chance to succeed, because of the families who desire a classical education for their children. It appears that certain people do not want anyone to have this opportunity.

- "Public education is the foundation of a strong community."

First of all, MCA is part of public education. I would reframe her statement and say that **GOOD education is the foundation of a strong country.**

- More complaints were aimed at hiring the Farmer, Miller & Carlson Law Firm regarding Miller saying that he is a "Board whisperer." Miller is not involved with our Board and what Director Balleck said before still holds true: the Board tells the attorney its decision and not the other way around. Director Balleck does not make decisions on her own; decisions must be voted on by the whole Board. Boards vote as a whole; there is not an individual who makes decisions. Remember, it takes the Board to vote on different issues, and the Board voted 5-2 to hire Farmer, Miller & Carlson.

In conclusion, people who have opposed MCA and the hiring of the Farmer, Miller, Carlson Law Firm refuse to accept the fact that MCA has been given the opportunity to establish itself in Montrose and the only way the law firm will "go away" is if it doesn't do a good job for the Board.

Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LAWTON EDDY OF SALIDA FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ON JULY 7

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-Poet, performer and poetry activist Lawton Eddy of Salida will be the featured guest for the Talking Gourds first Tuesday Bardic Trails virtual reading series June 2nd at 7 pm MDT.

“Lawton came to town for a special Pop-Up reading this past May,” said Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes, “and I was gob-smacked by her reading. She was simply terrific. And so we’ve invited her back for Bardic Trails.”

Originally from New England, Eddy has been a poet since childhood. She was co-creator of the Sparrows Poetry Festival in Salida where she’s lived for the last three decades and has toured since 2005 with the performance group River City Nomads. She currently runs the Season of Words poetry series at the A Church performance space in Salida with fellow nomad Craig Nielson.

She describes writing poetry as “a practice of capturing word play and rhythm to infuse the ordinary stuff of life with mystical musings.”

Her poems have appeared in regional magazines and newspapers and her many performances include the Telluride Mushroom Festival, Crestone’s Poem Fest, the long-running C3 (Creativity Challenge Community) educational program in Denver as well as at City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco.

My blurb for her 2021 debut poetry collection, *Chasing Grace: poems of a life*, states “Her pursuit of grace rubs off on you in reading these poems, like the sweet stain of a fruit you want to lick from your fingers, hoping you too will be infused with her contagious *joie de vivre*.”

In the book she coined the word “harmonasm” (harmony + orgasm) for that feeling you get when it seems that nothing is missing. As she explains, “There’s something in me that revels in the lusty words that poets throw at life.

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

The Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds Poetry Program hosts the free Bardic Trails virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month. The Wilkinson Public Library continues as our collaboration partner, with town support from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts & Special Events. Featured reader for August 4th will be Diné poet/performer Kirbie Bennett of Durango.

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

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

OTHER PROGRAMS

Talking Gourds continues its collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm for the West End Stories & Poems series (although August will see a changed date). July 9th at 6 pm Leslie Ament and myself will host special guest Jami Allred and we will be talking about UFOs – unidentified, unexplained anomalous phenomena. The gourd circle will be a safe place to talk about personal experiences without disparagement.

Telluride’s Wilkinson Public Library and Talking Gourds host a live Stories & Poems series at the library’s Magazine Room on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:15 pm. Indigenous poet Esther Belin, poet laureate of Durango, who recently hosted the Four Corners Poetry Festival, will be our featured poet on July 21st. Participants are encouraged to bring a poem or story to share.

The international Fischer Prize poetry contest and the Colorado-focused Cantor Prize poetry contest both opened for submission on April 1st. Deadline for the 2026 contests will be Aug. 31st. Lesley Wheeler of Virginia will be the Fischer final judge, and Scott Nicolay of New Mexico the Cantor final judge.

For more information, visit the Telluride Institute Talking Gourds website: [tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds).

Feel free to post the attached flyers on social media.

Bardic Trails Virtual Poetry Series
July 7, 2026, 7-8:30 pm MT on Zoom

Featured Poet
Lawton Eddy
of Salida

Free Zoom Link → [tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar](https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar)



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

PERPETRATING THE FRAUD THAT IS CITY MANAGER BILL BELL *Resume' Building, Glad Handing and More? Why are we paying for this?*

By David White

Here we go...round 2 of an active campaign to create the illusion that the City Manager is the greatest thing to come along since the paperclip. At your expense, the City of Montrose Manager and his "team" have done it again. If you take the Montrose Press, follow the City on Facebook or Instagram or other media outlets, you will find a printed and/or digitally produced "puff piece" touting said City Manager's selection as the "City Manager of the Year" by a little-known publication by the name of Gov Business Review. Thousands more tax dollars have been spent on this latest stunt to print four (4) color newspaper style publicity pieces plus digitally creating similar content for the internet part of the campaign. In an article that I wrote for the May 4, 2026, edition of *The Montrose Mirror* (<https://www.montrosemirror.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/MM688.pdf>), I disclosed the true story behind Mr. Bell's so-called Manager of the Year Award revealing that the City and by extension, we the taxpayers, paid for this alleged award that was created as a financial generator for the magazine which is distributed to governmental bureaucrats. I predicted a full-on propaganda campaign would ensue by City staff and contracted publicists. Sure enough, it's game on. Joseph Goebbels (Hitler's propaganda minister) would be proud!

Following are excerpts from my previous article:

"In response to Mr. Bell's posting of the "award" on his LinkedIn.com web page, here are some of the comments made about it from some current and former local luminaries:

-No doubt in my mind. Best I have ever worked with. – Doug Glaspell, Former Montrose City Councilor

-...You're such a model - Well deserved my friend! – Francis Wick, Former Publisher – Montrose Daily Press

-Congrats, Bill. Appreciate all you and your team do to make Montrose a great place to stay and play. – Catherine Stroh, CEO & President, Colorado Historical Foundation and wife of former County Commissioner candidate Tim Stroh.

(https://www.linkedin.com/posts/william-bell-940b6591_2026-city-manager-of-the-year-award-by-gov-ugcPost-7454406073333125120-N3X-?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAli1hoBqH4UryFNDCift_GapzhRWdWck1A)

Unfortunately, these comments and others were made without the knowledge that this "award" is totally contrived and paid for by the "award winner" or their employer. And Mr. Bell is **1 of 10** so-called award winners? This is **NOT** an "award" unique to him (if you want to call it an award). This "award" is **NOT** from a national trade organization such as the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). According to Gov Business Review's website, the following statement outlines their criteria for a person to be nominated for this award:

"Typically, our qualified subscribers (Ed. Note: this is code for those who pay to subscribe) nominate subject matter experts and industry leaders with whom they've collaborated and found their experience and insights strikingly valuable. Did you recently work with an expert whose domain knowledge and mentorship profoundly impacted you? Did they turn out to be an authority on the topic and someone you would wholeheartedly recommend to your peers? Or do you know of someone so outstanding through your network you'd like them recognized as a leader in our magazine?"

So, here's the real kicker, while there may have been "nominations" by readers of this publication, the bottom line is that you paid for this puff piece as follows:

-March 5, 2026 – the City of Montrose, on **Check No. 148282, paid \$1,500** to Valley Media, LLC (publisher of Gov Business Review), to interview Mr. Bell for the "award of one of the top 10 City Managers" as well as drafting the printed piece.
-April 2, 2026 – the City of Montrose, on **Check No. 148648, paid \$4,000** to Valley Media, LLC for invoice No. #VM/2603/9 for the "front page and a 3-page article..." in Gov Business Review.

That's \$5,500 of YOUR money folks (plus now with this latest P.R. push – add a few thousand more to the list). For what?

To tout the so-called successes of our City Manager? To act as a resume builder for him? To somehow make the City Council look like champs for employing him? What the heck is going on here and why is the City Council putting up with this blatant self-promotion at our expense? They're paying this man \$230,000 a year plus full benefits, bonuses and the business and personal use of a City owned \$80,000 SUV that we're paying the insurance, maintenance and fuel on for his benefit.

While Mr. Bell has his share of admirers, you will find most receive benefits from his largess and couch their admiration for him in the form of accolades for his vision and foresight, intelligence, bravado, quiet contemplation, etc. While these may be true, the constant need to find strength through the power of his position is a recipe for eventual disaster. I fear we're close to that these days as desperate measures will lead to his departure and the willing accomplices of past City Council's, who enabled that outcome, will have faded into the past leaving those in the present holding the proverbial bag.

The bottom line is that the Minister of Propaganda (aka, the City Manager) continues to give the taxpayers the big middle finger with this kind of "in your face" boasting about how his Fascist form of governing in conjunction with the former City Council (hopefully not with the new Council) is somehow going to fly in the long run as a wise use of your money. As I've repeatedly said, enough is enough!

I call upon the City Council to reign this nonsense in and now! If they can't get their manager under control, it's termination time."

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He was most recently the Interim Montrose County Manager. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & a great grandchild.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ROBIN MICHELE SMITH *October 7, 1963- June 22, 2026*

ROBIN MICHELE SMITH, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on June 22, 2026, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was 62 years old.

Born on October 7, 1963, in Montrose, Colorado, Robin was the daughter of Leland and Lola Howard. She was raised in Montrose and graduated from Montrose High School in 1982.

Shortly thereafter, she married Kim Smith, in 1983. Together, they built a life centered on faith, family, and love, sharing more than 43 wonderful years of marriage.

Robin's most important and cherished role was that of mother. While she worked as a bookkeeper for several local businesses throughout the years, her greatest passion was raising her children and supporting her family in every possible way. She took immense pride in her son, Tyler Smith and her daughter, Tiffany Roshon.

Nothing brought Robin greater joy than her five grandchildren, who were truly the light of her life: August, Tucker, and Griffin Smith, sons of Tyler (and Claire); and Hadley and Hayden Roshon, daughters of Tiffany (and Cory). She treasured every opportunity to attend their sporting

events, celebrate their accomplishments, and create lasting memories with them. Robin loved gathering with family and friends.

She especially enjoyed trips to the lake with dear family friends, the Mastersons, carefully planning picnics and outings days in advance to ensure everyone had a wonderful time. She also deeply cherished her close-knit group of friends, affectionately known as "the Posse." Whether celebrating birthdays over lunch, enjoying dinners together, or embarking on girls' trips across the country, those friendships brought her great happiness throughout her life.

Above all else, Robin loved the Lord. A devoted and steadfast Christian, she lived her faith daily through kindness, generosity, and prayer. Her family often joked that whenever life became difficult, Robin could be counted on to go to work as a faithful "prayer warrior." Her unwavering faith sustained her through life's challenges and served as an inspiration to all who knew her.

Robin is survived by her beloved husband, Kim Smith; her parents, Leland and Lola Howard; and her brother, Kevin Howard (Sherry). Additionally, her children Tyler Smith (Claire) and Tiffany Roshon (Cory); her grandchildren, August, Tucker, Griffin,

Hadley, and Hayden; as well as numerous extended family members, friends, and loved ones whose lives were blessed by her presence.

The Smith family extends its heartfelt gratitude to the many family members and friends who provided unconditional love, prayers, encouragement, and support throughout Robin's cancer journey.

Their kindness was a tremendous comfort to Robin and her family. Special thank you to Dr. Jordan and the nursing staff at the San Juan Cancer Center who went above and beyond in Robin's care.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that memorial donations be made in Robin's honor to HopeWest Hospice. Robin's legacy of faith, love, friendship, and devotion to family will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.



Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SHARON KAY BINGHAM

December 8, 1944-June 15, 2026



SHARON KAY BINGHAM, age 81, passed away peacefully on June 15, 2026, with her family by her side. Sharon was born on December 8, 1944, to Clifford Edward Failing and Golda Opal (Walker) Failing at home on the family farm in Los Animas, Colorado. She graduated from Montrose High School and on June 3, 1961, she married the love of her life, Harlan Ralph Bingham. Together they built a life filled with love, family and countless friends. They shared 62 years of marriage before Harlan's passing in July 2023.

Sharon had a lifelong love of horses. As a young girl she could be found riding her horse across downtown Montrose. She especially enjoyed barrel racing and was often seen riding two of the prettiest grey horses around. Horses were not just a hobby for Sharon – they were part of who she was.

She passed her love of horses and rodeo on to many of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was their biggest supporter and proudest fan, often found in the stands cheering them on with her beloved little dog, Lu, by her side.

A kid at heart, she was up for any adventure with her grandkids making every gathering more fun.

Christmas was Sharon's favorite time of year. She delighted in decorating her home, trimming her tree, and hanging enough lights that family often joked you could see her house from the moon. The warmth and joy she brought to the holiday season reflected the love she shared with everyone around her.

More than anything, Sharon loved her family. Her greatest happiness came from spending time with those she loved, celebrating their accomplishments, and creating memories that will be treasured for generations.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents: her beloved husband, Harlan Bingham; and many of her brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her sister Lucille Follman, her daughters, Tina Greenhalgh (Bart) and Sandy Flowers (Jack); her grandchildren, Wade Greenhalgh (Katy), Berdell Greenhalgh (Lacey), Amber Wertz (Bo), Jessica Varner (Lane), Harlan Watkins, Amanda Garcia (Jared), Dawson Flowers, and Darshawn Crawford (Mark); as well as her many cherished great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends.

KAREN KAY HAUMONT

July 15, 1950- June 22, 2026

KAREN KAY HAUMONT, born July 15, 1950, in Cottage Grove, Oregon, to Owen and Lois Haumont, passed away on June 22, 2026, at Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose, Colorado. She was 75 years old.

A lifelong resident of Montrose, Karen attended Morgan Elementary School and The Happiness School for the developmentally challenged. She worked for 30 years on the culinary staff at San Juan Living Center before retiring.

After caring for her parents, Karen moved into The Homestead Assisted Living Facility, which she affectionately called her "perfect resort lifestyle." She often said with a smile, "I don't have to cook or clean—they do it all for me!"

Karen had a deep love for travel and was an active member of the local chapter of the Good Sam Club. She possessed a gentle and loving nature, especially toward small children and pets. Above all, Karen loved the Lord and looked forward to her heavenly home, where she would be reunited with family and friends who had gone before her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Owen and Lois Haumont; her brother, Dwight Haumont; and her nephew, Jeremy Fresques.

Karen is survived by her brother, Gailard Haumont of Montrose, Colorado, her sister, Sherry Fresques of Glendale, Arizona, three nieces and two nephews.

Her kind heart, joyful spirit, and unwavering faith touched the lives of many. She will be deeply missed by her family and all who knew her.

Karen will be interred at Grand View Cemetery and a private family memorial will be held at a later date.



ISSUE 579 June 29, 2026

ART & SOL

THE FRESH TASTE OF HOME GROWN, WORLDWIDE SUCCESS: SNOW CAPPED CIDER



KARI WILLIAMS
OWNER / HEAD CIDER MAKER
SNOW CAPPED CIDER

Owner and Head Cider Maker Kari Williams of Snow Capped Cider. Courtesy photo.

Mirror Staff Report

CEDAREdge-For someone whose business has captured some of the most prestigious industry awards worldwide, Kari Williams is remarkably humble.

Williams is the Owner and Head Cider Maker at Snow Capped Cider, located on a 100-year-old family orchard on Colorado's Western Slope. She continues to be a hands-on business owner after 12 years, though the company now employs seven.

"I am very, very lucky," Kari told the *Mirror* last week. "I love what I do. We are a family generational business-the largest apple growers in Colorado- and this is a zero-waste company. There are no artificial ingredients, no juice.

"It's a blessing to contribute on that level; it makes me proud."

Kari is also a sommelier, has created a line of sparkling beverages, and has opened a Tap Room, where locals and visitors can come and enjoy the refreshing taste of Western Colorado's best cider

and listen to great live music. She curates a flight every week from the company's bottle line as well.

Also among the offerings are mocktails that Williams has created with her skills as a connoisseur, using "awesome, flavorful ingredients."

"Everything is based on an elevated tasting experience," she said.

A coffee shop will be opening on site soon, and Bluegrass concerts are scheduled on a regular basis.

"It's amazing and super fun to present in our hometown," Kari said, "And to help bring tourists here."

Locals are invited to join the [Bevy Club](#), and those who are not fortunate enough to live on the Western Slope can join the [Cider Club](#). "We can ship to all the states," Williams said.

Recent Awards

A News Release issued on June 1 details some of the company's recent honors. "[Snow Capped Cider](#), has been named Midsize Producer of the Year at the 2026 Great Lakes International Cider and Perry Competition (GLINTCAP) for the third consecutive year, while earning 14 Best in Show awards, a new competition record surpassing the cidery's previous record set in 2025. The wins come on the 20th anniversary of GLINTCAP and alongside a dominant performance at the 9th Annual Cidercraft Awards, where Snow Capped Cider earned more medals than any other cidery in the competition for the fourth consecutive year. Now in its 20th year, GLINTCAP is widely recognized as the most prestigious cider competition in the world, drawing more than 1,400 interna-

tional entries from the United States, Spain, Japan, Canada, and beyond. Judging is conducted blind by a panel of certified experts and industry professionals. Midsize Producer of the Year is the competition's highest honor in its category, awarded to the cidery demonstrating the most consistent excellence across all categories. Snow Capped Cider has now earned that title three consecutive years in a row. In addition to the 14 Best in Show placements, the cidery earned eight Gold medals and 41 Silver medals across more than 20 categories."

Said Williams, "To earn GLINTCAP's Midsize Producer of the Year for the third year in a row is something our team doesn't take for granted. It's a true reflection of the passion and hard work we pour into every cider we craft. Setting a new Best in Show record, and then breaking it again the following year, tells us we're continuing to push in the right direction. There's nothing quite like the fruit we are growing at this elevation. To see that recognized not just at GLINTCAP, but at Cidercraft as well, means everything to us and to Colorado cider."

Also noted in the news release, "At the 9th Annual Cidercraft Awards, Snow Capped Cider emerged as the most awarded cidery, taking home 24 medals across Platinum, Double Gold, Gold, Silver, and Judges' Pick categories. Marking its fourth consecutive year earning the top honor, the cidery continues to earn consistent praise from judges for its range, craftsmanship, and overall quality, solidifying its reputation as one of the competition's most high-performing producers

Continued next pg

THE FRESH TASTE OF HOME GROWN, WORLDWIDE SUCCESS: SNOW CAPPED CIDER

From previous pg

year after year.

“Platinum medals were awarded to Kingston Black Reserve (Single Varietal), Ellis Bitter (High Tannin Sweet), Mountain Rose (Rosé), Porters & Perry (Co-Ferments: Fruit/Stone Fruit), Platinum Elevation (Modern-Dry), and The Russets (Modern-Sweet).

“Snow Capped Cider’s orchards sit in Colorado’s Surface Creek Valley at the base of Grand Mesa, the world’s largest flat-topped mountain, at an impressive elevation of 6,130 feet, making them among the highest-elevation cider orchards in the

world. UV exposure at this elevation runs approximately 30 percent higher than at sea level, and dramatic swings between daytime heat and cool mountain nights slow ripening in a way that concentrates flavor, sugar, and acidity in the fruit.

Across more than 150 apple varieties and 40 peach varieties, including rare heritage apples like Kingston Black and Yarlington Mill, that environment is what gives Snow Capped Cider’s portfolio its range and depth.

“These latest honors add to Snow Capped Cider’s national recognition and reinforce

the cidery’s leadership across the craft cider industry.

From heirloom single varieties and perries to wood-aged and modern dry ciders, the awards reflect the depth and diversity of styles made possible by more than a century of fruit cultivation on Colorado’s Western Slope.

With a record-setting performance at GLINTCAP’s 20th anniversary competition and the most medals at the 2026 Cidercraft Awards, Snow Capped Cider continues to raise the bar for craft cider in the U.S.”

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PALM ARTS PRESENTS AVID DANCE: THE WOLFF & OTHER WORKS SATURDAY, JULY 11 at 7PM

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-Join us at the Michael D. Palm Theatre for an extraordinary evening of dance on July 11 as AVID presents the world premiere of *The Wolff & Other Works*.

The evening is headlined by *The Wolff*, a darker, thought-provoking reimagining of the classic Little Red Riding Hood tale told from a different perspective. Created by former Houston Ballet Principal Dancer Melody Mennite, the work challenges conventional notions of heroes and villains through powerful storytelling and striking choreography.

The program also features two works performed with live music by Juilliard graduate and composer Kebra-Seyoun Charles. *The Center Does Not Hold*, choreographed by Daniel Ojeda and commissioned by AVID for its 2026 season, is a compelling exploration of polarization and the forces that pull people apart. Gerald Arpino’s *Valentine* offers a quirky and entertaining look at the battle of the sexes, set in a boxing ring and brought to life through dynamic movement and live double bass accompaniment.

Founded by Emily Speed in 2024, Artistic Ventures in Dance (AVID) creates original works that blend classical technique, contemporary movement, and storytelling to inspire connection through the power of dance.

Advance Tickets: \$35 Adult | \$25 Student

At the Door Tickets: \$40 Adult | \$30 Student

Doors open at 6:30pm. Performance begins at 7pm.

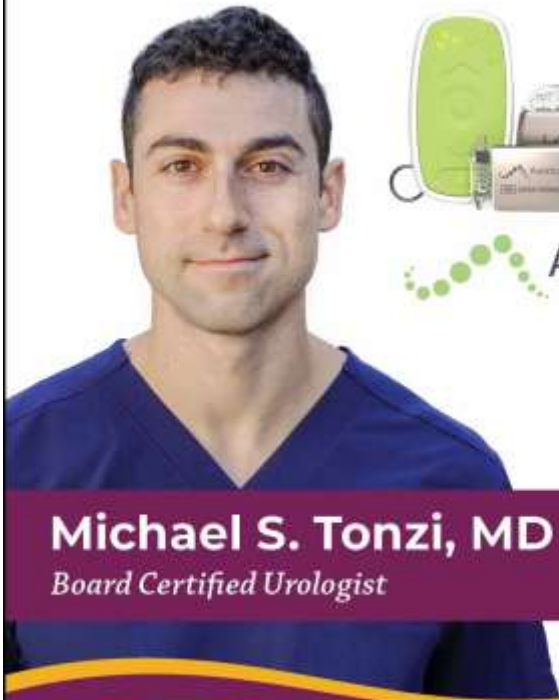


COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

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MontroseHealth.com/Urology

2ND ANNUAL YARNSTORMING AT THE LIBRARY!

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Montrose Regional Library Crafternoon group, which meets at the Library every Thursday from 11 AM-1 PM, has been preparing for months for the 2nd annual Yarn Storming of the Montrose Regional Library. Participants handmade all of the items featured to decorate both inside and outside of the Library. This year's theme was in collaboration with the 250/150 celebration and the decorations were made in the colors of red, white, and blue with patriotic themes such as "More Sparkles Please" and "Land That I Love". There's even a cover for one of the Library's benches that offers "Free Hugs." Visitors to the library will notice decorations adorning trees, benches, statues, the bike rack, and even the trash can! Stop by the library and enjoy these creative and patriotic crafty works. Crafternoon participants typically knit and crochet hundreds of items a year to donate to a plethora of local charities.



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By Steven Hayet
Directed by Nichole Kurtz
Dating is hell, rather than the awkwardness of turning someone down, Angela prefers murder. However this time her "baggage" doesn't go unnoticed.

CASTING: Two Women (18-30) One Man (18 -30)



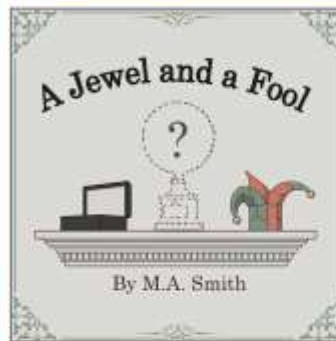
By Christopher Durang
Directed by Jonathan Heath
An accountant wanders onto a stage, is mistaken for the understudy, and then forced to perform in a play, without knowing any of the lines or even which play he is in.

CASTING: Three Women, Two Men



By Robert Anderson •
Directed by Janel Culver
Laura Cunningham, once a star, lives amid costumes, props, and memories of her career. Too frail to act, she remains fiercely independent and resists her nephew's attempts to move her to the country where she can be cared for. In fact, she has an interview that very afternoon with a director.

CASTING:
One Woman 60 +
Two Men (40 -60)



By M.A. Smith
Directed by Everett Gregory
What do you say in your final conversation with a person you've known for fifty years? Gut busting and gut punching, the last moments between two of the best of friends are shared together in a small, living room apartment. Where did the trophy go?

CASTING:
Two Men 60+

COME *Play* WITH US

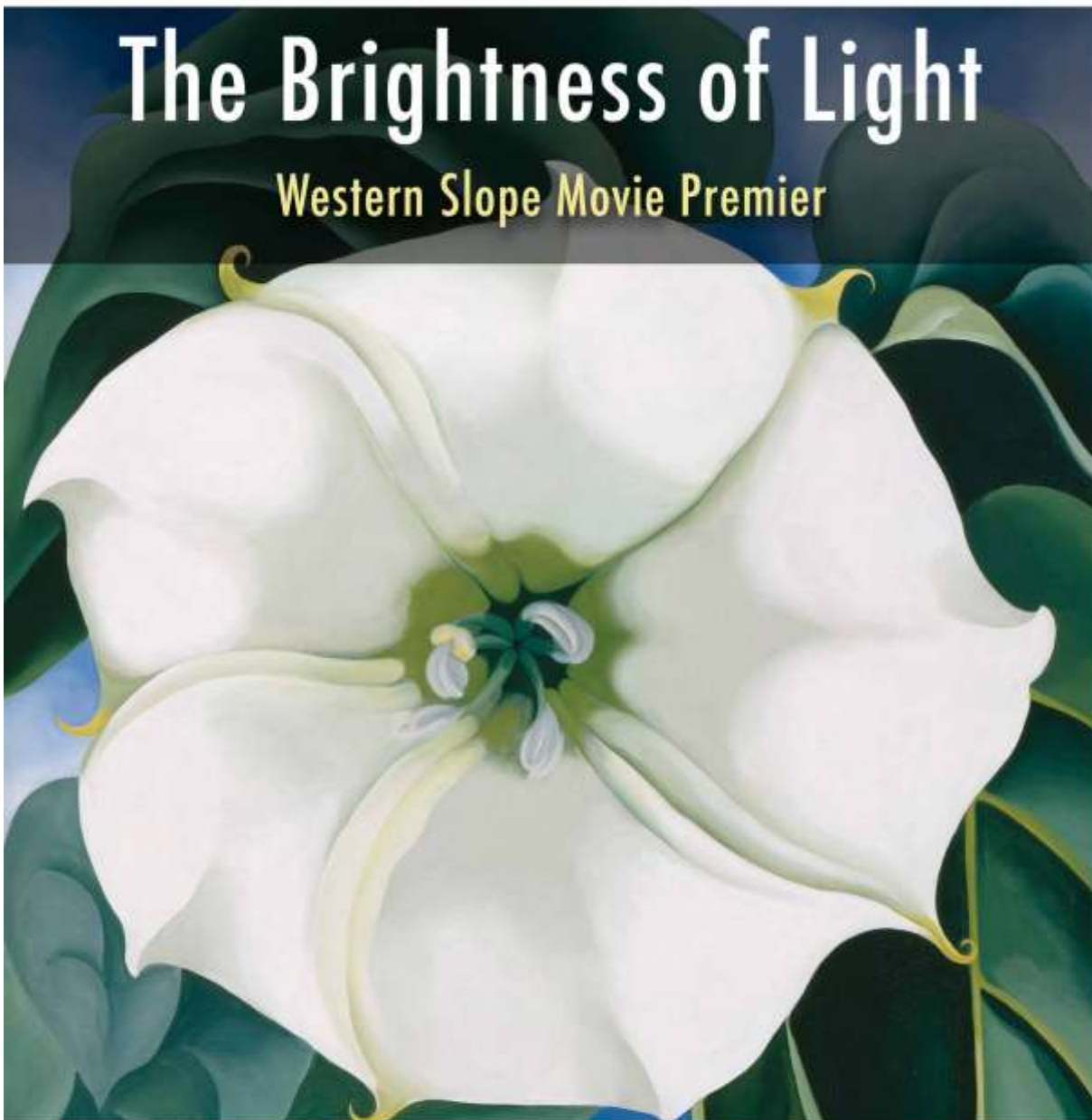


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www.montrosecenterforarts.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

NORTH AMERICAN PACKGOAT ASSOCIATION YOUTH VIRTUAL TRAIL TRIAL SUMMER CHALLENGE BEGINS SOON!

Challenge Description:

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Virtual Trail Trial event is open to all youth age 3 through 18 years of age and is free to current NAPgA Youth Members. All others will need to purchase NAPgA's Youth Membership for \$5.00. There will be three monthly trials. These will be held in July, August, and September. A final challenge will take place in October. You are not required to participate in all monthly events.



The challenge will be emailed to registered participants on the first of the month. Participants can practice all month long. -Send a one-to-two-minute video of the participant and their goat doing the task to 1-720-717-0703 by the 30th of the month. If you have any issues sending the video, you can text the same number for help. Awards (TBA) will be given to first, second, and third places in each Class. Participation recognition will be given to everyone. Bonus! The October Challenge will encompass all three-monthly challenges. Specific details on this opportunity can be received by emailing info@napga.org



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THE MONTROSEMIRROR
Your Source for Local Business News and Information

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GUNNISON RANGER DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW LEADER

Special to Art & Sol

GUNNISON-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District has welcomed Aaron Drendel as its new deputy district ranger. He brings more than 20 years of public lands experience and a long history of working collaboratively within the Gunnison community.

Drendel, who has lived in Gunnison since 2013, said stepping into a leadership role felt like a natural extension of his years working locally with the district and regional office.

"I've lived here a long time and worked in a lot of roles locally," Drendel said. "This position felt like the right opportunity to take what I've learned over the years and put it to work for the Gunnison Ranger District."

Drendel has served in land management roles across the world through his work with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Peace Corps and Forest Service. He says those experiences shaped his commitment to public service and collaborative leadership.

"I work from a very collaborative approach," he said. "The more the public is involved in managing our lands and engaged, the better our outcomes."

His current focus as deputy district ranger includes protecting and improving public access, supporting sustainable recreation and helping visitors experience the district's diverse landscapes while understanding their role in caring for them.

Drendel holds a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Wyoming and a master's degree in environmental studies from the University of Montana. He began working on public lands in 1999 with the Student Conservation Association and considers his Peace Corps service in the Dominican Republic one of his most personally significant experiences.

As the largest district within the GMUG National Forests, the Gunnison Ranger District welcomes Drendel's leadership as a valuable addition to the team.

"This new deputy ranger position expands the district's capacity in a way that directly benefits our employees and our community," said Dayle Funka, Gunnison district ranger with the GMUG National Forests. "The Gunnison Ranger District is incredibly dynamic, and having this added capacity helps us meet that complexity headon. Aaron's collaborative leadership style complements



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


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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist

112 Main St.

P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021

www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose,
CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

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

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out
soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

COMMUNITY SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

Address: 504 N. 1st Street (HAP Building)
Office hours: Call or text for appointment
 Phone: 970-765-7070
Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

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

future where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716,
office@montroseumc.org, [\[roseumc.org\]\(http://roseumc.org\)
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
Worship service times:
9:15 AM to 10:15 AM: Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.
10:30 AM: Sanctuary & Virtual Worship
 Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully](http://mont-</p>
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inclusive, loving, and just servants of Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

Mirror:

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

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

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El Jimador
970-249-8990

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970-323-6215

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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

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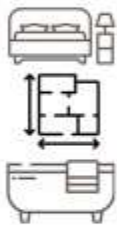


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Montrose, Colorado

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3 Bed/2 Bath

1179 Square Feet

Corner garden tub



8x8 Matching shed

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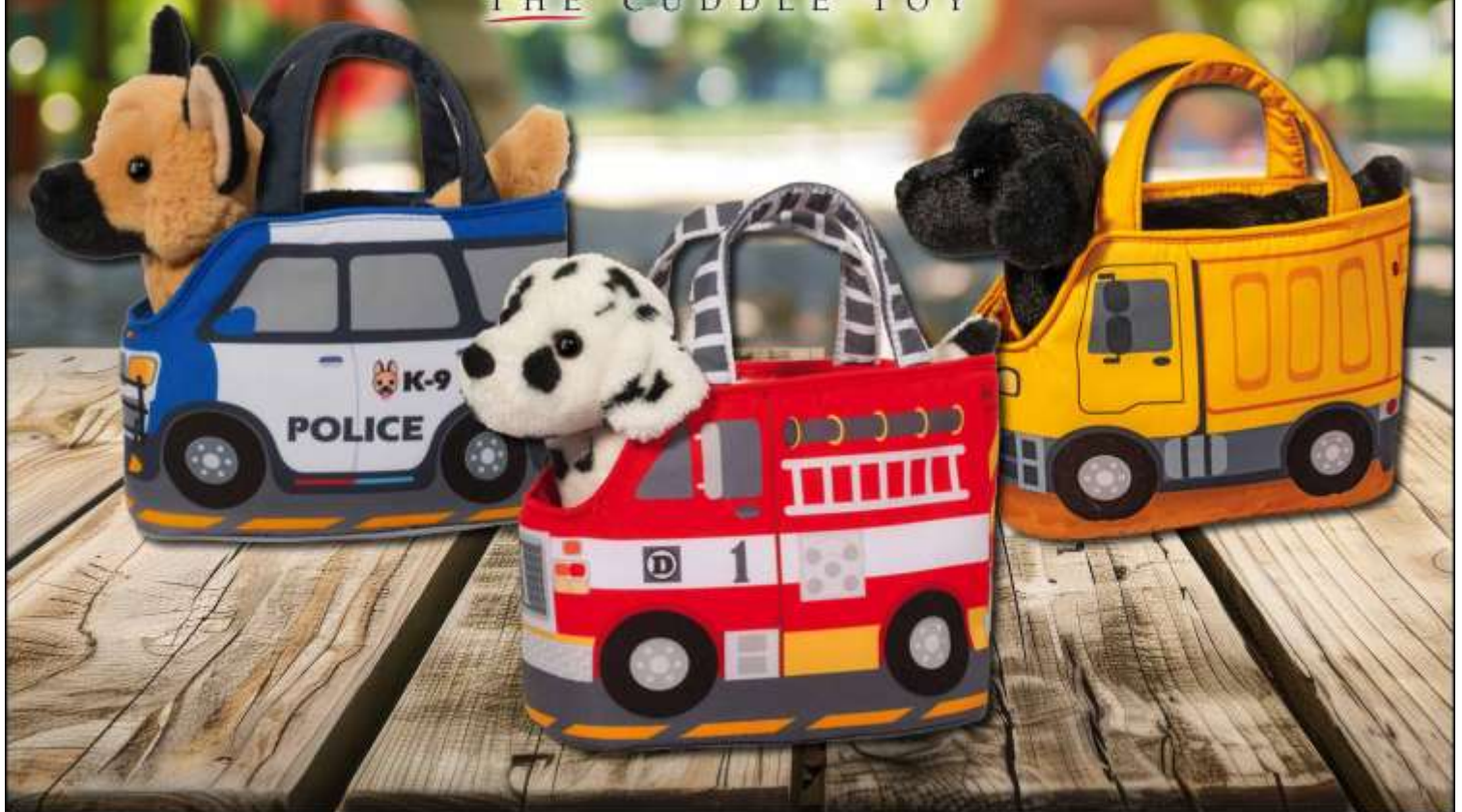
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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY provides a monthly program on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street. All are welcome and there is no charge. These meetings are also available via Zoom. For information about the speaker and topic presented each month go to the blackcanyonaudubon.org.

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

BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

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

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

CRAFTERNOON AT THE LIBRARY-The Crafternoon group meets weekly, on Thursdays from 11 AM-1 PM, to knit or crochet items for charity and this is the 2nd year that they have "yarn stormed" the library. This year, it was done in spirit of the 250/150 celebration. Our lobby, courtyard, and front entrance areas have all been decorated in red, white, and blue.

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

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: Al Head 970-209-0981 or aheadaviation@outlook.com

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401 www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Friendship Hall, 1001 North Second, Montrose, 7 pm (970) 249-2085 www.montrosehistory.org.

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

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

MONTHLY

June 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 or email pr@montrosecounty.net. Questions may also be directed to (970) 252-4508.

July 1-Please join us on July 1 for The Montrose County Historical Society's monthly General Meeting. Our guest for July will Mr. Steve Pope, Administrator for the Uncompahgre Water Users Association. Mr. Pope will be discussing the current water issues in our area. Mr. Pope's presentation is scheduled for **7pm** on July 1st in the Pioneer Room at Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Please use the smaller door to the left of the main doors. It will be open at 6:30pm. As always, this program is FREE. Light refreshments will be served.

July 7-Tuesday June 2 at 5 at Hispanic Affairs 404 N 1st-National organization Citizens' Climate Lobby, Montrose branch hosts Non-partisan, environmental gathering to help mitigate pollution in our community, All Welcome info 970-765-9095.

July 9-7 -8:30pm Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Emily Schneider and Tom Wiard presenting "Circling Triglav National Park, Slovenia. This country is a global leader in conservation prioritizing biodiversity through strict management of forests, water resources and wildlife aiming for sustainable "green" tourism. Get a glimpse of the people, terrain and birdlife of this unique country. The meeting location has changed to Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubon.org.

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>.

WILD FIRE IN OURAY COUNTY



A wildland fire in Ouray County continues to burn, with multiple evacuations and road closures to date. Photo by Kendall Cramer.

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