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ASSOCIATION



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'WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE' - CITY PLANNER WILLIAM REIS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-If you have ever watched a Montrose City Council meeting or followed the City's Historic Preservation efforts, you may be familiar with the work of Senior City Planner William Reis. Reis has been instrumental in efforts to preserve local history and historic structures.

And while the end results are quite visible in stunning, successful projects, the behind-the-scenes work is extensive, detailed, and meticulous.

Reis spends much of his time processing applications and preparing for public hearings.

"I enjoy being part of the development here in Montrose," Reis said. "We deal with a lot of land use issues; anything that is being developed is pretty carefully evaluated for compliance with code. There is a lot of coordinated planning with other entities, and a lot of background work that goes into all that." A graduate of Columbia University, Reis studied Tech Stat Analysis and geographic Information Systems (GIS). He earned a Master's degree in Urban Planning.

While still in school, Reis took a hard hat tour of Ellis Island, which he found "very cool." Later that

Continued pg 11



View from a window at Ellis Island. Photo courtesy of William Reis.

A SMALL PART OF HISTORY

By Bob Cox

REGIONAL-It is difficult to write about history in first person. One thing that makes it difficult is when one realizes that he is actually a part of history, and that he can place himself in a little history, albeit a small part. With the up-coming recognition of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America; the 150th anniversary of Colorado becoming the 38th state and the coinciding 150th anniversary of Ouray, Colorado becoming the City of Ouray, I began digging into my many newspaper clippings, diaries and photographs as memories of those places come to mind as we celebrated the Centennial/Bicentennial 50 years ago. So, grab a cup of coffee or your favorite beverage and join me in this personal memory.



A young Pat Cox poses with his "good buddy," C. W. McCall, aka Bill Fries, who later served several terms as the Mayor of the 150-year-old town of Ouray, Colorado. Photo from a video tape made by Bob Cox on July 4, 1976.

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[Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD:
Your Brain on Nature!](#)

[Dr. Katie Stephens:
Your Health During Fire Season!](#)

[BOCC Enacts Six-Month
Moratorium for Data Centers!](#)

[Fourth of July Fun Photos!](#)



Community Read: *High Hawk*

Wednesday, July 8

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Library Meeting Room

Colorado author Amy

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Amy has created an exceptional display of native greenery with a perfectly placed shade tree, vibrant flower beds, and fun garden whimsies peeking from flowery hiding places to showcase beauty in every season.

We select a new local winner every two weeks. Send your neighborhood nominations, photos, and addresses to marae@marmontrose.com

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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

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





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB 3RD QUARTER MEETING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Women's Giving Club 3rd quarter meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 13, 5:30 pm at the Bridges Golf and Country Club. This invitation is given to all women who support local nonprofits, or might be new to town, or want to meet new friends, and/or just want to be a part of an organization that is making a positive impact in our community. Bring a friend! Call 970-209-9598 or email at givingclubofmontrose@gmail.com

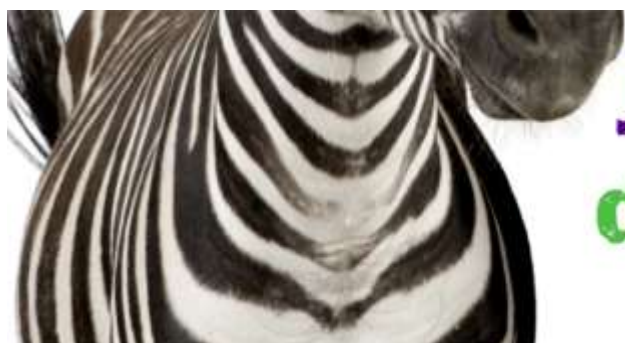
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PERSPECTIVE MATTERS

Editor:

Mr. White has once again devoted an entire column to criticizing the City Manager, again over the City's decision to publicize his recent recognition.

Whether one believes the award is prestigious or not almost misses the larger point.

Cities across the country routinely announce awards earned by their employees, departments, and leadership. They celebrate recognition for budgeting, parks, public safety, finance, communications, economic development, and yes, city managers.

These announcements are intended to inform residents about the work their local government is doing and how it is being recognized by others. That is neither unusual nor unique to Montrose.

Reasonable people can certainly debate whether spending public funds on a magazine profile was the best use of taxpayer dollars. That is a fair discussion, and one the City Council should always be willing to have. What concerns me is something different. Mr. White has now written multiple opinion pieces focused almost exclusively on one individual.

At some point, it becomes reasonable to ask whether this is really about accountability or whether it has become personal.

Our community benefits when we discuss budgets, policies, priorities, and the direction of our city. We are less well served when the conversation continually returns to one person. No city manager should be beyond criticism. Likewise, no public servant should become the subject of an ongoing campaign in which every action is

interpreted through the same negative lens.

Accountability is healthy. Persistent personal criticism is something else.

If there are concerns about spending, let's examine the spending. If there are concerns about City policies, let's debate those policies. If there are concerns about management decisions, let's discuss the decisions. But let's also recognize that continually revisiting the same individual, regardless of the topic, risks distracting from the broader issues that deserve our attention.

Montrose has important challenges and opportunities ahead. I hope we can spend more time discussing solutions than personalities.

Beth McCorkle

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'WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE' - CITY PLANNER WILLIAM REIS From pg 1

summer he completed an Internship with Save Ellis Island. "It was an interesting opportunity over the summer while I was in grad school, and I continued to volunteer," Reis said, noting that statistics show that 44 percent of Americans have at least one ancestor who came through Ellis Island.

Here in Montrose, Reis has been working not only on new projects, but with the City's Historic Preservation Commission, which was established in 2019. "It's pretty new considering the size of the community," Reis said. "There are a decent number of building owners interest-

ed and willing to go through the process and continue to stay true to the history." The voluntary process has been most successful with historic commercial buildings, which often have a presence in recorded history. Helping to plan new projects can be rewarding in itself, "To see a lot that was empty, and now has a business on it for the community."

While some municipal meetings can be intense, Reis has become accustomed to public speaking and presentations. A project that



Left, Senior City Planner William Reis. Right, Reis previously worked at Ellis Island. Ellis Island photo courtesy of William Reis.



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stands out for him is the Montrose Regional Health Ambulatory Care Center--which was a major effort, from site development to obtaining a variance. Site development for Shelter Distilling was also a major project.

When it comes to the restoration of historic properties, the renovations of the Rathbone Hotel and the Association come to mind. "Both of those involved going from an uninhabitable condition to what they are now--those are two of our proudest accomplishments."

Both the Rathbone and the Association received Stephen H. Hart Awards for Historic Preservation, he said. The City of Montrose was up against much larger communities, but local projects won the awards for two years in a row.

"The work that the building owners put in was really commendable," Reis said. "My role was minor, but I'm proud of those projects."

For Downtown Montrose, more population density would be ideal, with increased housing to encourage people to live in and enjoy the urban center, he said.

Also, "We try to be very accessible for people with questions about the development process and what's in the pipeline," Reis said. "We try to be available."





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A SMALL PART OF HISTORY From pg 1

In 1976, my family and I were living in a small town, Bethune, Colorado. Our three boys ranged in ages from under three to almost seven and I was serving as the undersheriff of Kit Carson County. Each year we tried to return to my hometown of Ouray for the annual Fourth of July celebration. During a couple of those trips, I would don a special deputy badge and work a few hours for the Ouray County Sheriff, Art Dougherty.

There was another event that took place in July of 1976. The Elks national convention was held in Chicago, with special recognition of Elks National Memorial, which was also 100 years old. Dougherty was selected to represent the Ouray Elks Lodge at that gathering. He relayed this information to me, saying he would be gone during the Ouray celebration and asked that I help out on the nights of July 3rd and 4th. I agreed to do so.

During the last months of 1975 and early 1976, I conversed with Sheriff Dougherty three or four times. Then, as we were planning our trip, I became aware of a rather disturbing piece of news. The clipping I have I believe was taken from the *Rocky Mountain News*, but was a release that was printed in other newspapers, including the *Montrose Daily Press*. The release contained a Telluride date line. The headline read, **"Visitors not welcome in Telluride July 4th."** It was evident that the release was spurred by someone of authority. In the opening paragraph a local businessman, commenting on the decision, said it was an attempt "to reclaim Telluride for ourselves."

Telluride had experienced some bad behavior on the part of visitors during the celebration in July of 1975, and made it clear that the best way to avoid a repeat was to basically close down the town for the bicentennial celebration. The town tried to temper the decision by saying that everyone was welcome on any other day, but that there would be no bars or liquor stores open on July 4th, and that the traditional fireworks display would not be held.

Both Ouray and Telluride were somewhat famous for their Independence Day celebrations, which included parades, street

events, a tug-of-war and Ouray's historical water fights, which put teams together using high pressure fire hoses. The Fay brothers, Jack and Buster, were notorious for their technique of putting their opponents down, and they were scheduled to be in the fight that year. I had planned my trip for several months and looked forward to exposing my niece to everything, but mostly those water fights. I knew things would be a little more interesting, given the fact that Ouray was also recognizing their 100th anniversary as a town.

Upon our arrival in Ouray on July 2nd, I confirmed that I was still expected to work for the Sheriff on both nights of July third and fourth. I was warned that the town expected a larger than normal crowd due to the shutting down of Telluride. On the night of the third, I teamed up with Deputy Dee Kelley. We patrolled some of the backroads and calmed a couple of minor disturbances in the Amphitheater campground. We could tell that there were more people than usual. When the bars began closing, the police department handled some problems downtown, but all-in-all things were handled well.

On the morning of the fourth, I took my wife, sons and my niece down to enjoy the parade. I had recently acquired a camcorder and was anxious to add this historic parade to the tape. My eldest son, Pat, was less than seven years old but had become a big fan of C. W. McCall and CB radios. McCall, aka Bill Fries, was the Grand Marshal of the parade, and the parade was one for the books. Float after float, veteran's groups and cowboys on horseback made their way down main street in front of a crowd bigger than I had ever witnessed. My mother, Peggy Cox, together with other members of the Mt. Hayden Rebekah Lodge, dressed in historic regalia, sat atop one of the floats.

Immediately after the parade, Pat was elated when he had the opportunity to personally meet C. W. McCall, his "good buddy." They met up again later that night during the flare parade.

As the parade wound down, much of the crowd headed for Fellin Park for several events, including a tug-of-war. Everyone was anticipating a return to the middle of

town for the famous water fights, and the crowd gathered quickly as that time came. The main event with the Fay brothers was epic and the crowd was enormous. Members of the fire department and police department had their hands full keeping the crowd back far enough to ensure a good fight without unnecessarily putting the fans and participants at risk. The Fays won and the crowd dissipated somewhat, but the alcohol and revelry became even more apparent.

The next noteworthy events for the celebration were the flare parade, the fireworks and a street dance. The locally famous Anders Brothers were slated to play for the dance. Like so many others, I had a special relationship with the Anders twins, mine going back to our pre-teen years. That makes this recall even more poignant, in that Larry Anders just recently passed away.

The night celebration began with the flare parade; a traditional gathering of Jeeps at the "gap" above Ouray. Each is adorned with highway flares on the bumpers, and as dark settles in, the Jeeps slowly descend around the big switchback and into town. As the flare parade ends, the fireworks begin, and that night my second tour of duty as a deputy sheriff in Ouray also began. As the night started, it was evident that there could be problems. Several disagreements erupted, but most were quelled quickly. The Ouray Police had a large presence of special officers, including my dad. There were six or so sheriff's deputies. Somehow things were progressing rather well.

The Anders Brothers were perched on top of a large flat-bed trailer and most everyone was enjoying their variety of music, but it seems there is always someone who left their brains at home or just don't have one to start with.

Throughout the country over the previous two or three years there had been several airplane hijacks, riots and bomb threats. Some idiot decided that Ouray was being left out and a bomb threat was called in. The information spread among the law officers and somehow the crowd became aware too. The information indicated that the suspected bomb was in the

A SMALL PART OF HISTORY *From previous pg*

vicinity of the makeshift band stand. It was decided that the easiest thing was to move the trailer down the street, plug in the amplifiers and go on with the show. One of the firemen and one of the deputies tried to explain things to the crowd, but they began to disrupt, and refuse to listen. Things were being thrown about and the revelers were shouting so loud that the basic information was drowned out. My dad got hit by a full beer can thrown by someone in the crowd. He had to be taken home.

The Anders Brothers were cooperating to the extent they could, but when their power was disconnected for the move, some of the crowd assumed that we were trying to shut down. Eventually, the trailer was moved down the street, extension cords were stretched out and the music resumed, going on for several hours.

We all survived with memories of a Centennial/Bicentennial celebration, and more than one person I know still uses expletives when describing what they believe Telluride had a part in. Me, I just relax in the knowledge that I am still around to enjoy a small part of history.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JOINT COMMISSION RECOGNIZES MRH PATIENT SAFETY PROGRAM AS PERFORMANCE STRENGTH ***National recognition highlights innovative approach to learning from safety events***

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Joint Commission has selected a patient safety initiative developed at Montrose Regional Health (MRH) for inclusion in its national resource library, recognizing the organization's Safety Event Review Team (SERT) program as a performance strength. The resource will be shared with healthcare organizations across the country as an example of effective safety event review, organizational learning, and continuous improvement.

Developed and coordinated by Kyle Kelley, RN, BSN, CPHRM, CPHQ, risk management coordinator at MRH, the SERT program was created to ensure findings and improvement opportunities from safety events are consistently shared across departments. The multidisciplinary team reviews safety events, conducts root cause analyses, and develops action plans designed to strengthen patient safety across the organization.

"Every safety event presents an opportunity to learn and improve," Kelley said. "SERT was created to ensure lessons learned are shared across the organization so we can strengthen processes, improve patient safety, and foster a culture of accountability, transparency, and continuous learning."

One example highlighted by The Joint Commission involved MRH's Mass Transfusion Protocol (MTP), which is used during life-threatening bleeding emergencies. Following a SERT review, the hospital implemented standardized workflows, improved communication tools, enhanced staff training, clarified responsibilities, and updated policies related to the protocol. Since those improvements were implemented, MRH has reported no additional mass-transfusion-related safety events.

The Joint Commission also noted that the SERT program has helped strengthen staff engagement in safety reporting by providing visible feedback and demonstrating that reported concerns lead to meaningful action. The organization's resource summary highlighted improvements in transparency, trust, and communication across departments.

"This recognition reflects the dedication of caregivers across Montrose Regional Health who work every day to provide safe, high-quality care," Jeff Mengenhause, MRH CEO, said. "Patient safety is a shared responsibility, and the success of SERT is the result of collaboration across departments throughout the organization."



Kyle Kelley, RN, BSN, CPHRM, CPHQ,
risk management coordinator at
MRH. Courtesy photo.



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OPINION /EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COLORADO SAGA

Dear Editor,

Colorado Saga

Saturday, August 1, 2026 was the 150th birthday of the STATE OF COLORADO.

The road to Colorado statehood was a 17-year process marked by five separate attempts at statehood, shifting territorial borders, and a massive gold rush. It ultimately culminated on August 1, 1876.

Because this occurred just four weeks after the United States' Centennial, Colorado earned its permanent nickname, The Centennial State.

The following is the story of that journey, extracted from a Google Ai search. The sequential timeline of major events leading directly to Colorado birth outlines this journey.

Let us begin, and let this be a teaching tool for young Coloradans.

****I have inserted the benchmarks for my family history as it pertains to this great event. My family is Territorial pioneers and extremely active in the formation and settlement of Colorado. (Bragging rights.)**

Early Land Acquisitions:

1803: The Louisiana Purchase – The United States acquires the northeastern portion of present-day Colorado from France. 828,000 square miles of territory for 15 million dollars.

****December 29, 1842 Christian**

Stollsteimer born Ecterdingen, Germany. 1848: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo – Following the Mexican-American War, Mexico cedes the western and southwestern regions of the land to the U.S. government. 525,000 square miles of territory.

1850: Texas Land Purchase – The federal government purchases the remaining central portion from the Texas Annexation, finalizing the geographic footprint part of which would become Colorado. 67 million acres for 10 million dollars.

Gold, Conflict, and Provisional Government:

1858: Discovery of Gold – Gold is discov-

ered at Cherry Creek (modern-day Denver), triggering the famous "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold rush. Fort Garland established in Colorado.

1859: The First Statehood Attempt – Squatters and gold miners illegally build towns on Indigenous lands. Seeking a formal government, they create the unsanctioned "Jefferson Territory" and make their first bid for statehood. Congress refuses to recognize it, and locals reject paying taxes to support it.

****April 7, 1860 Christian left Ecterdingen, Germany headed to America with \$87 in his pocket.**

February 28, 1861: Colorado Territory is Formed – With the Civil War looming, the federal government steps in to control the regional goldfields and officially organizes the Colorado Territory.

The Failed Statehood Bids :

The Second Attempt – A statehood measure is heavily defeated by local voters.

The region's Hispano population in southern Colorado strongly opposes it, feeling completely unrepresented by the territorial system.

****April 4, 1863 Christian left Milwaukee headed for the wild west after learning to speak English and Spanish.**

****On July 20, 1863 Christian arrived at Fort Garland, Colorado and soon became the fort sutler, a civilian merchant licensed to sell provisions, luxury goods, and non-military supplies to soldiers at remote frontier outposts in the Old West.**

****April 1, 1864 Christian moved from Embargo Creek to Conejos, Colorado, the oldest permanent European descended settlement in the territory.**

1865: The Third Attempt – Territorial leaders successfully pass a statehood measure locally. However, President Andrew Johnson vetoes it at the federal level, citing a population that is too small and unstable.

1866: The Fourth Attempt – For a consec-

utive year, President Andrew Johnson issues another executive veto against Colorado's admission to the Union.

****April 21, 1867 Christian married Amanda Barada the adopted daughter of the famous mountain man Antoine Robidoux. Married at Santa Fe in the oldest church in America.**

****November 14, 1867 Christian loaned famous pathmaker Otto Mears \$2250 to build a toll road recorded in book A, page 1 Saguache, Colorado land transactions.**

The Final Push to Statehood :

1873: President Grant's Visit – President Ulysses S. Grant visits the territory. Impressed by its post-Civil War population boom, growing rail lines, and economic progress, federal momentum shifts in favor of statehood.

March 3, 1875: The Enabling Act – Congress officially passes an Enabling Act outlining the exact legal requirements for Colorado to draft a Constitution and join the Union.

Winter 1875–1876: – Delegates meet in Denver for 87 days to write the state's founding document. To accommodate the population, the original Colorado Constitution is uniquely drafted in three languages: English, Spanish, and German.

July 1, 1876: Public Ratification – Territorial voters overwhelmingly vote to approve and adopt the new state constitution.

****Christian Stollsteimer, a Naturalized Citizen, a Republican, voted Yes.**

August 1, 1876: Official Statehood – President Grant signs Proclamation 230. The Colorado Territory is dissolved, and the State of Colorado is officially born.

Happy birthday Colorado and thank you for embracing our wonderful and proud family. E Pluribus Unum and In God we trust.

A book about the complete Stollsteimer story has been published.

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose

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: COMMENTARY

SOCIALISM

By Don Stott

It's all the rage now, and New York has been overcome with it. Let's begin with a definition of what socialism is. From my Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, (1700 pages) which has exhaustive definitions: "Socialism: Any of various theories or a system of the ownership and operation of the means of production and distribution by society or the community rather than by private individuals, with all members of society or community sharing in the work and production. The stage of society in Marxist doctrine, coming between the capitalist stage and the communist stage, in which private ownership of the means of production and distribution have been eliminated." Wow!

Then we must go to what happens under socialism, which the U.K. was mired in for a decade or so, until they finally elected Margaret Thatcher, who handily got the U.K. back on its feet. Maggie Thatcher and Ronnie Reagan were close buddies, and shared the same beliefs. She said once, which is the almost perfect definition of socialism: "The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money."

It was the brave new 'Americans,' who decided that the British King George had taxed and governed far too much, and they decided to get out of the British web of monarchy, which was socialism perfected, with the monarchy deciding just about everything. King George couldn't even speak English! With the aid of the French, we won our independence, and became the birthplace of capitalism, whose definition is, from the same dictionary: "An economic system in which most of the means of production and distributorship, such as land, factories, communications and transportation systems are privately owned and operated to produce profits."

From a column I wrote a couple of months ago: "Without a profit, nothing works, and government knows nothing about profit."

From the bravado and determination of the few primitive capitalists who wanted

to own their own land, businesses, and factories, we became the fortress of, and marvelous example of what freedom and capitalism can do. The U.K. has tried its best to copy our capitalism over the last 250 years, but the British Government still owns the railroads and broadcasting (BBC) systems, for which its citizens pay a yearly tax on every TV and radio in the UK. And they still worship the monarchy, its king and royal family.

If you want a comparison between the United States and the UK, the British Labor Party is a close duplication to our Democrat Party, which has gotten a rather disgusting foot-hold in New York.

America became the world's primary source of wealth, invention, freedom, production, distribution, medicine, care, health, Nobel Prizes, and all which we hold dear. If our capitalistic system resulted in the inventions of such things as mass production, steel, elevators, radio, television, computers, airplanes, electricity, light bulbs, motion pictures, space exploration, and a million other things, and their founders and inventors became wealthy, so what? These brilliant men such as Sam Walton who was the father of Walmart, and became wealthy, they did it because they were smarter than most, and had to invent or discover, as it was in their genes, and their brains couldn't be throttled.

These discoverers of mass production (Henry Ford), the steel plow (John Deere) elevators (Otis), and the list goes on, provided hundreds of millions of jobs, homes, health, transport, and convenience we all love. In 1831, Matthew Baldwin built his first steam locomotive, and eventually built over 70,000 locomotives in his huge Philadelphia factory. In 1857 Elisha Graves Otis invented an elevator safety brake, and soon invented a passenger elevator. Otis became the largest elevator manufacturer in the world, and the Empire State Building in 1933 had several Otis elevators. My local hospital has Otis elevators. These men became rich, but provided millions of well paying jobs with

retirement packages. George Pullman not only invented the railroad sleeping car, but built an entire town called "Pullman" near Chicago to house his thousands of employees. Thousands of black Pullman car waiters and car attendants had great jobs and raised their families into middle class. In 1883, Bernard Kroger built a little grocery store in Cincinnati Ohio, and was smart enough to carry it forward, till today there are over 2800 Krogers under a lot of different names. WalMart has more stores, but Kroger is still the largest pure grocery chain in America. We hate capitalism and want to go to socialism? Who would provide the jobs and inventions?

Government welfare, which is socialism on a grand scale, has more employees than private industry, and like all socialist outfits, has destroyed its adherents and beneficiaries, who have loved to eat at the public trough, rather than work and provide for themselves. Oink. FDR invented socialism in 1933. The public trough gets larger and more expensive each day, and is responsible for inflation and the dollar's losing over 95% of its purchasing power.

To quote from a book I wrote 35 years ago, titled "I Hold These Truths," on Pages 29 and 30, I wrote: "America was made great by having all the things socialism takes away. Socialism loves failure. Socialism is government of the failures, by the failures, and for the failures. The achievers which socialists hate achieved, not because it is or was their duty, but a mere outlet for their brain power and creativity. They merely loved to do it, and the prosperity they provided, is a by-product of their aptitude, energy, drive, and intelligence. Socialism's stated goal of raising social classes has the opposite effect. Trying to raise social classes is like trying to fill a cracked swimming pool with water. The minute you turn the hose off, the water will go down to the cracked place. Socialism is taking everyone down to the poverty level of that cracked pool. Socialism plunders private property and profit, which were the cornerstone of America from its humble beginnings.

OP-ED: SOCIALISM from previous pg

Socialism places power in the hands of the inept, undeserving, and non-achieving. Socialism creates poverty and spends billions trying to eliminate it.

The more spent, the more poverty is created.

The huge wealth was created by those great inventors, such as Andrew Carnegie, who built and donated hundreds of libraries to large cities such as Phoenix, Arizona

and tiny Silverton, Colorado, who each have one of them. Carnegie loved pipe organs and donated 6,000 of them to various churches and meeting halls. He also built Carnegie Hall in New York City, which has some of the best acoustics of any hall in the world, except perhaps the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. New York has already seen mass exports of its richest, tax paying, job providing, inventive

class move to low tax states. Socialist cities also have suffered the wealthy, tax paying residents, getting out and moving to Florida and Texas which have no income taxes.

"Sanctuary Cities," as they are called, have no concept of what made America great, and they don't seem to even care. Socialism sounds so wonderful to the stupid, but stupidity is impossible to fix.

BOCC APPROVES SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTERS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) celebrated 250 years of American Independence on the courthouse steps on Wednesday, July 1. The celebration included the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, as well as a saxophone performance of the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Afterward, the BOCC convened a regular meeting in chambers. All commissioners were present, as was County Manager Joe Kirby.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Two citizens spoke. Tony Hoag and Janet Chapman of Citizens Climate Lobby expressed support for Agenda Item E-3, a proposal to enact a Moratorium for Data Center Facilities in Montrose County for Six Months.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners Melissa Howie made two changes to the meeting Agenda. Howie removed Item E-1, a presentation by Public Works Director Brandon Wallace, "Recap of the 2025 projects, planned 2026 projects, and future projects Bridge Sales and use Tax Presentation." Wallace was otherwise occupied, Howie said.

Item E-2 was updated, as the County had already moved to Stage 2 Fire Restrictions.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen introduced Joe Kirby.

"Good morning, everyone. My name is Joe and my last name is Kirby and I served Montrose County about 20 years ago," Kirby said, "And now I'm back. I am excited to be here and it's an honor to serve Montrose County. I look forward to work-

ing closely with the board and the department directors and the other elected officials to help move Montrose County forward..."

Hansen said, "And now we have all the seats filled on the dais. Finally. Yay."

CONSENT AGENDA

Prior to approval of the Consent Agenda, Hansen noted Consent Agenda Item 6: *"Consideration and possible authorization of the Chair's signature on the sixth amendment to the Montrose County North Campus - Design, Architectural & Engineering Services Project, services contract #2022-190, in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 to Wold Architects and Engineers, as reviewed by Counsel. This contract amendment represents additional services from Wold, per the County's request, to redesign a portion of the first floor to accommodate the Finance department. Services will include construction plan revisions and plan review support services."*

Said Hansen, "We're still problem solving, occupancy and which buildings. I just want to make sure that people recognize we are moving ahead with the change per Wold, our design company, but actually who is being housed where is not necessarily decided..."

The BOCC voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items, with Resolution Number 19-2026 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 3, Resolution 20-2026 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 8, and Resolution No. 21-2026 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 9.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS



Tony Hoag expressed support for the moratorium on data centers facilities. Meeting screenshot.

Resolution 22-2026 was approved unanimously, ratifying the Implementation of stage 2 Fire Restrictions.

Also approved unanimously was Resolution 23-2026, enacting a Moratorium for Data Center Facilities in Montrose County for Six Months.

"We do not currently have sufficient regulations in our zoning code to govern the building of data center facilities," County Attorney Julie Andress said, as she presented the item. "They are becoming increasingly popular..."

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AGENDA

Planning and Development Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Following a public hearing, Commissioners voted to approve the Gail Garrison and Brian Roberts property split Waiver [WV25-005] based on the findings of fact.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

TABOR IN DANGER AGAIN

Editor:

Tabor Refunds are again under attack with the next most devastating Tabor Ballot issue in November: SB26-135. As outlined in the full report compiled by [Advancecolorado.org](https://advancecolorado.org) the report states "While it is advertised as a path to fund education, it would allow the state to permanently retain and spend revenue above Colorado's Tabor spending cap rather than refunding that money back to taxpayers. The measure directs the retained revenue primarily toward K-12 education funding over a ten year period but allows the permanent retention of any Tabor revenue well beyond ten years and gives the legislature the ability to spend these funds largely however they wish". You can be sure the Ballot description will be very broad and unclear as they usually are when trying to fool the voters. The full report details the egregious amount the state gets to keep along with dollars currently spent on this issue. The full report can be found at advancecolorado.org and is definitely worth the read to educate yourselves on this important issue.

Carol McBride, Montrose

SCHOOL BOARD SHOULD SCHEDULE A JULY MEETING

Editor:

I am asking the Montrose & Olathe School Board to schedule a public school board meeting in July.

School begins in August. Our principals, teachers, support staff, students, and families deserve to begin the school year with stability, clear leadership, and confidence that our district is moving forward.

Instead, our community is left with uncertainty.

On June 23, the Board unanimously approved the District's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. <https://tinyurl.com/395n6cut>

That plan was developed under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Carrie Stephenson with input from students, employees, families, and community members.

It is a thoughtful, comprehensive roadmap for the next five years and reflects months of work by many people across our district.

That approval raises an obvious question.

If the Board believed the Strategic Plan was worthy of adoption, why was the superintendent responsible for leading its implementation placed on paid administrative leave, when summer is when principals and staff are trained on the Strategic Plan's initiatives?

gic Plan's initiatives?

The public has been told an independent investigation is underway, but we have no indication of when it will conclude or when the investigator's report will be delivered.

Meanwhile, important decisions continue to be made as the first day of school approaches.

Questions also remain regarding the appointment and compensation of the interim superintendent.

Community members deserve to understand the process being followed, who has been authorized to negotiate an employment contract, and when those decisions will be considered and approved by the full Board in a public meeting.

The Board President has not been given authority to negotiate this contract. It is also important for the entire seven-member Board to address concerns about the qualifications of the interim superintendent, including that, while we appreciate her taking on this difficult task, she has not taught in a classroom and does not hold a principal or administrative license.

These are not minor administrative matters. They involve the leadership of our school district, the expenditure of

taxpayer dollars, and the implementation of a five-year strategic plan that the Board itself has endorsed.

None of this should be left hanging while the Board takes the month of July off.

Good governance requires transparency. It requires deliberation in public. **It requires all seven elected board members to participate in major decisions**, not simply receive updates after the fact from the Board President, Neisha Balleck.

Whether you support the current Board or not, every member of this community should agree on one thing: our students deserve a school district that enters the new school year focused on education rather than uncertainty.

I respectfully urge the Montrose & Olathe School Board to schedule a July meeting, provide the community with a public update on the district's leadership, explain the status of the investigation, clarify the process for any interim superintendent contract, address questions about qualifications and oversight, and outline how the District intends to implement the Strategic Plan that was just approved.

Our students, staff, and community deserve nothing less.

Linda Gann, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RED CROSS OF WESTERN COLORADO REOPENS RIDGWAY SHELTER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY GOLD MOUNTAIN FIRE

Shelter located at Ridgway Secondary School

RIDGWAY-The American Red Cross of Western Colorado has reopened its shelter for those affected by the Gold Mountain Fire at Ridgway Secondary School, 1200 Green St., Ridgway, CO 81432.

Volunteers are providing assistance with immediate needs, support, and information. Food and water are available at the shelter, as are medical services and mental health services.

All are welcome in an American Red Cross shelter, including pets. Shelters are open to everyone in need, regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or citizenship status, and all disaster assistance is free. We don't require people to show any kind of identification to enter a shelter, just their name and where they have been living.

The Red Cross also encourages everyone to download the free Red Cross Emergency App to help monitor hazards and find safety information. You can find the Emergency App by searching "American Red Cross" in your app store or by visiting <https://www.redcross.org/apps>.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or visit us on social media.



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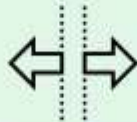
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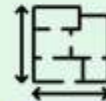
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Monday, August 3

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

Tuesday, August 4

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

Wednesday, August 5 - Friday, August 7

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

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For more information and tour schedule updates, please call 970-249-3098 or visit the Ute Indian Museum Facebook page.

WILDFIRE SMOKE: LOOKING AFTER YOUR HEALTH DURING FIRE SEASON



Dr. Katie Stephens.
Courtesy photo.

As I write this, the Gold Mountain Fire has grown to over 18,000 acres, and the acrid smell of smoke feels impossible to escape. Even though most of us are many miles from the fire itself, wildfire smoke can still have a significant

impact on our health.

The main concern isn't simply that the air smells smoky (as disturbing as that is!) — it's the tiny matter suspended within it. These microscopic particles, known as PM2.5 (Particulate Matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter - a micrometer is one thousandth of a millimeter), are small enough to travel far into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream. According to AirNow.gov, the current Air Quality Index (AQI) in Montrose is 177, meaning the PM2.5 levels are high, and air quality is at an "Unhealthy" level.

While poor air quality can affect all of us, the following groups of people are particularly vulnerable: older adults, children and teens, pregnant women, and those with heart or lung conditions.

If you fall into one of these categories, it is advisable to monitor the advice from airnow.gov regularly to help you decide whether or not to spend time outdoors. As conditions can change quickly, I recommend checking the air quality both while making plans and right before you head

out. For the foreseeable future though, we'd all be wise to limit the amount of time we spend outdoors, particularly when the AQI reaches "Unhealthy" levels.

The combination of high temperatures and poor air quality places additional strain on the body, so staying well hydrated and avoiding strenuous outdoor activity is even more important on these hot, smoky days.

Even if you don't fall into one of the above 'at risk' categories, it's generally a good idea to cut back on strenuous outdoor activity when conditions are as bad as they've been lately. This is for two reasons:

1. Even those who aren't at risk can still develop significant symptoms when exercising in smoky air.
2. Spending less time outdoors can reduce some of the milder symptoms, such as headache, eye irritation, cough and fatigue.

If you need to be outdoors, you can reduce your risk of inhaling as many PM2.5 particles by wearing a properly fitted N95 face mask.

For those staying indoors who would also like to reduce their risk and improve their air quality, consider picking up an in-home HEPA air cleaner, or even [building one yourself!](#)

If you have a medical condition that affects your breathing, such as asthma or COPD, please check that you have enough of your usual inhalers (both your everyday 'maintenance' inhaler and your as-needed 'rescue' inhaler, if relevant) and reach out to your primary care practice if you are running low.

Please also monitor your breathing and schedule an appointment if you are developing symptoms of a flare-up, such as cough, wheeze, tightness in the chest, or breathing harder than usual even with mild exertion, e.g. walking around the house. I'd recommend an urgent/same-day appointment if you are concerned or if you are needing your rescue inhaler more than usual. For any severe symptoms, such as significant breathlessness at rest, chest pain, lightheadedness or confusion, please head to the ER immediately.

The [EPA's Air Quality Guide](#) gives helpful advice on what each air quality category means and practical tips on how to stay safe. Essentially, the current AQI can affect everyone, regardless of age or medical condition, and it is sensible to avoid long or intense outdoor activities. Please also think about checking on friends, family, and neighbors who may be frailer and in need of support. If you are not in the high risk categories, even something as simple as walking a neighbor's dog or picking up groceries could be a real help to someone who needs it.

Remember, if you have asthma, COPD, or another chronic heart or lung condition, don't ignore worsening symptoms. If you're already established with a primary care provider, please reach out to them. If you don't currently have a family physician, my practice, [Cimarron Family Practice](#) currently has appointments available and I'd be happy to help.

Dr. Katie Stephens, MD, DABFM, MBChB, MRCP, DRCOG, is a board-certified family physician and founder of Cimarron Family Practice in Montrose.



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OPINION:EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE JOIN US AT HORSEFLY BREWING COMPANY!

Dear Editor:

Our hearts are with our friends and neighbors in nearby counties and communities experiencing fire evacuations and terrible smoke conditions. We pray for safety for all the firefighters, volunteers and professionals, and those caring for them. Stay safe, everyone!

We have been planning an event and have decided to go forward with it.

PLS JOIN US TUESDAY, JULY 7

HORSEFLY BREWING CO

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MONTROSE CO 81401

from 11 a.m.-closing

Horsefly owners Phil and Melanie Freismuth are generously opening their brewing company/restaurant to us for sharing information about the Montrose Veterans Memorial, selling t-shirts, visors, and hats, and collecting donations.



Pictured here are Horsefly employees Shawn Laveration and Mariah O'Wargo--we'll see them July 7! Courtesy photo.

Please come have a brew or soda--not to mention great food--and talk Memorial with us! A percentage of sales on July 7 will go toward the ongoing construction.

WE CAN'T WAIT! Phil and Melanie and their employees have been with us since the beginning of the project!

Great supporters of the Memorial!

Sincerely,

Les Williams, President MVMC

J Bob Brueske, Chairman MVMC

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OPINION:EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WINNING AN ELECTION IS NOT THE SAME AS RECEIVING A MANDATE

Editor:

There is no question that the recent Montrose City Council election produced legitimate winners. The candidates who received the most votes earned their seats, and that is how our representative form of government works.

But winning an election and receiving a governing mandate are not necessarily the same thing.

Two of our newly elected council members were elected with approximately 37% and 38% of the vote. While those percentages were enough to secure victory, they also tell another story. Roughly 62% and 63% of the voters chose someone else.

That isn't a criticism of the election results. It is simply a reminder of what those results represent.

A governing mandate generally implies broad public support for both a candidate and the direction they intend to take. It suggests that voters have spoken with a clear and unified voice.

A plurality election, however, reflects something different. It reflects a community with a variety of viewpoints and priorities, not one that has overwhelmingly embraced a single vision.

That distinction matters.

When elected officials recognize the limits of their electoral support, they are more likely to govern with humility, seek input from a broad range of citizens, and work toward consensus instead of assuming the public has endorsed every policy or proposal they may bring forward.

The best public servants understand that their responsibility extends beyond those who voted for them. They represent everyone in the community, including those who cast their ballots for another candidate or chose not to vote at all.

Leadership is not measured by how quickly an agenda can be advanced. It is measured by the willingness to listen, to consider differing viewpoints, and to make decisions that strengthen confidence in local government.

Public trust is not built by claiming a mandate where one does not exist. It is built by demonstrating integrity, transparency, and respect for the people you were elected to serve. In a community as diverse as Montrose, there will always be differences of opinion. That is healthy. Our goal should not be to eliminate disagreement but to ensure that every voice has an opportunity to be heard and thoughtfully considered.

An election is the beginning of public service, not the end of public accountability.

Those elected with 37% or 38% of the vote have every legal right to govern. They also have an opportunity and, I would argue, a responsibility to earn the confidence of the much larger portion of the community that did not vote for them.

That is not weakness. It is good leadership.

The most effective leaders do not assume trust because they won an election. They build it through their actions, their willingness to listen, and the way they conduct themselves once in office.

In the end, that is how lasting confidence in government is earned.

Perhaps the question is not whether our elected officials have the authority to lead. The real question is whether they will choose to lead in a way that earns the confidence of the entire community.

Beth McCorkle

Neighbors for Good Governance

WE ALREADY HAVE AN ELECTED COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER CHARTER CHANGES

Editor:

The last City Charter change for the City of Montrose was in 2014 when Bill Bell took complete control of our city government. Lately there has been much discussion about much-needed Charter changes that need to be on the ballot for this November. Several individuals have tried to obfuscate the question by suggesting that a citizens committee was needed to consider such changes. In my opinion that is nothing but a joke. Those promoting a citizens committee failed to realize that we already have an elected committee to consider needed charter changes. That committee is called City Council!!! It's time for City Council to grab themselves by the butt with both hands and do the job that they were elected to do.

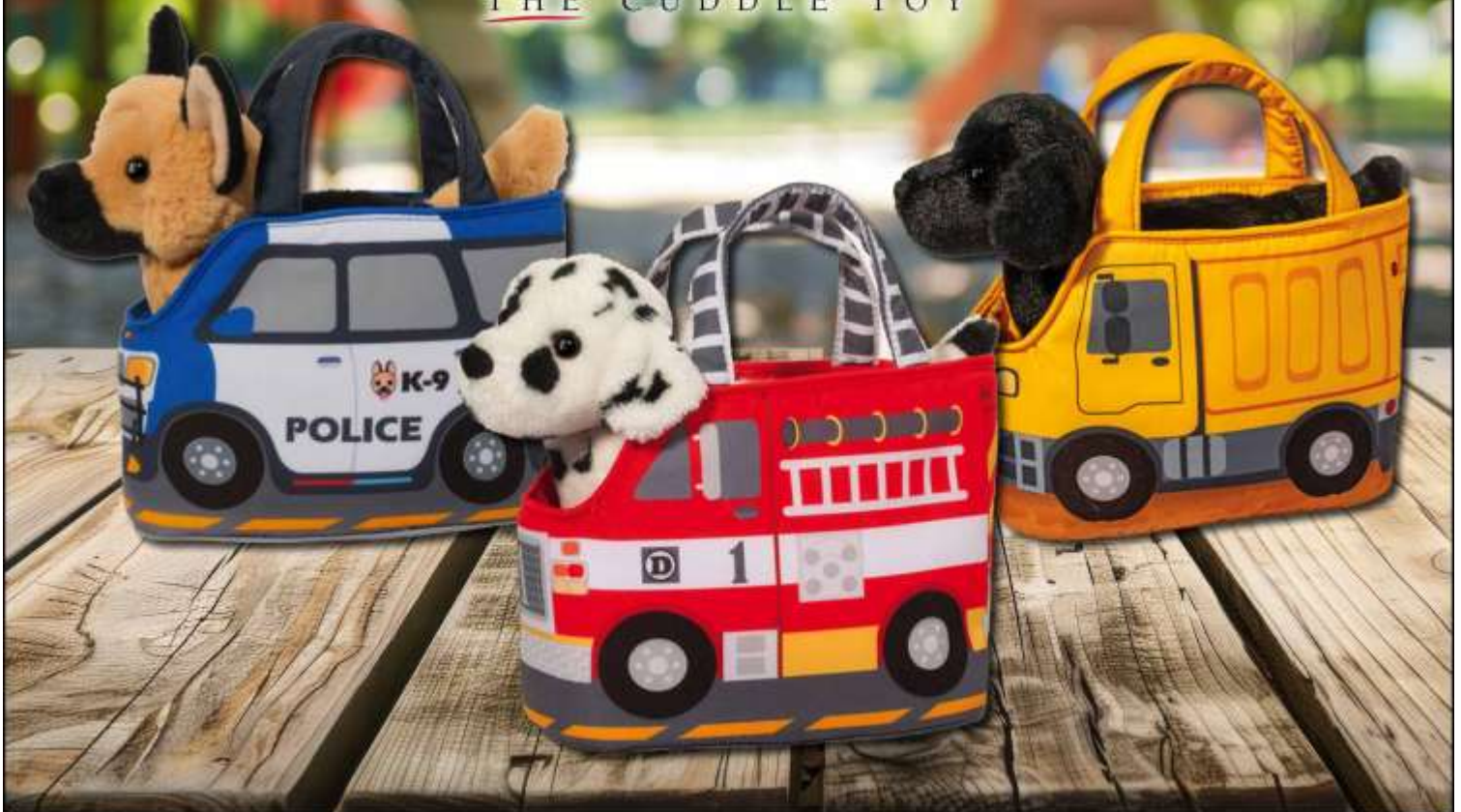
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AS A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, I ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS TO ATTEND THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 7

Editor:

With due respect, I would like to clarify several points raised by Mayor Michael J. Badagliacco in his June 29, 2026, editorial in the *Montrose Mirror* regarding the proposed Citizens Charter Review Commission.

Mayor Badagliacco suggests that support for a charter commission reflects a lack of respect for our foundational structure of government and represents a move away from a representative republic toward direct democracy. That is simply not how a charter review commission functions.

A charter review commission studies the charter, holds public meetings, gathers citizen input, and makes recommendations. It has no legislative authority, cannot amend the charter itself, and cannot bind either the City Council or the voters. Any proposed charter amendments must still be placed on the ballot by the City Council, and the voters make the final decision. Nothing about this process resembles classical direct democracy.

In fact, charter review commissions are commonly established by elected governing bodies precisely to strengthen representative government, not replace it.

Mayor Badagliacco also states that commissions are often populated by activists rather than ordinary citizens. That is not a factual statement. That is nothing more than political characterization which overlooks the reality that citizen commissions are open to anyone willing to participate in their community—attorneys, edu-

cators, business owners, parents, retirees, and residents from all walks of life.

Such a commission would remain fully accountable to the City Council. Council members appoint its members, meetings are open to the public, recommendations are public, and the Council retains complete discretion to accept, modify, or reject any proposal. Ultimately, voters decide.

The mayor writes “Those wanting this commission may simply be unhappy with the outcome of the last election.” That is speculation. He does not know, nor can he know the motivations of those that support a commission. Many entirely legitimate reasons exist for recognizing those supporting the commission which has nothing to do with “election disappointment”.

In regards to recent charter amendments being soundly rejected by voters, perhaps greater citizen participation is now more appropriate, not less.

Citizen advisory commissions do not transfer power away from elected officials. They strengthen legitimacy by encouraging transparency, public participation, and diverse viewpoints while preserving the Council's complete authority.

Mayor Badagliacco correctly notes that our Constitution guarantees a republican form of government. Nothing in that clause of the Constitution prohibits advisory committees, charter review committees, blue ribbon panels, or advisory boards. If it did virtually every municipali-

ty in America would be unconstitutional.

The mayor simply misses the point that these boards, panels, and commissions serve to assist representative government.

The mayor's “editorial” spends surprisingly little time discussing the actual merits of the proposed charter amendments or the structure of a citizens' committee. Instead, it devotes considerable attention to framing the commission itself as inconsistent with representative government and attributing questionable motives to its supporters.

This appears to be an attempt to draw the focus away from the real issues and confuse the public by arguing, without merit, that the proposed commission is inconsistent with representative government or questioning the motives of those who do support public involvement in their community.

As a community activist, I encourage all citizens to attend the next City Council meeting on July 7 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers 107 South Cascade Avenue. This is an opportunity for as Mayor Badagliacco states “for elected offices (to) listen to citizens, study issues carefully and place well crafted proposal before the voters”. This is precisely what a Citizens Charter Review can help accomplish.

Remember, an engaged and informed community is reflective of a strong community.

Thank you for your time.

Phoebe Benziger

Neighbors for Good Governance

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



I trust that the citizens of Montrose enjoyed the celebration of our nation's 250th birthday on July 4th, and we look forward to Colorado Day on August 1st. After Saturday morning's parade and activities, the City hosted an incredible celebration at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater on Saturday evening, where Dave Bowman and the City's team put together a great show! A BIG Thank You to all who helped put it together!

What is on the Agenda?

City Council public schedule for the week of July 6th, 2026.

*Monday's Work Session (10am) discussion items:

- The Hub at Montrose Crossing
- 2026 Annual Colorado Flights Alliance
- Update on Title 11 Montrose Municipal Code(Land Dev)
- Google Workspace Expense Authorization
- 2026 Streetlight Upgrades
- Pavilion Design (Phase 1) Contract Award
- Hillcrest Sidewalk Replacement
- Special Resolution Extending the Fireworks ban
- *Tuesday Council Meeting (6:00 PM)
- Charter Commission Discussion
- Dart Budget Correction
- El Chapin Addition Annexation
- Ponderosa Ranch Subdivision
- Lathrop Hardware Building Historic Designation
- E.A. Lee Garage Historic Designation
- Horseshoe Ridge Subdivision Preliminary Plat

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

Your participation is vital to making Montrose its best.

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

Work sessions and City Council meetings are held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the BPOE civic building at 107 S. Cascade.

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

We value your opinions. While we may not agree on everything, as a community we can find common ground to make Montrose the best it can be. Let your voice be heard!

Thank you,

Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor, Montrose, CO



Councilor Dave Frank and Mayor Michael Badagliacco joined a team of dedicated volunteers to serve pancakes at the Warrior Resource Center in Montrose Friday. More than 150 people were served from 9 to 11:30am.

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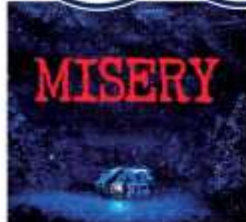
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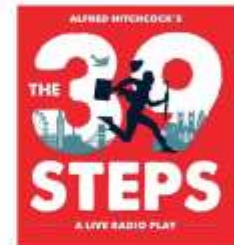
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JUNE 2027



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SHELVE SOME OF THE LEAST POPULAR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS; IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HEAR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A CHARTER COMMISSION

Editor:

The mayor's recent letter about the proposed charter amendments mixes some accurate points with several misleading or opinion-heavy claims, especially about how representative government works, how charter commissions function, and what's actually happening in Montrose. Overall, it has a strong anti-commission bias.

I agree with some aspects of the mayor's perspective that our elected officials were elected to make positive changes for us, and that a charter commission is often an unnecessary step in the process of positive change in governance. With that said, many of the reasons the mayor cited for not supporting a charter commission for the present set of proposed amendments are misleading or inaccurate.

The mayor is correct that Montrose uses a council-manager form of government and that everyday decisions are made by elected officials and professional staff ra-

ther than by popular vote. It is also true that Montrose has advanced charter amendments in 2014 and 2025 without using a citizens' charter commission, and that citizens already have a petition process to place charter amendments on the ballot. Where the letter becomes misleading is in how it frames citizen participation and commissions. It overstates the idea that the "only" democratic action citizens regularly take is voting for representatives, ignoring that Colorado municipalities—including Montrose—routinely use ballot measures, initiatives, and referendums as direct-democracy tools. It also portrays a citizens' charter commission as a kind of direct-democracy mechanism that would "override" representative government, when in practice commissions are usually advisory bodies that study issues and recommend changes, leaving final decisions to council and the voters.

The letter repeatedly speculates about the motives of people who support a com-

mission, suggesting they are simply unhappy with election outcomes or seeking "undue influence," without evidence. It labels potential commission members as "unaccountable activists," using loaded language that assumes bad faith rather than acknowledging that many city boards and commissions are made up of ordinary residents appointed by council, with council retaining ultimate authority. Finally, its invocation of the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of a "republican form of government" is rhetorically powerful but not well grounded in actual practice; states and cities across the country have long combined representative institutions with direct-democracy tools and advisory commissions without that being considered unconstitutional.

It's not too late to shelve some of the least popular proposed amendments. It's not too late to hear the recommendations of a charter commission.

Greg Cairns, Montrose

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT INCLUDES THE PEOPLE

Editor:

Mayor Michael Badagliacco recently argued that those of us who supported a Charter Advisory Commission somehow misunderstand representative government or are attempting to replace it with direct democracy. I respectfully disagree. In fact, I believe just the opposite.

Representative government is not weakened when citizens are invited into the process. It is strengthened.

No one suggested replacing the City Council's authority. No one argued that an advisory commission should have the power to adopt charter amendments or bypass the elected council. Under our Charter, only the City Council can refer amendments to the ballot, and ultimately only the voters can approve or reject them. That was never in dispute.

The question was much simpler:

Would our community benefit from additional citizen review before proposed changes to the document that governs

our city are placed before the voters?

I believe the answer is yes.

The mayor suggests that because citizens can file petition-initiated amendments, there is no need for an advisory commission. But those are two entirely different tools. One allows citizens to propose their own amendments. The other allows a diverse group of residents to review proposals already under consideration, ask questions, identify concerns, and offer recommendations. One does not replace the other.

I also disagree with the suggestion that citizen commissions are simply made up of activists. That assumes ordinary citizens are somehow incapable of serving fairly or thoughtfully. Throughout Montrose, residents volunteer on the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and numerous other committees because they care about their community. We trust citizens every day to advise local govern-

ment. Why should a charter review be treated differently?

Representative government was never intended to mean governing behind closed doors or limiting public participation to Election Day. Elections give officials the authority to lead, but good leadership also means listening, inviting participation, and welcoming different perspectives before important decisions are made.

Seeking additional public input is not a rejection of representative government. It is an expression of confidence in it.

Our City Charter belongs to every resident of Montrose, not just the council serving today. Whether people agreed or disagreed with a Charter Advisory Commission, I hope we can agree on one thing: the more informed and engaged our citizens are, the stronger our local government will be.

Beth McCorkle

Neighbors for Good Governance

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GOLD MOUNTAIN FIRE PROMPTS OURAY RANGER DISTRICT CLOSURES

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-For the safety of firefighters and the public, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests' Ouray Ranger District has implemented a fire closure area in the vicinity of the Gold Mountain Fire.

The closure area applies to all National Forest System lands within Ouray, Gunnison, and Hinsdale counties east of Hwy 550, south of Hwy 50, west of Pinnacle Ridge, north of Matterhorn Peak and Northeast of Cascade and Bridalveil creeks. A map of the area and full order details can be found [here](#).

The closure restricts public access to all lands, roads and trails within the described area (see map), including:

- Big Cimarron Campground
- Beaver Lake Campground
- Silver Jack Boat Ramp
- Silver Jack Campground
- Jackson Guard Station

A violation of this closure order is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581

For more information about the Gold Mountain Fire:

Gold Mountain Fire Information

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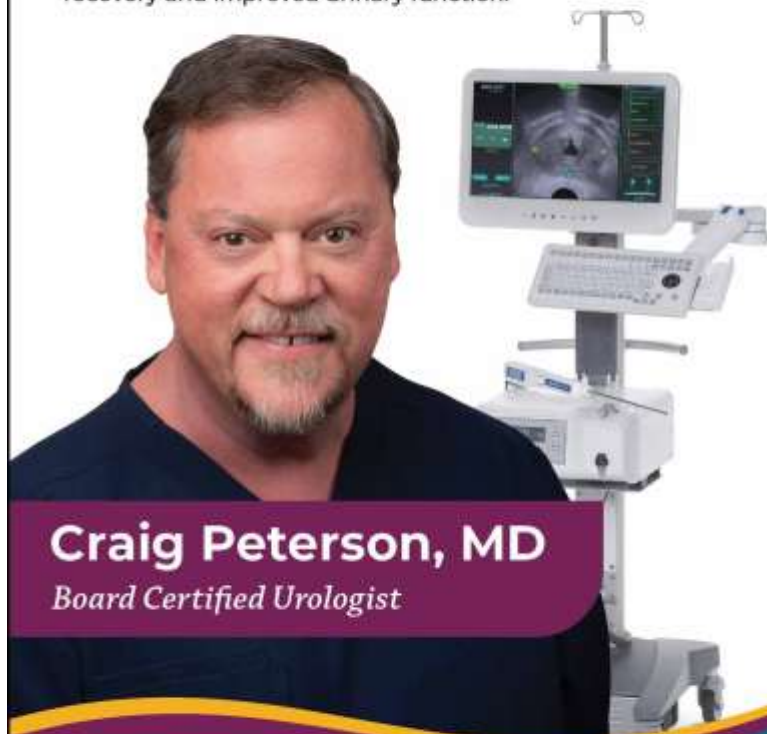
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS HAVE MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL

Editor:

Last week I wrote that 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. We are seeing some alarm from a few of the elites within the Democrat party about the dramatic leftward march of their party, but they're not concerned about their party's communist course. After all, they share the same goals, particularly absolute power. They're worried America isn't quite ready to embrace socialism, and that the Democrat party is moving too quickly and openly and might blow the whole thing before they are unstoppable. Polling shows over 66% of Democrats have a favorable view of socialism. That includes the Democrat elite who are totally aware of the reality of socialism and its inherent evil. Unfortunately, it also includes too many everyday Democrats who are totally ignorant of socialism/communism. There is no such thing as "Democratic Socialism." Socialism is the antithesis of democracy. Elections are tolerated only to give a thin veil of legitimacy to totalitarianism. America is a representative republic with a constitution to protect the rights and lives of individuals. The basic point of socialism and communism is the exact opposite – absolute state power over individuals.

Everyday Democrats who have a favorable opinion of socialism, including bored affluent whites and indoctrinated college kids, are naive and misinformed. Socialism is not a political or economic system separate from communism. It is merely a first step. Listen closely to what the DSA people say about the true scope of their agenda, because every now and then they speak the truth. CNN "reporter" Kaitlan Collins: Democratic Socialism is "not communism." Democrat Socialist of America's top leader David Jenkins: "Our goal is communism." Socialism is pre-communism -- the deceptions and maneuvering necessary to make a hostile communist takeover possible. It is softening up the population to accept what they would not accept if they had a choice or were truly informed about their options. It's classic communist strategy. The Ameri-

can version was delineated in the 1960's by a husband/wife team of anti-American academics and is known as the Cloward-Piven Strategy. Overwhelm the welfare system. Blame it on capitalism. Destroy the rule of law, encourage any and all social upheaval. Manufacture discontent by blaming everyone's plight in life on anything but the individual. Remove the underpinnings of society. In short, institutions like Christianity, education, and the family structure itself must be hollowed out and destroyed. They can then promise to restore "equality" and "order" as they secure one-party political power. Socialism is just their route to totalitarian rule. Leftist revolutions always end up run by the elites. As in the Soviet Union, the Eastern Bloc, Cambodia, Cuba, Venezuela, etc., the people suffer. It's no secret that Democrats want to disarm law-abiding Americans. They know they can't cram their communist utopia down the throats of people capable of resisting. Most all Democrat policies can be understood when you realize their totalitarian goals. Abortion; open borders; abolishing the police, ICE, and prisons. Soros prosecutors; eat-the-rich; seizing private property; financing Iranian terrorism; supporting BLM, Antifa, and other anarchist criminals; inflaming racial hatred; and so much more. There is method to their madness.

Communist strategy always takes advantage of that segment of society that is all too happy to find a scapegoat for their failures. They failed somehow – or never tried – and society is to blame. They shake their fists at the rich, the talented, the smart, and common folk who simply take responsibility for their lives and roll with the punches. Unfortunately, seizing the means of production always drives a nation's economy into the ground. Above all, communism and capitalism are economic systems, and that is why the Soviet Union fell as well as why communist nations around the world have failed. Promising equality by stealing from the wealthy and redistributing it simply doesn't work. They really do run out of other people's money. The promised equality, the promised housing, the promised health care are always a fraud. The promise of "equality" is a joke.

The promise of "order" simply means a police state. Communism promises utopia and delivers hell on earth. Communists killed at least 100 million – largely their own people – in the last century alone.

Historically, the two largest destroyers of life have been Islam and communism. Democrats are embracing both. I mentioned last week that foolish Democrats think they are using Muslims to usher in socialism, when the truth is Muslims are using Democrats to usher in Islam. Like socialism and democracy, Islam and communism are mutually exclusive. The contemporary alliance between socialists and Muslims is a temporary alliance intent on destroying traditional America. If they were to achieve that, the two factions would then attempt to destroy each other. Islamists ally with communists to achieve their goals, just as Hitler allied with Muslims, with the expectation that when the time comes, they'll enslave or kill every communist, just as they plan to do with the rest of the world. Communists ally with Muslims with the same expectation. Both are ruthless and deceptive and will stop at nothing to achieve their goal of world domination. One only has to look at Great Britain to understand that Islam allows pedophilia, preaches the killing of infidels, wants the destruction of the West, and murders, rapes, and oppresses women. It's all incremental. When Muslims are under 2% of the population, they appear to be a peaceful minority. When they hit the 2-5% mark, they start controlling disaffected minorities on the streets and prisons. After 5%, they start dictating their beliefs on society as a whole. As they approach 10%, they increase lawlessness as a means of control. After reaching 20%, nations can expect rioting, jihad militia formations, sporadic killings, and the burning of Christian churches and Jewish synagogues. After 40%, nations experience widespread massacres, chronic terror attacks, and ongoing militia warfare. From 60% on expect violent jihad and state-run ethnic cleansing and genocide as they drive out the infidels and move toward 100% Muslim. Sound familiar? Look at Great Britain. Democrats have made a deal with the devil.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH IS EXCITED TO WELCOME DR. EVAN BACHMAN TO ADULT PRIMARY CARE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health is pleased to welcome Dr. Evan Bachman to its Adult Primary Care team, effective July 13, 2026.

Originally from Michigan, Dr. Bachman most recently practiced while living in Maine before making the move to western Colorado. "I was born and raised in Michigan but most recently have been living in Maine," said Dr. Bachman. "I always knew that someday I wanted to move west and, after thinking hard about where that might be, quickly fell in love with the Western Slope of Colorado. I was drawn to Delta County in particular because of its strong sense of community, access to varied landscapes, and beautiful weather."

Bachman earned his bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Michigan Technological University in Michigan's Upper Peninsula before attending Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. While in medical school, he earned a certificate in Rural Community Health, reflecting his passion for serving smaller communities. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Bachman's decision to pursue primary care was rooted in his belief that meaningful relationships are at the heart of quality healthcare, Delta Health's commitment to its patients and community made joining the organization an easy decision.

"I learned firsthand the unique needs and opportunities of practicing medicine in rural communities," he said. "I also learned that, in rural communities in particular, the strength and health of a community directly impacts individual health outcomes and deserves to be a primary focus of our work in healthcare."

As he begins caring for patients at Delta Health Adult Primary Care in July, Dr. Bachman is eager to become part of both the healthcare team and the broader Delta County community.

Outside the clinic, Bachman enjoys spending time outdoors. His favorite activities include mountain biking, skiing, and fly fishing—making Colorado's Western Slope a perfect place to call home.

Delta Health is excited to welcome Dr. Bachman and looks forward to the expertise, compassion, and the dedication he brings to patients throughout Delta County.

PRE-EVACUATION NOTICE FOR PROPERTIES IN EVACUATION ZONE 34

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-PRE-EVACUATION NOTICE: **Montrose County Sheriff's**

Office has issued a Pre-Evacuation notice for properties in evacuation zone 34, which includes the area south of the P77 Road/Cimarron Road intersection and properties on P77 Road one mile north of the intersection. Cimarron State Wildlife Area will be closed to all public access until the pre-evacuation status is lifted.

All individuals in this area should PREPARE for future evacuations. An evacuation order could come at any time.

View the Evacuation Map here:

<https://maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html...>

There is currently NOT an evacuation order in place for this zone. You are advised there may be an evacuation order in the future and you should start preparing in event an evacuation order is issued. Fire and law enforcement personnel are working in this area to provide specific

information about when to leave.

If you need assistance on making an evacuation plan and go-kit, visit **Ready.gov/Plan**

For official fire information visit the **Gold Mountain Fire** or call the Official Fire Hotline at: 970-325-3056.

AVISO DE PRE-EVACUACIÓN: La Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Montrose ha emitido un aviso de pre-evacuación para las propiedades ubicadas en la zona de evacuación 34, que incluye el área al sur de la intersección de P77 Road y Cimarron Road, así como las propiedades ubicadas en P77 Road hasta una milla al norte de dicha intersección. El Área Estatal de Vida Silvestre de Cimarron permanecerá cerrada al acceso público hasta que se levante el estado de pre-evacuación.

Todas las personas que se encuentren en esta área deben PREPARARSE para posibles evacuaciones futuras. Una orden de evacuación podría emitirse en cualquier

momento.

Consulte el mapa de evacuación aquí: <https://maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html...>

Actualmente NO existe una orden de evacuación para esta zona. Se le informa que podría emitirse una orden de evacuación en el futuro y debe comenzar a prepararse en caso de que se emita dicha orden. El personal de bomberos y las fuerzas del orden están trabajando en esta área para proporcionar información específica sobre cuándo será necesario evacuar.

Si necesita ayuda para elaborar un plan de evacuación y preparar un kit de emergencia, visite **Ready.gov/Plan**.

Para obtener información oficial sobre el incendio, visite la página oficial de Facebook de Gold Mountain Fire en: <https://www.facebook.com/GoldMountainFire> o llame a la línea directa oficial del incendio al: 970-325-3056.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CURECANTI MEDICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS *Scholarships support the next generation of health care professionals in western Colorado*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Curecanti Medical Society has awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to seven students pursuing careers in healthcare, continuing a 36-year tradition of supporting the future healthcare workforce in western Colorado.

Made up of physicians serving the Montrose and Gunnison communities, the Curecanti Medical Society is dedicated to advancing access to quality medical care throughout the region. As part of the Colorado Medical Society, the organization supports future healthcare professionals through educational scholarships and other community initiatives.

Preference is given to applicants from the Montrose and Gunnison areas who intend to return to their hometowns after completing their education and serve the communities where healthcare professionals are needed most.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are:

- Audra Bailey
- Brian Plotner
- Caroline Graham
- Charity English
- LaVae Lake
- Raul Martinez
- Shiloh Warthen

"The Curecanti Medical Society is proud to invest in these outstanding students as they prepare for careers dedicated to caring for others," said Curecanti Medical Society President Gayle Frazzetta, M.D. "We hope these scholarships help them achieve their educational goals and encourage them to bring their skills and compassion back to the communities we serve."

For more than three decades, the Curecanti Medical Society has helped support students pursuing careers in medicine and other healthcare fields. The organization hopes these scholarships will help encourage the next generation of healthcare professionals to serve communities throughout western Colorado.

For more information about the Curecanti Medical Society, please email bmiller@montrosehealth.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE TO RECEIVE \$3.3 MILLION TO CLEAN UP FORMER POWER PLANT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — With the goal of transforming a 20th-century relic of industrial power generation into a community asset and economic driver, the City of Montrose was recently selected to receive a \$3.3-million cleanup grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant will be used to revitalize the Bullock Electric Steam Plant located on the city's Uncompahgre River corridor.

Efforts to clean up the site of the former electric plant, located at 30 West South Fourth Street, have been part of the city's larger community development strategy for over a decade. The EPA's Brownfields Cleanup grant totals \$3,327,850, the largest grant awarded to a Colorado community in 2026, with Montrose being one of just 43 communities in the United States to receive a highly coveted Brownfields Cleanup grant.

After years of planning and completing environmental assessments, building partnerships, and pursuing numerous grant opportunities, the City of Montrose is ready to take this project to the next phase, according to City of Montrose Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt.

"This is a major milestone for our community. Years of hard work, collaboration, and persistence have brought us to this moment," Hochwalt said. "To be chosen as one of only 43 communities across the country is a tremendous honor and reflects the importance of this project."

In its application to the EPA, the City of Montrose described the site and the major challenges facing its cleanup. The former Bullock Plant is a historic steam electric facility, originally coal-fired and later converted to natural gas, operated from 1953 to 1983 to supply electricity to the Montrose community. The 5.54-acre site includes a four-story power generation building and a half-acre cooling pond. The site is directly adjacent to the Uncompahgre River and across from the Uncompahgre Riverway Trail. The building has been exposed to the elements and deteriorated since it was shut down in 1983.

Prolonged vacancy and limited oversight over several decades have attracted illegal dumping, unhoused individuals encamped along the river, and school-age children and young adults who have accessed or vandalized the property.

The City of Montrose purchased the property in 2021 and has since secured the building, but the facility has sat unused and derelict since it was shut down.

The cost of properly cleaning up the site was the primary reason the City of Montrose pursued a Brownfields Cleanup grant. An initial

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), conducted in 1992, indicated that bottom ash and fly ash were disposed of on-site in the former cooling pond from 1950 to 1977. Further sampling found deposits covering nearly the entire western half of the property; extending from the former cooling pond to the southern property boundary and totaling approximately 20,000 cubic yards.

However, groundwater sampling indicated no significant contaminant leaching to shallow groundwater; therefore, groundwater remediation is not required.

The former power plant structure itself remains heavily contaminated with asbestos and other toxic elements that require remediation. The City of Montrose will be working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to address the toxic elements during cleanup activities.

Additional environmental concerns include the potential runoff of contaminated soils and fly ash into the Uncompahgre River, which could adversely affect aquatic habitat and recreational uses such as kayaking and paddleboarding. Since the 1970s, the City of Montrose has strategically acquired and guided redevelopment of downtown and riverfront properties to protect natural resources while supporting resilient, appropriate reuse.

After an 11-year effort, the city acquired the former Bullock Steam Plant and developed a reuse strategy consistent with the Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2021), the Uncompahgre River Master Plan (adopted 2011), and other land-use and revitalization policies. These plans prioritize remediation of legacy industrial sites, restoration of the river corridor, improved connectivity, and the promotion of local economic growth and redevelopment.

Starting in 2015, the City of Montrose began a community visioning process to determine how to reuse the site, with strong ideas to create a climbing gym and recreational hub, using private and public partnerships to spark sales tax revenue generation.

Continued engagement with residents, regional recreation outfitters, educators, and public agency partners has shaped the evolution of reuse concepts. Technical assistance provided through EPA's Land Revitalization Technical Assistance (LRTA) and the Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields (KSUTAB) programs has supported evaluation of redevelopment options, environmental considerations, sustainable reuse strategies, and community engagement.

Hochwalt said the EPA award wouldn't have been possible without the contributions of many people over the years, including past and



Mirror staff photo of the Bullock Electric Steam Plant taken July 5, 2026. Adjacent homeowners say that the plant has been far less secure since its purchase by the City, as the former owner had a full time caretaker and guard dog on site, neither of which exists today.

current city staff, City Council members, consultants, agency partners, and community stakeholders who have all played a role in moving the project forward.

"There have been a lot of conversations, a lot of coordination, and more than a few late nights spent putting together applications and laying the groundwork needed to get us to this point," Hochwalt said. "This funding moves us closer to cleaning up a long-standing site and creating new opportunities for the future of our community."

Following environmental cleanup, the city will retain ownership and redevelop the site for both public and private uses. The former power plant building will be adaptively reused as a multi-level indoor climbing gym to support year-round recreation, job creation, and private reinvestment.

Site improvements will restore riparian habitat, create flood-resilient green space, establish public river access for kayaking and fishing, reconnect the site to the Uncompahgre Riverway Trail and city park system, and incorporate sustainable energy features where feasible. The site's proximity to Outdoor Range, a public school focused on hands-on, nature-based learning, will enable indoor recreation and STEM learning opportunities. Collectively, this reuse strategy transforms a contaminated, floodplain-constrained site into a connected economic and community asset that advances adopted plans, reflects community priorities, and catalyzes reinvestment in surrounding neighborhoods. Hochwalt said the city will host future public meetings to gather additional community input for the project.

More information about this project will be made public once it becomes available.

For information about the City of Montrose, visit [CityofMontrose.org](https://www.cityofmontrose.org).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GLASS DOCTORS OF MONTROSE AND GRAND JUNCTION TO MERGE, BECOME GLASS DOCTOR OF WESTERN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Glass Doctor of Montrose is proud to announce its merger with Glass Doctor of Grand Junction. Moving forward, the combined entities will operate under a new name: **Glass Doctor of Western Colorado**.

This strategic union creates a powerful synergy that directly benefits communities across the Western Slope. By combining forces, Glass Doctor of Western Colorado will bring its signature, small-town "mom-and-pop" customer service to the Grand Junction market. At the same time, Mont-

rose and the surrounding areas will now benefit from a strong I-70 glass supply chain, significantly increasing local inventory and capabilities.

Most importantly for local consumers, the merger creates immense bargaining power.

Glass Doctor of Western Colorado will now be able to leverage volume pricing—typically reserved for major metropolitan areas—and pass those direct savings on to smaller towns throughout the region.

With inflation stretching household budgets thin, the timing of these cost savings

could not be better.

In addition to consumer benefits, the merger brings together a strong workforce and leading expertise. Together, these strengths let Glass Doctor of Western Colorado handle larger, more complex commercial and residential projects across the region.

"We are thrilled to bring these two teams together."

"This isn't just about growth; it's about delivering better prices, better supply, and the same hometown service our customers trust."

MARC CATLIN TO SPEAK AT FORUM JULY 8

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Plan to attend the Wednesday, July 8th, 8-9 am meeting of The Forum when our speaker will be Colorado State Senator and Colorado River District Board President Marc Catlin.

Marc Catlin is...

- a Republican member of the Colorado State Senate and a former Colorado State Representative;
- Colorado River District Board of Directors President representing Montrose County;
- Former Water Rights Development Coordinator for Montrose County where he worked to identify and protect water rights within the county;
- Former Assistant Manager and then Manager of the Uncompahgre Valley Water User's Association;
- Winner of the [Colorado Division of Water Resources](#)-Division 4 "Water Manager of the Year";
- Former President for the Four States Irrigation Council for three consecutive terms;
- Gunnison Basin Roundtable's selection to serve on the InterBasin Compact Committee; and
- Former President of the Colorado Water Congress.

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



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F: By appointment only

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND THE ROLE OF "WE THE PEOPLE"

By Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

There are those who seek to fundamentally transform our form of government.

Groups such as the Democratic Socialists advocate eliminating the Senate and the Supreme Court. They propose reducing our structure to the House of Representatives and the President. They call for electing the President by popular vote instead of the Electoral College. Some even push to allow non-citizens to vote in our elections.

Their vision replaces the rule of law with mob rule. It discards protections that safeguard all citizens, including minorities. On paper, their platform may sound appealing. In practice, it leads to despotism and loss of liberty, much like the failed experiments of the past.

Lessons from History:

I grew up during the Cold War. The Soviet Union stood as a powerful example of centralized control. It promised equality and prosperity for all. Instead, it delivered oppression, shortages, and despair. The Democratic Socialists criticize flaws in America while promoting ideas that mirror the USSR's approach. History shows those systems create tyranny, not freedom.

Our Constitutional Republic:

America is not perfect. Yet our Constitutional Republic remains the best system in the world. The United States Constitution guarantees to every state "a Republican Form of Government." This is Article IV, Section 4. Our Founders deliberately chose a republic over democracy to avoid the dangers of unchecked majority rule.

In a republic, citizens elect representatives to deliberate and govern on their behalf. These representatives implement the platforms voters support. This structure filters passion through reason and

protects individual rights. The Electoral College, established in Article II, Section 1, ensures smaller states have a voice. It prevents candidates from ignoring vast regions of the country in favor of densely populated urban centers. Abandoning it for a pure popular vote would undermine this balance.

The Supreme Court serves as a vital check. It interprets laws according to the Constitution, safeguarding rights against transient majorities. Proposals to eliminate it or pack it threaten judicial independence and the separation of powers. **Protecting Rights and Opportunity:**

Our system protects minorities and ensures equal opportunity. The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees equal protection under the law. The First Amendment secures free speech and assembly. These provisions, along with the Bill of Rights, shield individuals from government overreach and mob impulses. Democracy, by contrast, risks "tyranny of the majority," as James Madison warned in Federalist No. 10.

Non-citizens voting in federal elections violates core principles. Federal law, including 18 U.S.C. Section 611, prohibits non-citizens from voting in federal elections. The Supremacy Clause in Article VI, Clause 2 establishes that the Constitution and federal laws prevail over conflicting state or local actions. Allowing non-citizen voting dilutes the voice of citizens and undermines the social contract between the government and those it represents. Equal opportunity does not mean equal outcomes.

Our republic rewards effort, innovation, and responsibility. Forcing equal results punishes success and discourages hard work. A person who labors twice as hard should not receive the same reward as

one who exerts little effort. That principle drives prosperity and respects human nature.

The Role of Citizen Participation:

Citizen participation thrives in this republic. We vote in elections. We engage in public comment and dialogue at local meetings. We hold public officials accountable through transparent processes. We run for office or support candidates who align with our values. And we allow our elected representatives to do what they were elected to do, and if they don't, it is our obligation and duty to vote them out. As citizens, it is not our job to interfere.

Our job as a citizen is to be informed and make wise voting choices based on our values, not try to hijack the process through "citizen commissions because we did not like the outcome of an election. This is ordered liberty, not chaos.

Defending Our Republic:

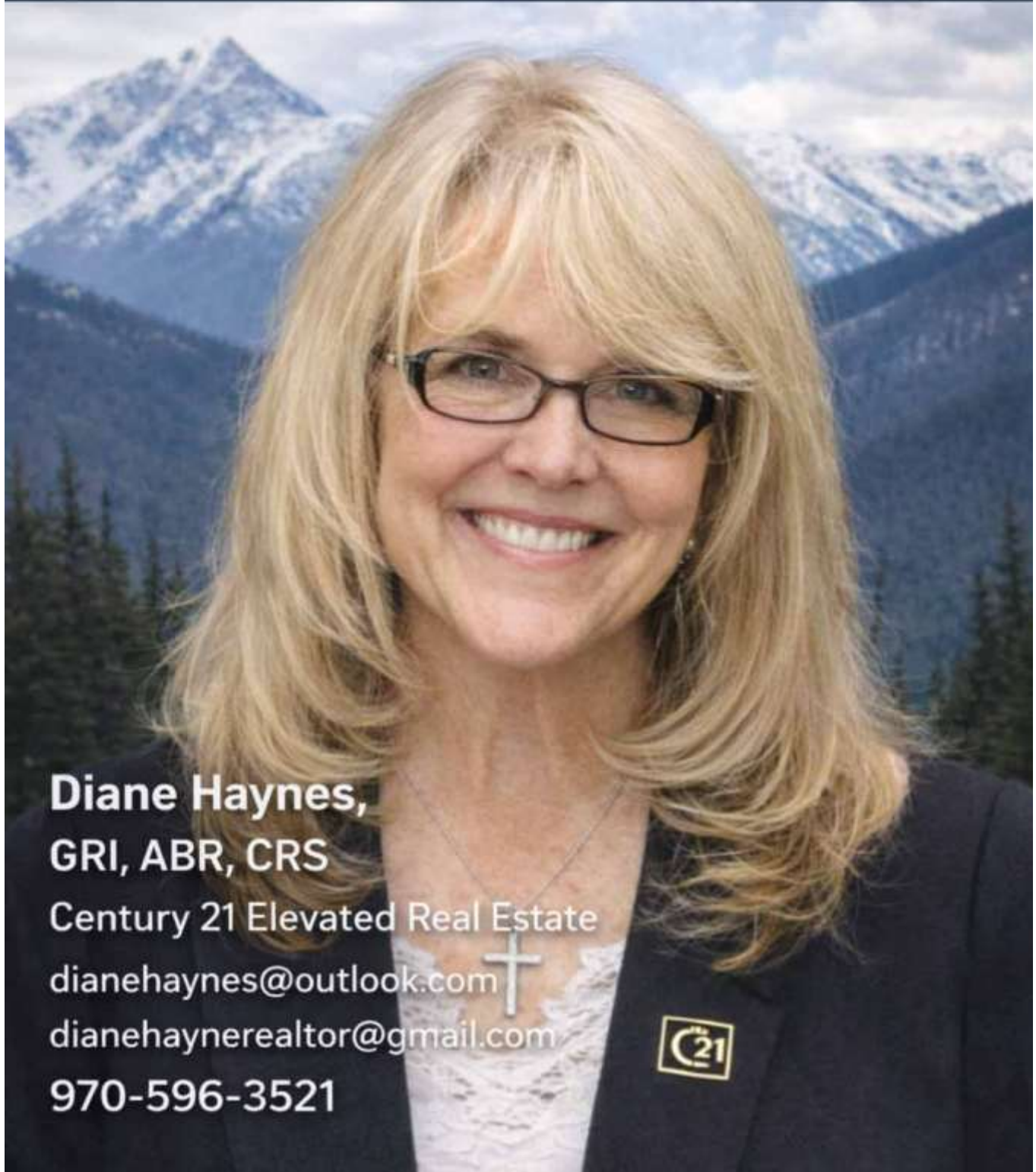
The Soviet model promised everything and delivered nothing for ordinary people. Centralized control stifled initiative and crushed dissent. America, despite her imperfections, has produced unprecedented freedom and opportunity precisely because we maintain a Constitutional Republic.

We must defend this system. Citizens participate by staying informed, voting, and demanding accountability. We reject schemes that erode the Senate's role in representing states, weaken the judiciary, or blur the line between citizens and non-citizens.

Our republic protects all citizens through representative government. It balances majority will with minority rights. It offers genuine opportunity within the rule of law. Let us preserve it for future generations.

Just one man's humble opinion.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY RV PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-If you are visiting the area in an RV, and have been affected by the Gold Mountain Fire, this information is for you! Welcome to our community, and thank you for being here. To help keep our roadways safe and accessible, please note that RVs and campers are not permitted to park on City or County streets.

Below is a list of local RV parks and campgrounds that offer the amenities and services needed for a safe and comfortable stay.

RV Parks and Camp Grounds in Montrose

Cedar Creek RV Park, 126 Rose Ln, Montrose, CO 81401. (970) 249-3884,

www.cedarcreekrv.com

Centennial RV Park, 23449 Highway 550, Montrose, CO 81401. (970) 240-3832,

www.centennialrv550.com

Down at the Hop Yard Camping, 67181

Trout Rd, Montrose, CO 81403. (860) 306-1195, <http://www.hipcamp.com/.../colorado-the-hop-yard-hideaway...>

Meadows of San Juan RV Park, 22130 6850 Rd, Montrose, CO 81403. (970) 249-6382, meadowsofsanjuan.com

Montrose Black Canyon KOA, 200 N Cedar Ave, Montrose, CO 81401. (970) 249-9177, koa.com/campgrounds/montrose-black-canyon-natl-park

Riverbend RV Park and Cabins, 65120 Old Chipeta Trail, Montrose, CO 81403. (970) 249-8235, www.riverbend-rvpark.com

The Campers Hub, 18265 Highway 550, Montrose, CO 81403. (970) 235-2017

Other resources you might find helpful include:

www.hipcamp.com/en-US

thedyrt.com

www.harvesthosts.com

If you are unable to find a camping spot in

one of the local campgrounds, the **Montrose County Fairgrounds & Event Center** has dry camping spaces for a limited period of time.

There is NO RV dump station at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds is located at 1036 N 7th Ave Montrose, CO 81401. You may enter the Fairgrounds via either the gates on San Juan Avenue Bypass or N 2nd Street. Please refer to the map for the dry camping location on fairgrounds property.

If you are traveling with animals they must be kept on a leash when outside at the Fairgrounds. DO NOT approach any other animals you encounter on the Fairgrounds.

Montrose County does not endorse any of the businesses or organizations listed and this information is provided for informational purposes only.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2026 SMALL BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Twenty-Four Local Businesses to Be Honored at Cocktail Reception and Awards Ceremony Thursday, July 30th at Holiday Inn & Suites — Community Invited to Attend

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Our Town Matters is proud to announce twenty-four winners of its 2026 Annual Small Business Awards. The honorees will be celebrated at a community cocktail reception and awards ceremony on Thursday, July 30, 2026, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn & Suites. The evening will feature a live awards presentation, live music, The Stone House catered appetizers, and cocktails.

The community is warmly invited to attend and join in honoring the local businesses that make the Western Slope an extraordinary place to live, work, and grow. Tickets are available at events.ourtownmatters.net.

Now celebrating its fifth year of winners, the Annual Small Business Awards has grown into one of the region's most anticipated community celebrations. What began in 2022 as a grassroots effort to shine a light on local entrepreneurship has blossomed into a reflection of just how much this community has grown — and how deeply residents value the businesses that serve them.

This year's class of honorees is one of the most diverse in the event's history, representing an extraordinary range of industries, backgrounds, and business models, from health and wellness and culinary arts to trades, retail, and professional services.

Winners were selected through a community-wide nomination process, with individuals across the region submitting nominations for the local businesses they

believe go above and beyond for their customers and their community. This year, close to 90 nominations were submitted — the most since the event was first launched in 2022.

"When I founded Our Town Matters, I knew our community had something special — I just wanted to give people a way to say it out loud," said Tonya Maddox, Founder of Our Town Matters and the Annual Small Business Awards. "These twenty-four businesses have earned the trust, loyalty, and love of the people around them. On July 30th, we get to stand together and celebrate that. I cannot think of a better way to spend a Thursday evening than in a room full of people who believe deeply in this place and in each other. I hope everyone will join us — this night belongs to the whole community."

This year's event is made possible through the generous support of Presenting Sponsor Central Bank and Gold Sponsors ELEVATE Internet, Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce, Montrose Business Times, Culligan Water, and Our Town Matters.

"Central Bank is honored to be the Presenting Sponsor of the 2026 Annual Small Business Awards," said Jeremy Russell, Senior Business Development Officer at Central Bank. "Small businesses are the engine of this community, and the twenty-four winners being recognized on July 30th represent the very best of what entrepreneurship looks like on the Western

Slope — hardworking, community-minded, and deeply committed to the people they serve. We encourage everyone to come out, celebrate with us, and show these businesses just how much they mean to this region."

2026 ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

Our Town Matters is proud to announce the following businesses as the 2026 Annual Small Business Award winners, who will receive their awards at the July 30th reception:

- 970 ROAM Party Bus
- Alpen Confections
- Balance Integrated Health
- Buckendorf, Haynes CPAs
- Busted Knuckle Towing & Service
- Compass Medical Center
- Counseling Connection
- El Rinconcito Restaurant
- EVOO Montrose
- Iron INDastries
- Magnolia Salon
- Montrose Martial Arts
- Peace Of Mind Dog Boarding
- SheShe Boutique
- Stronghold Tree Care
- Team Valerie Meyers
- The Campers Hub
- Tim's Auto Glass
- Unrivaled Plumbing & Heating
- Vybe Med Spa
- Western Slope Appliance
- Western Slope Party Rentals
- Wicked Mobile Garage
- Wild Merrion Boutique

**The Mirror:
many views,
one newspaper.**



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

KNOW THE ISSUES, KNOW THE CANDIDATES, AND VOTE YOUR CONVICTIONS

Editor:

As a youngster, celebrating 4th of July in our family had always been a dual purpose celebration. In early July 1720 eight of my of my ancestors from Montrose, Scotland invaded the colonies and initially settled near York, PA. During the American Revolution, eight of their sons participated in various theaters of action. During the extended celebrations of America 250, millions of true patriots turn out to celebrate this major milestone in the history of our country. There were even 55 different countries that came to participate in this historic [event.in](#) America. Sadly, a domestic enemy has raised its ugly head in the midst of our celebration.

After eight years of Obama/Biden and four years of Biden/Harris, our country was closer than I had ever seen it to destruction. Since the reelection of Donald Trump we have seen the once great Democrat party that put the welfare of the country first and foremost reduce itself to nothing more than an anti-American rabble that fosters hate division, and sedition. The Democrats have made it perfectly clear for all to see that they care more for the illegals among us than their American citizens they supposedly represent. Shameful!!!

With the election of a full-blown communist as Mayor of New York City, and in subsequent primaries across the country, we have all seen the socialist communist wing of that party take full control with their ultimate goal of completely destroying what our forefathers developed 250 years ago. The one common thread among all of those primaries was low voter turnout. In last Tuesday's Colorado primary, 65% of eligible voters failed in their duty as citizens to vote. Here in Montrose County 19,964 registered voters failed to even open their ballot. Such widespread apathy is a sure way for those who hate our country to destroy it. "WE THE PEOPLE" are the stewards of our history and the guardians of our future. If our country is destined to celebrate America 300, we must each dedicate ourselves to fulfilling our individual obligation to know the issues, candidates and to vote our convictions. God bless America.

Dee Laird, Montrose

WE NEED TO BE STRONG AND OF ONE VOICE

Editor:

What difference and importance is it if Polis, Griswold or Weiser are of Jewish descent? They are now democratic candidates running for state offices against our Republican candidates. Most of us who are part of this group have expressed ourselves as Christians. Jesus was a Jew, he was called Rabbi. True he was crucified by the Romans under the insistence of the Sanhedrin. But didn't Jesus ask us to forgive everyone just as He had forgiven everyone, without exception while on the cross? We should be planning our political strategy on how we are going to win back Colorado. We have been dealt the results of the primary election. Do we unite and stand together or do we continue to argue and bicker? Jesus stated that a house divided against itself would fail. Whether it is Marx or Kirkmeyer that will lead our ticket we need to be strong and of one voice. None of the contested offices I voted for were forwarded to the general ballot. Disappointing, yes. End of the day we need to stand as one. Now is not the time to bring up would-as, could-as, should-as but to polish what we have and make them shine. MCCA, Make Colorado Conservative Again. After all it's WE THE PEOPLE!

John Brown, Montrose



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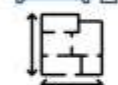


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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JAMES M BEDFORD

August 18, 1944 - June 20, 2026



JIM BEDFORD, fifty-plus-year resident of Telluride, CO, died June 20, 2026, after death-defying feats of resilience for six rich and wonderful years. His wife and other family members were with him.

Jim was born at Eglin Air Force Base near Valparaiso, FL, on August 18, 1944, to Carol Rosaland (Johnson) Bedford and Lt. Col. John Peter Windover Bedford. His father's tours of duty took the family to and from North Africa, Washington, DC, and Italy all before Jim was 11. He graduated high school in Falls Church, VA, and earned a bachelor's in political science from Missouri's Tarkio College.

In 1972, after several years' antiwar activism in the nation's capital, Jim "ran away," as he liked to say, "from Richard Nixon." He visited Telluride at the suggestion of younger brother Bo and was immediately enchanted by the invitation to help dream a dying silver town back into vibrancy. A modern renaissance man, Jim brought vision, pragmatism, dedication, and deep love of community, nature, books, music, film, and art to his new town. In short order he opened a print shop, managed the newly renovated Sheridan Opera House movie theater, and became a protégé of its renovators Bill

and Stella Pence. He co-founded radio station KOTO-fm, began a 36-year run as director of operations of the Telluride Film Festival, sat consecutive terms on Town Council, managed MountainFilm, and served as county commissioner. He held down third and occasionally first base for the Floradora softball team, enjoyed every acre of the ski area 100+ days a year, and took part in dozens of other festivals, public boards, and commissions. By the late 1970s he was known to many in town as BF Deal, a name he wore proudly.

Yet Jim's greatest pride came from working alongside others. He loved to tell the story of the can-do gang of nonexperts who imagined into being over the course of a few days the complex triptych screen needed to show Abel Gance's legendary Napoleon in Elks Park for the 6th Film Festival. He was so proud to be among those who championed the Lawson Hill development, believing in its value long before it won the Colorado Governor's Smart Growth Award and became a model for resort towns seeking to promote affordable housing. Helping create local radio before local radio was cool? Helping create a town government open to any ideas that would bring people together in joy in a box canyon "nobody got to by mistake"? Being part of a town that could really-and-for-true conserve the Valley Floor? He was continually astonished by what community could do. And he was both great-hearted and wise, writing recently, "No one could have done these things alone. Every step along the way there were others, sometimes dozens, to help reach the finish line."

A man of high standards, Jim could be a tough boss, but it's equally true that he trusted people to grow into the potential he saw in them, and he enjoyed giving them chances to prove him right. In his many managerial roles, he identified the right people and their strengths, and he

applauded as they surprised themselves with their success. Not until his 80th birthday, when he received a book of letters from those he had mentored and known, did he begin to understand the impact he had had on so many people.

At the end of his life, Jim often asked himself whether the changes he supported in the town he loved had been for better or for worse. But there were things he never once doubted. That relationships are worth tending all our lives long. That marrying Luci Reeve in 1987 was the best decision he ever made. And that the only reason he is not with us today is because, as he said in his last hours, "I just can't do the SHOW."

The show will go on ... there will never be another BF.

James Montgomery Bedford is predeceased by his brother Jack Bedford. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Luci Reeve; brother Bob (Bo) Bedford; sister Michelle Foley (and husband Bob); cousins Ellen Simek (and husband Ed) and Scott Schackel (and wife Anne Marie); daughters Kate Andrews (and husband Randy), Bronwyn Becker, Shine Pritchard (and husband Cody); honorary son Curtis Walker; niece Caroline Foley (and husband Zach Vargas); nephews Brad Bedford and Jake Bedford; grandchildren Sheridan Pritchard (and spouse Val), Winter Seyfer, Grahm Pritchard, Maya Andrews, Given Czuchrey, and Clare Andrews; great-grandchildren Symphony Pritchard and Philip Pritchard; and hundreds of friends whom he considered family.

The family wishes to thank each person who called, wrote, and stopped by during Jim's last six years. Your love and friendship made him eager to live longer, and he did, fully. We also wish to thank the many hospice team members who went above and beyond in their care for all of us.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LARRY LEE ANDERS

August 12, 1950 — June 19, 2026

LARRY LEE ANDERS passed away June 19th, 2026, at his Montrose home surrounded by his family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Larry Anders was born to John Clifton Anders and Phyllis Lucille Anders (Dickerson) in Delta Colorado on August 12th, 1950, the first to appear as his identical twin brother Jerry often says, "I had to kick him out ahead of me"! Larry grew up on the family farm west of Olathe on Dry Creek along with his eldest brother Johnny and sister Paula.

Larry attended Stone school, Olathe schools and graduated from Montrose High School in 1968. Competition was part of life in the Anders family and with Larry and Jerry it was what pushed them to excel in everything they tackled, most of the time together with their special bond.

Larry was an accomplished student athlete. He was a Montrose high school all conference running back, baseball player, and GVL all conference 1st basketball team for Olathe High.

Larry and Jerry as an inseparable duo received a full ride baseball scholarship to Northwest Oklahoma state University where Larry lettered 4 years and as a senior was an all-American, playing short-stop and second base. Larry received his BA in sociology and physical education.

At age 9 brother Johnny showed "the twins" as they were often referred to, their first cords on an old guitar and Larry's lifelong passion for music began. From 1973 to 1978 Larry and Jerry went on the road with their music, traveling all over the northwestern US and southwest Canada. "The Anders Brothers Band" was a household name for 55 years.

Larry loved his family and friends and through the years we had many family gatherings and Sunday dinners on the farm that will be remembered dearly.

Larry loved more than anything, the precious time he spent with his wife Patricia, stepdaughter Megan and his grandchildren Sutton and Jackson.

Larry was a great friend and teammate to all those he played Fastpitch Softball with through the years. The Hunting camps on the Wolford Ranch in East Dallas creek looking up at the San Juans were some of the best times. Larry Loved all the Fishing adventures, the phrase Larry was known for "Get the Net!!!!!!" always made us laugh. Or the time spent around a campfire with guitars and songs. Good times were spent with Jerry, Ted Cole and brother Johnny making music and recording music in Johnny's Sunny Daze recording studio. Larry loved all the time with his brotherhood at Montrose Elks Lodge of which he was a lifetime member. Larry was a hard worker and had a lifelong career surveying and enjoyed his years working at Montrose County Road and bridge.

Larry was a devoted son, brother, uncle, husband, grandfather and friend who will be admirably missed. All these memories will be treasured immensely and will always keep Larry close to our hearts. We love you Larry, you made all our lives brighter and more meaningful!!!!

Larry is survived by His Wife Patricia Anders and stepdaughter Megan Hubbard, grandchildren Sutton and Jackson. Twin Jerry, Toni Anders, nephews Benny, Andrea Harrison, great nieces Izzy, Addie, Willy and Dawn Harrison. Brother Johnny Anders, nieces and nephews Suzanne, Steven, Brandy, Amy, and Ryan. Nephew Bodie, Gina Blowers, great nieces Cora and (Keagan Goodwin), Andie Blowers. With numerous great nieces, nephews and cousins.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents John and Phyllis, sister Paula and nephew Ryan Anders

Services will be held at Montrose Christian Church on Saturday July 11th at 10am with family and friends gathering to follow in the fellowship hall. A celebration of life is planned at the Montrose Elks on August 22, 2026.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Larry, what a life you lived, more than most can even imagine. Your laughter will be missed and the laughter and happiness you brought to those around you. Laughter and happiness were your biggest gifts and will be forever cherished.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ERIC EDGELL *June 19, 2026*



ERIC EDGELL was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, friend, uncle, and cousin. Family meant everything to him. He often reminded his wife Carma of how much she and the family they started

meant to him always saying things to her like "You're my girl, and that is why." As a father, Eric always made time for his sons to share interests, help them with whatever they needed, and was an extremely patient teacher. He enjoyed smoking and curing meat and making a variety of foods and loved sharing what he knew. As an active member of a smoking and curing food forum, he helped people from all over the world.

If someone showed interest, he was always happy to share his knowledge. Eric also enjoyed shooting, hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors. Some of his sons' favorite memories include fishing trips, watching football, working on vehicles, talking about cars, and other various topics with their dad. He loved to laugh with his family.

Eric owned his own excavation business and was one of the premiere excavators in Montrose. He was kind and honest with

everyone that he did business with, contractors and clients alike. Eric was the kind of person you could call when you were in a bind, and he would always know what to do, and would make time to help.

Eric loved this country and our service men and women.

He loved and studied history extensively and kept it close. He believed it was important to remember. He also believed it was important to always learn something new every day. One of his favorite sayings was "there are no graduates because the learning never stops". He believed knowledge was a superpower.

He is survived by his wife, Carma; his sons, Harlen and Garret Edgell, both of Montrose; his mother, Linda Edgell, of Montrose; and many uncles, aunts, and cousins in Colorado and New Mexico. He was preceded in death by his father, Norman Edgell, his grandmother, Esther Gatchet, and his uncle, Wayne Gatchet.

PATRICIA MARIE LAITRES *In Loving Memory of Patricia Marie Laitres* *February 21, 1975 – June 19, 2026*

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Patricia Marie Laitres, who peacefully passed away on June 19th, 2026, at the age of 51.

Patricia was born on February 21, 1975 in Huntington Beach, California, to Richard Laitres and Mary Clarke. Patricia dedicated more than 20 years of her life to serving others as a certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She found purpose in caring for those in need and was known for her compassion, kindness, and unwavering dedication to her patients and coworkers.

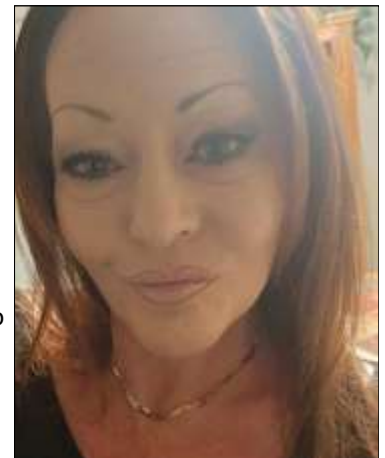
Above all, Patricia was a devoted mother to her two daughters, and a loving grandmother to her cherished granddaughters, Maiya and Kinzlee. Her family was the center of her world, and she treasured every moment spent with them.

Patricia had a passion for horses and found great joy in boating with family and friends. She also loved cooking delicious meals, shopping, and creating lasting memories with those she loved. She was known for her caring heart, wonderful sense of humor, and outgoing personality. Her ability to make others laugh, feel welcomed, and cared for left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

Patricia's love, strength, and generous spirit will continue to live on through her family and the countless lives she touched. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered with love.

A celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 11 at 1p.m. Family and friends are invited to join in honoring Patricia's Life and sharing memories together. Please contact Ashley or Vanessa for the location and additional details.

Forever in our hearts, Patricia's love will continue to guide and inspire all who were blessed to know her.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CORINNE MARLYS BENNINGTON

July 11, 1948 — June 28, 2026



Corinne has transitioned Home to be with loved ones in the heavenly realm of eternal spirit life. She was born into this life experience in Westhope, ND to loving parents, Helen and Lester Clevén. While her parents primarily shaped her life, her life story always included a large extended family and friends. From a young age she learned from her parents' example and Jesus' teachings to care for the needs of others and to be of service to your community. While attending the University of North Dakota, Corinne met the love of her life, her soul mate and best friend, Steve Bennington. They married in 1968 and after completing college, Steve was commissioned in the U.S. Army. Corinne taught profoundly hard of hearing 3rd grade students in Tacoma, WA prior to joining Steve in South Korea for a year. After Steve's discharge from military service, they chose to live and raise their family in the Minneapolis area, establishing their home in Plymouth, MN.

Her greatest joy in life was, along with Steve, raising their two phenomenal children, Brian and Joan. She believed her children taught her more about life and spirituality than she could ever teach them. They are truly a gift from God. Many summers were spent boating and camping together on the St. Croix River and Lake Minnetonka. Later in life their grandsons, Sean and Ryan, filled her heart with love and joy.

Her career path eventually led to real estate and property management. Her ingrained belief in helping others remained her focus in her endeavors. Upon retirement they moved to Sedona, AZ, years later to Steamboat Springs, CO and finally Montrose, CO in December, 2021. Corinne loved recreating in the outdoors. She especially enjoyed boating and water sports in Minnesota, hiking the red rocks of Arizona and the mountains of Colorado.

Preceding her to life eternal included their beautiful, amazing daughter, Joan Hart; loving parents, Lester and Helen Clevén; brother, Teddy; father and mother in-laws, Charles and Jane Bennington; sister in-law, Brenda Homstad; and brother-in-law Gary Wysocki.

Surviving her are loving, caring husband, Steve Bennington; son, Brian Bennington; daughter in-law, Deborah Bennington; grandsons, Sean Hart and Ryan Hart; sisters, Janice, Phyllis and brother-in-law Gary Newman; brother Ronald and sister-in-law Patricia Clevén; brother in-law David Homstad; brother in-law James and sister-in-law Cyndi Bennington; many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

The ending of Corinne's physical life is a new beginning of her soul's eternal life.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Wounded Warrior Project or the Humane Society.

A Celebration of Life will follow at a later date.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOHN ALBERT POWELL *July 22, 1936 — June 22, 2026*

JOHN ALBERT POWELL, 89 of Montrose, Colorado, passed away June 22nd, 2026, at Valley Manor Care Center. He was born July 22nd, 1936, to Lloyd and Opal (Chambers) Powell in Alliance Nebraska. The family lived in a small town called Angora 25 miles south of Alliance. When John was in junior high, the family moved to Bridgeport Nebraska, and he graduated from high school in 1953. After graduation, he attended Nebraska Wesleyan University and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Art degree and was a member of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. While attending Nebraska Wesleyan, John met his first wife, Nita Ray Matz and they had a son. John served in the U. S. Army, from 1958-1960, as a medical laboratory technician. He was stationed in Stuttgart Germany. After his service in the US army, he returned to Lincoln Nebraska, where he met his future wife and life partner. Beverly Jean Johnson, who was teaching kindergarten in Lincoln Nebraska. They were married and had a daughter. In 1961, John and family moved to Denver, Colorado, where he became an underwriter for Capital Life Insurance Company and was even-

tually promoted to regional Vice President. During this time, another daughter was born in 1963. After many years at Capital Life, John joined Woodman of the World as Vice President. In the mid-1980s, John started his own business, Powell Financial LLC, where he redesigned and marketed cafeteria insurance plans. In 1997, he retired to the Pebble Creek Golf Course community, outside of Phoenix Arizona. After 5 years in the desert, John and Bev wanted to be closer to family, and moved to Montrose, Colorado. John and Bev have lived in Montrose since 2001.

John is survived by his loving wife, Bev of Montrose and children, Scott Heaton (Diane Hawthorne) of Omaha Nebraska, Carla Albertelli (Jim Jamieson) of Parker Colorado, Jana Powell of Montrose Colorado. John is also survived by grandchildren, Christa (Drew) Doutrich of Highlands Ranch Colorado, Rachel (Isaac) Hebert of Omaha Nebraska and Ryan Heaton of St. Charles Missouri, three great-grandchildren, Corbin, Sam and Greyson Doutrich of Highlands Ranch Colorado, also several nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by his parents,



Lloyd and Opal Powell, brother, Lloyd Powell Jr., sisters, Darlene Worth and Jurene Green and son-in-law, Paul Albertelli. A celebration of John's life will be held July 11 at 11 AM, with lunch to follow at Montrose United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made in honor of John, to HopeWest Hospice - 725 S. 4th Street Montrose, CO 81401.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JUDY K. DEVINCENTIS (NEE WILSON) *October 13, 1956 — June 1, 2026*

Judy passed away peacefully on June 1, 2026. She was surrounded by the love of her family, whose presence brought her comfort in the final months and days of her life.

Judy was born on October 13, 1956, in Pierre, South Dakota to JoAnn and Jack Wilson. Following the tragic loss of her dad, Judy moved to Montrose with her mother and brother, Brian Wilson. Her family later grew when JoAnn married Jerry Trudell, and Judy became the beloved daughter of Jerry and gained four additional siblings: Ray (1956-2001) Kim, Bill (1960-2008) and Laura (Annie).

Judy spent her childhood in Montrose, where she developed the determination, independence, and an iron will that would define her throughout her life. She graduated from Montrose High School in 1974 and went on to attend Western State College, where she was bold enough to sneak her beloved golden retriever into her dorm room for an entire semester! She earned both her bachelor's degree and master's degree in early childhood education.

In 1978, Judy married Gerald Koch and together they welcomed two children, Kirsten and Christopher, into their family. Kirsten and Chris were among Judy's greatest joys and proudest accomplishments. Judy subsequently married Gene DeVincentis in 2000 and gained two wonderful stepchildren, Gina and Kevin. After Gene became ill, Kevin became the caregiver, grounds keeper, chauffeur, and "butler," and was a steadfast source of support to Judy, providing help wherever it was needed.

As a grandmother, Judy delighted in her ability to hold "Camp Grandma" each summer, organizing, hosting, and directing activities for all her grandchildren for an entire week! Judy also took such joy in taking many road trips and cruises with her adult children and her grandchildren with a goal of visiting every national park in the United States. One of her most treasured trips was a recent excursion to Yosemite National Park with all her family.

Judy began her working career as the

owner and operator of a preschool. Judy eventually became a multifaceted businesswoman. In 1990, Judy became a partner in Western Gravel and worked closely with her father, Jerry. One of their favorite activities was to meet for coffee, celebrate their latest success and start sketching out their next business adventure on a napkin! Together they built a reputation for excellence that became known throughout Colorado's concrete and gravel industry. As a woman in a mostly male dominated profession, Judy transformed her vision into a highly respected enterprise that helped shape countless communities across the state.

Judy became a franchise owner of FirstLight Home Care in 2012. She subsequently opened four different territories of the FirstLight Home Care and eight out of her first ten years in the business, she was awarded "Franchisee of the Year" which resulted in multiple reward trips that she shared with her family. She was also the recipient of the inaugural, Founders Award in 2023, which recognized Judy for her outstanding commitment to clients, families, caregivers, and fellow franchise owners. Judy also served on the National Advisory Council as both chair and vice chair. Over the years, Judy served as a mentor and trusted advisor to new owners and was a valuable resource to the corporate office as well as her own family. Judy's passion for the possible inspired her family to follow in her footsteps and provide care and resources to people in their communities.

Judy possessed a seemingly endless supply of energy, skillfully balancing the ownership and operation of multiple businesses at once while inspiring those around her with her vision, determination, and tireless work ethic. Following the example she so beautifully set for them, Judy's family is the embodiment of her living legacy. Judy was blessed to have many dear friends in her life. The family would like to especially thank Jenny Enoch, Drena Brown, and Judy's care team during her treatments (and after) for their many contributions to her health, care and well-being.



Though cancer ultimately claimed her life, it never diminished her spirit. Judy's legacy is not one of illness, but of resilience. She showed us what true strength looks like—not loud or dramatic, but quiet, constant, and deeply inspiring. She taught us that courage is not the absence of fear or pain, but the decision to keep moving forward despite it. She showed us how to live each day, each hour, and each minute with grace and an iron will. Judy, may you and Jerry find that perfect piece of ground and put together a deal that catapults you both into a new universe!

Judy is survived by her children; Kirsten (David Garrett) and Christopher (Amanda Koch) her mother, JoAnn Trudell; her brother, Brian (Tina) Wilson; her sisters, Kim Moore, and Laura (Birdie) Birchak; and many grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her dad, Jack Wilson, her father, Jerry Trudell, and brothers Ray and Bill. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes memorial donations to the Nick Birchak, Strength of Character Scholarship Fund - Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York. Nick, Judy's beloved nephew, died in 2011 due to his epilepsy. This scholarship fund provides college scholarship to students with epilepsy. The address is: Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York, 3 Washington Square, Albany, NY 12205.

ISSUE 581 July 6, 2026

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE — EXECUTIVE FUNCTION



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.

*Greetings Mirrorites! OLATHE-*As many long-time readers know, I study the effects of time spent in restorative natural environments on executive attention. Executive attention, also known as voluntary attention, is the brain's ability to consciously direct mental resources and block distractions. It acts as a control tower, helping a person prioritize specific focus over competing stimuli. But what I know less about is the overall effect of such environments on 'executive function'. So, for this article, I did a bunch of research, which is why I love this job!

Executive function (EF) is a broad umbrella of cognitive skills used for future planning, focusing of attention, remembering instructions, and juggling multiple tasks among other features. Neuropsychological research divides EF into three interconnected core skills:

Working Memory: This refers to the ability to hold and manipulate information mentally over short periods. It is crucial for tasks such as following multi-step directions, solving complex problems, and maintaining focus on a task despite distractions. Family members with challenges in this area are what peaked my interest in executive function. And then

there's...

Cognitive Flexibility: Also known as mental flexibility, cognitive flexibility is the capacity to adapt one's thinking to new and unexpected conditions. It includes the ability to switch between tasks or mental sets and to approach problems from different angles. This component is essential for creative thinking and problem-solving, as it allows individuals to generate alternative solutions and adjust their strategies based on feedback. I am familiar with how the default mode network facilitates this skill, but did not know it was also a part of executive function, since the two processes don't overlap much at all. Good to know! And last but not least...

Inhibitory Control: This involves the ability to suppress impulsive responses and distractions to focus on the task at hand. Inhibitory control is crucial for self-regulation, enabling individuals to delay gratification and make choices that align with long-term goals rather than immediate desires. Again, family members with challenges in this area (i.e. ADD) made researching this personally relevant.

I decided to investigate immersion in pleasant nature for all three of these executive functions in order of appearance. Working memory... In 2023, a [Dutch and Australian collaboration](#) conducted an experiment with 72 university students as participants. After a working memory depleting task, participants observed either digitally presented nature scenery, urban scenery or no scenery, and subsequently performed a digit span test, which was



Guy thinking in a restorative environment. Courtesy of Val Vesa.

used to measure restoration of depleted working memory (which happens to all of us). It involves listening to a sequence of random numbers and immediately repeating them back. I find digit span forward tests a breeze but digit span backwards tests a booger under even the most ideal conditions. Anywho, the results indicated significant higher performance on the digit span test for those who observed nature scenery in comparison to those who observed urban scenery or no scenery. This supported the work of other teams looking at this function. Chalk one

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – EXECUTIVE FUNCTION *From previous pg*

up for nature!

Cognitive flexibility...this is a bit murkier when it comes to the benefits of immersion in healing natural environments. A student at my old alma mater (University of Utah) [did not find](#) that natural scenes improved cognitive flexibility over urban scenes. But restorative environments [have been shown to improve cognitive ability](#), or the expression of one's native IQ! This is potentially more important to human thriving, since this effects 'fluid intelligence', your actual intellectual capacity. Flexibility is the power of transitioning, but of the two, I personally want it to be true that restorative nature makes you smarter.

Inhibitory Control...it turns out that there is tons of research on beneficial effects of nature on this aspect of executive func-

tion, but always within the framework of executive attention. The new research thrust seems to be on the negative effects of screentime.

[One good study](#) indicated that respondents (teens) freely admitted that they spend very little time outdoors. Brief screen time seems to have little effect on this cognitive resource, but extended screen time, especially for children and adolescents, effects the reward centers of the developing brain and reduces the structures in the pre-frontal cortex responsible for inhibition of emotions. It appears by implication that time in nature rather than on screens increases inhibitory ability.

So what I learned is this...attention aside, the capacity for working memory improvement appears to be highly likely

given current research. For adults, cognitive flexibility and inhibitory control may not change much, except when it comes to mood improvement (which I will tackle in the future). I would never have guessed, however, that time in nature during brain development makes you smarter. Happier, better adjusted, more personally flexible and resilient I expected from past studies on the subject. But smarter, seriously? It just goes to show you are never too old to learn something wonderful about the benefits of nature to human beings.

So, dear readers, get those kids and grandkids out in nature this month, when the weather isn't too hot that is, to improve their IQs!

*Get smart in nature,
The Mindful Naturalist*

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

REGION 10 AWARDED \$92,500 AMERICORPS SENIORS GRANT TO EXPAND VOLUNTEER SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Region 10 has been awarded a \$92,500 AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP grant from AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, to expand volunteer services that help older adults remain healthy, independent, and connected in San Miguel and Ouray counties.

The grant will support approximately 50 AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers who provide essential services including transportation, nutrition support, Medicare counseling, caregiver respite, and companionship. The funding builds on Region 10's volunteer services in San Miguel and Ouray counties, where the program has operated since 2020.

"This grant represents an important investment in our rural communities," said Brian Bowler, Area Agency on Aging director at Region 10. "It allows us to expand services and volunteer opportunities in San Miguel and Ouray counties while freeing up existing resources to better support the other counties we serve in Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, and Hinsdale."

The additional funding enables Region 10 to dedicate more resources to San Miguel and Ouray counties while strengthening services throughout its six-county region.

"We are thrilled to receive this AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP grant," said Kerry Brickey, Senior Volunteer Programs manager at Region 10. "This investment expands opportunities to address critical community needs while better supporting our volunteers through mileage reimbursement, supplemental insurance, and enhanced recognition. These resources reduce barriers to service and ensure volunteers feel appreciated, protected, and empowered to make a lasting difference."

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers, age 55 and older, use their skills and experience to support older adults while building stronger community connections through meaningful service. Region 10's RSVP program serves communities across Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties.

To learn more about AmeriCorps Seniors, visit [AmeriCorps.gov/Serve](https://www.ameriacorps.gov/Serve). To volunteer with Region 10, complete an application at www.region10.net/volunteer or request a paper application at Region 10, 145 S. Cascade Ave., Montrose, CO 81401.

About Region 10

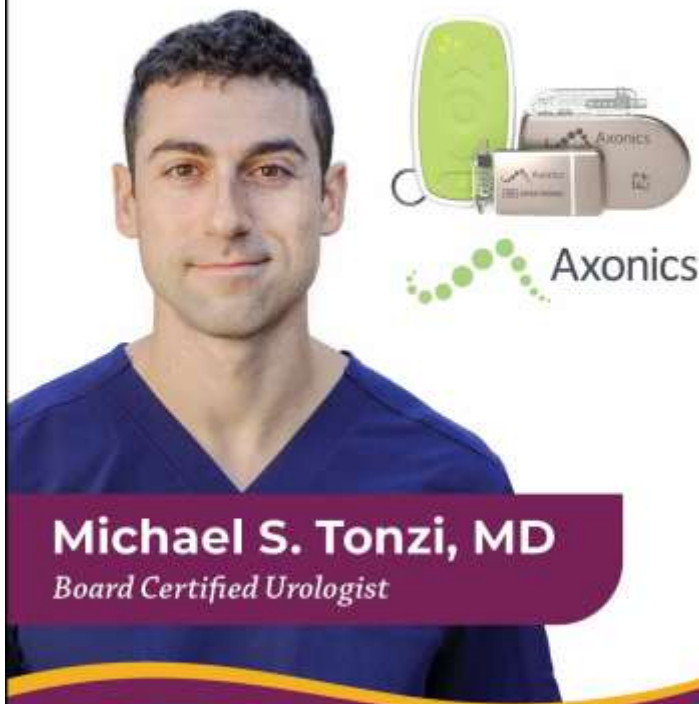
Region 10 is a regional council of governments providing senior, business, and community resources to Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties. Through its Area Agency on Aging and other community programs, Region 10 works to improve quality of life by providing essential services, fostering economic vitality, and supporting healthy, resilient communities throughout western Colorado.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

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GLASS DOCTOR LOCATIONS MERGE TO FORM 'GLASS DOCTOR OF WESTERN COLORADO,' EXPANDING SERVICE AND LOWERING COSTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Glass Doctor of Montrose is proud to announce its merger with Glass Doctor of Grand Junction. Moving forward, the combined entities will operate under a new name: Glass Doctor of Western Colorado.

This strategic union creates a powerful synergy that directly benefits communities across the Western Slope. By combining forces, Glass Doctor of Western Colorado will bring its signature, small-town "mom-and-pop" customer service to the Grand Junction market. At the same time, Montrose and the surrounding areas will now benefit from a strong I-70 glass supply chain, significantly increasing local inventory and capabilities.

Most importantly for local consumers, the merger creates immense bargaining power. Glass Doctor of Western Colorado will now be able to leverage volume pricing—typically reserved for major metropolitan areas—and pass those direct savings on to smaller towns throughout the region. With inflation stretching household budgets thin, the timing of these cost savings could not be better.

In addition to consumer benefits, the merger brings together a strong workforce and leading expertise. Together, these strengths let Glass Doctor of Western Colorado handle larger, more complex commercial and residential projects across the region.

"We are thrilled to bring these two teams together."

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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)



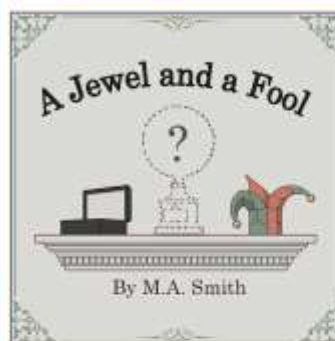
CASTING:
One Woman 60 +
Two Men (40 -60)

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.



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



CASTING:
Two Men 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?

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The Satisfied Self

THE SATISFIED SELF: THE QUESTIONS THAT CHANGE US



By Gia Pirelli

Most of us spend our lives looking for better answers. We want to know what decision to make. Which path to take. Whether we're doing the right thing. We search for certainty because certainty feels safe. But what if the quality of our lives isn't determined by the answers we have? What if it's determined by the *questions* we ask? Questions have a remarkable way of changing our perception.

Ask yourself, "*Why does this always happen to me?*" and your mind immediately begins searching for evidence. It gathers memories, reinforces old beliefs, and constructs a convincing case. Ask instead, "*What might this be trying to teach me?*" and something entirely different happens.

The circumstance hasn't changed.

You have.

Our brains are prediction machines. Long before we're consciously aware of it, they're constantly interpreting what's happening around us. We take in 11 million bits of information per second, yet the mind filters it down to only 40! And we don't choose which 40. Something called the Reticular Activating System (or RAS) is what filters our reality and the data we receive. It's looking for patterns, filling in gaps, and trying to answer one simple question:

"*What does this mean?*"

The challenge is that the brain often answers with yesterday's information. It filters out anything that doesn't fit its current model of reality, and the identity you currently hold as truth. A disappointment becomes proof that things never work out. One criticism becomes evidence that we're not good enough. A difficult relationship becomes a template for future ones. Without realizing it, we begin living inside conclusions we reached years ago.

Not because they're true.

Because they're familiar.

One of the most liberating discoveries I've made is that thoughts are not facts. Neither are assumptions. Neither are first impressions. They're interpretations. Sometimes accurate. Sometimes incomplete. Sometimes entirely wrong.

The problem isn't that we have interpretations. The problem is that we rarely *question* them. Curiosity is one of the healthiest states the mind can enter. Curiosity doesn't demand certainty. It doesn't rush to judgment. It simply asks:

"*What else could be true?*"

That single question creates space. Space between an event and our reaction. Space between an old story and a new *possibility*. Space between who we've been and who we're becoming.

One of my greatest teachers, Wayne Dyer, once said, "Sell your cleverness. And purchase wonder." And that is the way I want to live my life. Not from a place of certainty, routine, safety and predictions. That renders a person intractable, boring, and ultimately unfulfilled. Following routines and living on autopilot is the best way to miss out on life. To stop growing.

I've noticed that the people who continue growing throughout their lives have one thing in common. They remain teachable. Not because they doubt themselves. Because they're willing to reconsider themselves. They understand that changing your mind isn't weakness. Sometimes it's wisdom.

Perhaps that's what an expanded life really is. Not accumulating more possessions, accomplishments, or experiences. But expanding your capacity to see. To recognize that every person is carrying a different story. That every challenge can be viewed through more than one lens. That certainty can sometimes become a prison, while curiosity quietly opens the door.

There's an old Hindu metaphor used in spiritual teaching that says we're all born inside a box, and the instructions for getting out are printed on the outside. The problem isn't that we're incapable of change. It's that from inside our own conditioning, we can't see the conditioning itself. We mistake the walls for reality. And after a certain age, we don't even question them.

We can't always change what happens to us. But we can become more aware of the *meaning* we're assigning to it. And often, that's where our greatest freedom lives. Not in controlling life. But in becoming conscious of the stories through which we're experiencing it.

Because every meaningful change begins with a question. And sometimes the smallest question creates the biggest shift.

Not because it changes the world.

Because it changes the way we see it.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON QUILT SHOW

July 10—12, 2026

By Karla Gilbert

MONTROSE-The 29th annual Black Canyon Quilt Show will be held July 10—12, 2026 at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, CO. The quilt show will feature 150+ quilts; assorted vendors, most of whom will be selling fabric; an expert scissor sharpener who will be available all three days of the show; a boutique with handmade “quilty” items; and an exquisite raffle quilt.

Charisma Horton, a dynamic, nationally known quilt artist, magazine contributor, long armer, teacher, and pattern designer will be teaching her “Big Blooms” full day workshop

on Friday, July 10. On Saturday morning, July 11, she will teach “Penny Notes,” a hand embroidery class.

Both classes are filling fast so interested

people should sign up soon by going to the Education tab on the Black Canyon Quilt Show website <https://blackcanyonquiltshow.com> to get details, supply lists and to register. Saturday afternoon Charisma will present a lecture and trunk show entitled “My Journey as a Designer” which is open to the public at a cost of \$15. The lecture begins at 2pm and tickets will be available at the door. Classes and the lecture will be at the Pavilion.

Raffle tickets for the gorgeous “Snowflake” quilt, designed by quilt artist Edyta Sitar, made by Guild members, and quilted by Gale Smith, may be purchased at the show for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Visit the website <https://blackcanyonquiltshow.com> to see close up raffle quilt photos.

This year, for the first time, Food Trucks will be available on the premises for the convenience of show visitors. Try out some delicious cuisine before or after your visit to the show!

Black Canyon Quilt Show hours are 9—5 on Friday and Saturday; 10—3:30 on Sunday. Adult admission is \$5 and children are free.

Quilt Show visitors may also want to drop by Montrose Center for Arts to view the **Material Matters 2: Colorado Fiber Art** exhibit to revel in magical creations where fiber artists are sharing their love of fabrics, textiles, fibers, yarn, surface design, and threads. The fiber art exhibit runs from June 30—Aug. 7, at **205 E Main Street** in Montrose. The Gallery is open Tuesday—Saturday, 11am – 5pm. The Artist Reception is July 9 at MCA from 5-7pm. Artist talks will take place at Montrose Center for Arts Wednesday nights at 6pm on July 15, 22 and 29.



Snowflake Raffle Quilt. Courtesy image.

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From top left, Delta Balloon Fest, Fourth of July concert at Cerise Park, Parade on Main Street, Montrose. Photos by B. Switzer.



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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, Montrose, 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 disciples. 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. Montrose, 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 Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

Mission: Christ's Church of the Valley is a loving and welcoming church whose purpose 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 predominately 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 Synod

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, 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 welcoming environment being comforted and encouraged 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, info@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, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

montroseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
Worship service times:
9:15 AM to 10:15 AM: Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.
10:30 AM: Sanctuary & Virtual Worship
Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information:
Phone: 970.249.4887
website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
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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970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

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970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442





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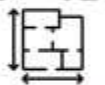


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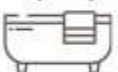
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

THE HARDEST GOODBYE I EVER HAD TO GIVE

By George Dewiliby

Author, *The Light I Had to Fight For*
Author, *Learning to Heal Through the Dogs Who Loved Us*

GeorgeDewiliby.com

REGIONAL—There is one moment from the day I said goodbye to Wilson that I have never been able to leave behind.

It isn't the moment his heart stopped. It isn't even the drive home afterward. It's the moment I realized I was no longer walking into another appointment hoping someone would tell me how to help him. I was walking into the room where love was about to ask something from me that I had spent nearly eight and a half years praying it never would.

Until that day, loving Wilson had always meant finding another way to fight for him. If something hurt, we looked for an answer. If a treatment didn't work, we tried another one. If there was one more test to run, one more specialist to see, one more medication to try, that's what we did. Somewhere along the way, without ever saying it out loud, I had come to believe that love meant never giving up. Then I found myself standing in a room where every answer I wanted had quietly disappeared.

I asked questions anyway.

Not because I believed the veterinarian had overlooked something. I asked because love doesn't know how to stop reaching. It keeps looking for another door long after every door has been closed. It keeps hoping there is one more treatment, one more medication, one more morning still waiting for us. When you've built years of your life around protecting someone you love, your heart doesn't suddenly know how to become the one who lets them go.

I think that's one of the loneliest parts of saying goodbye to a dog.

People remember the decision.

The ones who loved them remember everything that came before it.

They don't see the years of watching them sleep peacefully on the living room floor, or the mornings they followed us into the kitchen before we had even poured our coffee. They don't see the

walks that became slower together, the medications hidden inside pieces of cheese, the nights we lay awake listening for a sound that would tell us they were resting comfortably. They don't see the countless times we whispered, "Come on, buddy," believing love might somehow be enough to carry him through one more day.

By the time we reach that final day, the goodbye isn't carrying one moment. It's carrying thousands.

For a long time, I kept replaying that day because I thought the answer had to be hiding somewhere inside it. I thought if I looked closely enough, I might find one decision I could have made differently, one question I should have asked, one sign I somehow missed.

Looking back now, I don't think I was searching for a mistake.

I think I was searching for one more way to love him.

It took me a long time to understand why that room kept calling me back.

For eight and a half years, every act of love had pointed in the same direction. Loving Wilson meant helping him live. It meant protecting him from whatever I could. It meant fighting for one more good day, one more walk, one more ordinary afternoon together. Every instinct had been shaped by the belief that protecting him meant keeping him here.

I think that's why the final day feels almost impossible for our hearts to understand.

For the first time, love asks us to do something that feels completely opposite of everything it has ever asked before.

Not because love has stopped protecting them.

Because protecting them no longer looks the way it always has.

I don't think that's what kept calling me back to that room.

I think what haunted me was believing that one impossible afternoon had somehow become the measure of my love for him. Every time I replayed that conversation, I was quietly asking myself the same question, even if I never found the courage to say it out loud.

Did I love him enough?

It took me a long time to realize that room had never been carrying that question. One impossible afternoon could never measure eight and a half years.

The exam room didn't decide how deeply I loved Wilson. It revealed how deeply I already did.

That love had been measured long before we ever walked through those doors. It had been measured in muddy paw prints I cleaned up without a second thought, medications tucked inside pieces of cheese, slow walks that became even slower because I wanted to walk at his pace instead of mine, and ordinary mornings when I reached down to scratch his ears before I had even taken my first sip of coffee. It had been measured in thousands of moments that felt too ordinary to matter while I was living them.

Only after he was gone did I realize those ordinary moments had been quietly answering the question I kept asking in that room. They had been measuring my love all along.

For eight and a half years, protecting Wilson meant helping him live. On the final day, protecting him meant something I had prayed I would never be asked to do. Love had not changed. The purpose of love had not changed. Only the way love protected him had changed.

The hardest goodbye wasn't a test of how deeply I loved him.

It was the heartbreaking proof of how deeply I already did.

The deepest guilt doesn't always come from believing we failed. Sometimes it comes from discovering that even the greatest love we had to give could not change the ending. Our hearts aren't asking those questions because they are broken. They are asking them because they spent years believing their job was to protect someone who had become part of their own life.

Only later did I realize that was the conversation I had been trying to understand all along.

That realization became one of the hardest conversations I wrote in *Learning to Heal Through the Dogs Who Loved Us*. I

THE HARDEST GOODBYE I EVER HAD TO GIVE From previous pg

thought I was writing about the day I lost Wilson. Somewhere in the middle of writing, I realized I was writing about something much larger than one goodbye.

I was writing about the moment when the greatest act of protection we can offer the one we love becomes almost impossible for the one giving it to recognize as love at all.

We weren't deciding whose heart would break that day.

That had already been decided the moment we loved them.

What we were deciding was who would carry the suffering.

Wilson would never know what it felt like to drive home without me. He would never walk through the house looking for someone who wasn't there. He would never spend months replaying that final conversation, wondering if one more question might have changed everything. Every piece of that heartbreak would belong to me.

And if carrying that heartbreak for the rest of my life meant he would never have to carry one more day of pain, then that became the final burden love asked me to bear.

As I kept writing, I realized the book was becoming something different than I had planned. It wasn't simply telling stories about dogs. It was looking beyond what happened and asking what each dog had quietly become inside the life of the person who loved them. Why did this particular loss affect us the way it did? What was grief trying to show us that we couldn't yet see? What still remains after the physical bond is gone?

Learning to Heal Through the Dogs Who Loved Us can't change the ending you were given. It can't give back the goodbye that was taken from you, and it can't make those final weeks fair. What I hope it can do is sit beside your story long enough to help you discover that what felt like guilt was often love still trying to protect someone it had already spent a lifetime protecting. Together, we'll look beyond what happened to discover what your dog quietly became inside your life, why this loss affected you the way it did, and what still remains after the physical bond is gone.

That has always been my hope for Learning to Heal Through the Dogs Who Loved Us. Not that it would become the destination, but that it would become the continuation of a conversation so many grieving hearts have been trying to have for years without ever finding the words.

If somewhere in these pages you've quietly found yourself thinking, "That's exactly what my heart has been trying to say," then I hope you'll continue the conversation in Learning to Heal Through the Dogs Who Loved Us. Not because a book can erase what happened. It can't. It can't give back the goodbye that was taken from you, and it can't make those final weeks fair.

But if this conversation has helped you see your story a little differently, I hope the rest of the book will help you discover even more of what grief has been trying to tell you all along. Because your dog's story didn't end in one impossible afternoon. It was written across thousands of ordinary days that quietly revealed who the two of you became together.

Sometimes healing doesn't begin when the story changes.

Sometimes it begins when we finally understand the story we've been carrying all along.



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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

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

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.

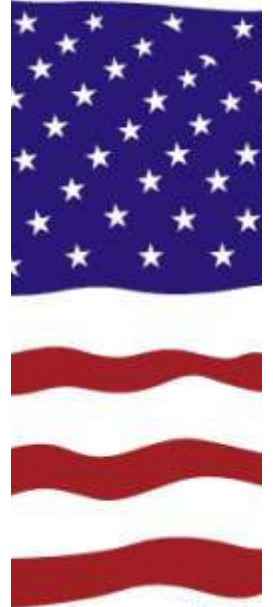
July 10-12-BLACK CANYON QUILT SHOW at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, CO will feature 150+ quilts, vendors, scissor sharpening, a boutique with handmade "quilty" items, classes and quilt artist lecture, and a raffle quilt. Food trucks will be available on the premises for the convenience 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>.

Aug. 13-The Women's Giving Club 3rd quarter meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 13, 5:30 pm at the Bridges Golf and Country Club. This invitation is given to all women who support local nonprofits, or might be new to town, or want to meet new friends, and/or just want to be a part of an organization that is making a positive impact in our community. Bring a friend! Call 970-209-9598 or email at givingclubofmontrose@gmail.com

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Montrose County Fair & Rodeo Royalty were featured during the Fourth of July Parade. Photo by B. Switzer.



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