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MAYOR PRO TEM ED ULIBARRI CALLS OUT 'BULLYING AND INSULTS'

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 7.

Council Chambers were packed with visitors, and all councilors were in attendance. Councilor J. David Reed asked for a moment of silence on behalf of firefighters, many of whom are battling blazes across Colorado, including the Gold Mountain Fire in Ouray. "We owe them a great deal," Reed said.

Mayor Michael Badagliacco read a statement that he had read at the previous meeting, asking for decorum. "The rules of public order will be followed...decorum and respect for everyone in this room must be maintained at all times."

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

Mayor Badagliacco read the rules for public comment.

First to speak was Kim Spangrude, who did not give her name (speakers are asked

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Council Chambers were packed with visitors, and all councilors were in attendance At the City Council meeting on July 7. Meeting Screenshot.

HOW FAMILIES CAN GET OUTDOORS

By Kirstin Copeland

on behalf of Friends of Youth and Nature

Some of us were born into the outdoors. In my family, outdoor experiences were multi-generational. Both my parents grew up on farms, so I spent my summers on my grandparents' farms. On the farm, we helped feed chickens, cows, and pigs, and played outside all day. My dad loved to jeep and climb four-wheelers, so we spent a lot of time in the mountains. My husband grew up swimming in rivers and lakes, and hunting with his dad. At the end of the day, we were dirty and tired without a screen in sight. For many of us that grew up on farms and ranches, or in families that boat, fish, hunt, hike, or bike, we kept doing those things because we inherently knew they made us happier and healthier. Many of us even went into jobs that kept us outside on ranches and farms or as rafting guides, biologists, etc.

It wasn't until college and after that I became aware of how

Continued pg 22



Renzo Del Piccolo volunteers his expertise in just the right ice fishing hole with youth from FOYAN's Together for Resilient Youth" program's winter outing on the Grand Mesa. (photo/FOYAN)

[Morning Star Therapy Dogs On the Job at the Gold Mountain Fire!](#)

[Firefighting Aircraft Downed At SilverJack Reservoir!](#)

[Local Author David Padilla Hopes to Inspire Others!](#)

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



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FIREFIGHTING AIRCRAFT DOWNED AT SILVER JACK RESERVOIR; BODY RECOVERED

Gunnison County Sheriff's Office

GUNNISON-Gunnison County Sheriff Adam Murdie reported that at 5:17 p.m. on July 12, 2026, Gunnison Regional Communications Center received a call regarding an aircraft down in the Silver Jack Reservoir located in the southwestern portion of Gunnison County. The aircraft has been confirmed to be engaged in firefighting operations with the Gold Mountain Fire.

Indications are that there was one person on board. Gunnison County Sheriff Adam Murdie later provided an update that the Montrose County Sheriff's Office dive team had recovered the body of the pilot from the aircraft. The body will be transported to the Gunnison County Coroner's Office.

No further information will be released until the next of kin are notified.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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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

BLACK CANYON DONATES TO MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Black Canyon Classics of Montrose, President Shane Brown presents a \$4,000 donation to Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition's J. Bob Brueske, chairman, and Les Williams, president, last Tuesday.

Black Canyon Classics donates to a variety of non-profit organizations and provides scholarships following each annual car show. This donation will go toward the building of the Montrose Veterans Memorial now underway at 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose. For more information or to donate visit www.montrosevmc.org. *Courtesy photo.*

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\$579,000 • MLS #830946

This 5-Bedroom, 2-Bath, 3-Car garage home is located in the desirable Raven's Crest Subdivision. The home was recently painted, and sits on a corner lot. The home is very open. The kitchen opens into the large living room with sliding glass doors to the private backyard. There is a lot of tile throughout the home, on the floors, baths and showers. There are 5 bedrooms making for a great family home. The kitchen is very open with lots of space and cabinets. There is a wood-burning stove in the living room that heats the whole home. The main Bedroom is large with walk-in closets, and the bath has a large soaker tub. The location is about as good as it gets, close to schools and shopping. The backyard is very private for those fun get-togethers and bar-be-ques.



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Location, Location, Location! This 2,502 sq ft home sits on one of the most coveted locations in Western Colorado. There are 4.45 acres with irrigation and well. The home has 3-bed, 3-bath, a 2-car-attached garage, and a separate 2-car detached garage. The modern kitchen features tile flooring, large walk-in pantry that opens to the living area. Throughout the home there are large picture windows that overlook the beautiful Bostwick Park and Majestic San Juan Mountains. The large windows in the living room add natural light and highlight the views. There is also an electric fireplace with tiles surrounding it. From the living area

you can access the large wrap-around deck for entertaining, bar-be-ques, or relaxing and enjoying the views and outdoors. The primary bedroom has a spacious walk-in closet with 2 entrances and larger picture windows facing the park and mountain views. The bathroom features a large, tiled, walk-in tiled shower, and his and hers tiled counters with double sinks. 2 certified chair lifts on the staircases. Located just 3 miles to the Black Canyon National Monument entrance. Outside features include wrap-around Trek decking and railing. Bring your animals! Horses, cows, or 4-H projects make it the perfect place for your animals. Wildlife is phenomenal! There are days when you can see hundreds of elk and deer grazing the park meadows. It can't be emphasized enough that this location, with its views, is one of the most sought after in Western Colorado. Excellent horse property. Totally furnished with 2 washers and dryers, and newer refrigerator.

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\$750,000 • MLS #829476

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

I RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT NEISHA BALLECK STEP ASIDE

Dear Editor,

As a longtime educator and member of this community, I believe our school board must return its focus to the work that matters most: educating and supporting our students.

Recent reports of Brad Miller meeting privately with Board President Neisha Balleck have only deepened concerns about transparency. If there is nothing inappropriate about these discussions, the public deserves openness about who is influencing decisions affecting our schools. Our community should never be left wondering who is shaping district policy behind the scenes.

Equally troubling is the extraordinary amount of taxpayer money being devoted to attorneys during the superintendent's suspension. With Brad Miller, Bryce Carlson, and Sally Roller all involved, the legal expenses appear excessive. Unless there has been serious misconduct that has been clearly explained to the public, this level of legal involvement raises legitimate

questions about whether this process has become more about politics than good governance.

As a former administrator, I have had difficult conversations with staff. Leadership is not always comfortable. Holding employees accountable and challenging them to improve can sometimes be perceived as intimidating, but strong leadership requires honest conversations.

Schools are resilient. Educators rise to challenges every day, and they deserve support rather than unnecessary turmoil.

In recent board meetings, I have watched President Balleck repeatedly turn to legal counsel for guidance—more than a dozen times during a single meeting. In the more than thirty years I have attended school board meetings, it was rare to see an attorney present at all. This reliance on legal counsel suggests a board that has lost confidence in its own ability to govern effectively while increasing costs to taxpayers.

Meanwhile, district employees are work-

ing under tremendous stress and uncertainty. Morale suffers when leadership is consumed by conflict instead of focusing on classrooms, teachers, and students. Fiscal responsibility and sound governance are not optional—they are fundamental responsibilities of every elected board member.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that President Neisha Balleck step aside as board president. The leader of the board should exude confidence and not need to defer to the attorney at every bend and turn. The board needs a strong leader through this difficult period with stability, transparency, and a renewed commitment to serving our students and community. Dr. Stephenson should resume her duties immediately.

Our children deserve a school board focused on education—not division. It is time to restore trust, transparency, and responsible leadership

Dr. Russ Tomlin

Montrose, Colorado



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**MLS #832291 | 2031 Otter Pond Circle | Aaron Tobler**

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**MLS #836278 | 1014 Otter Pond Circle | Britany Butler**

This stunning timeless brick home is located in a highly desired area. Offering spectacular views with a tranquil setting all while remaining conveniently close to shopping, dining, schools, and everyday amenities. This beautifully maintained 3 bedroom 2 bathroom thoughtfully designed interior offers comfortable living spaces ideal for both everyday life and entertaining. Enjoy a charming carriage house, the lush landscaping, and vibrant planting on this spacious property that has exceptional curb appeal from the moment you arrive! \$750,000

**MLS #832451 | 1510 Oxbow Drive | Dee Holman**

Commercial buildings like this one don't come on the market very often, and this particular site offers a comprehensive suite of features perfect for a new start-up or an established business looking to relocate. The property boasts one of the best locations in the city and includes several special amenities...a unique architectural design with lots of natural light in the work area, a beautiful well-lit dining area, functional features including double drive-up windows, a grease trap, and ample storage. A large well-lit parking lot with over 20 spaces. Low maintenance landscaping featuring mostly xeriscaping with timed irrigation for shrubs. \$1,477,000

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH TO HOST TWO SPORTS PHYSICAL CLINICS FOR DELTA COUNTY AND OLATHE STUDENT ATHLETES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- Delta Health is proud to partner with Delta High School and the Delta County School District to offer two dedicated sports physical days for students entering grades 6–12 who attend schools throughout Delta County and Olathe.

Sports physicals will be available:

-Tuesday, July 28 and Wednesday, July 29, 2026

-7 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

-Delta High School – 1400 Pioneer Rd, Delta

The reduced-cost sports physicals are available for just \$20 per student. Cash or check only will be accepted, and Delta Health will not bill insurance for these examinations.

Students are encouraged to complete the required CHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (PPE) forms before arriving. The forms can be downloaded at: https://chsaanow.com/documents/2026/3/25/CHSAA_PPE_Form_6_2025.pdf.

"We're excited to offer this affordable opportunity to help the young athletes of Delta County and Olathe prepare for the upcoming sports season," said Nick Collieran, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of Delta Health. "By reducing the cost of required sports physicals, we're helping families access an important service while supporting the health, safety, and success of our student-athletes. We value our partnership with Delta High School and the Delta County School District, and are grateful to work together in serving our community."

To help providers perform a complete and thorough examination, students should wear comfortable clothing and should not wear jeans. Families with students planning to participate in middle school or high school athletics are encouraged to take advantage of this convenient, low-cost opportunity before the fall sports season begins. Please RSVP to info@deltahospital.org.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TONYA MADDOX COMMENTS TO THE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL

July 7, 2026

Good evening, Mayor, members of the City Council, and fellow Montrose community members.

My name is Tonya Maddox. I am a local business owner, a community leader, and a proud citizen of this city. I come before you tonight with deep respect for this council and with genuine hope that we can move forward together — because Montrose deserves nothing less than our very best.

Councilman Reed, Councilman Frank, Councilman Ulibarri — you know me. You know my commitment to faith, family, and this community. You know I would not be standing here tonight if I didn't believe with my whole heart that a Citizens Charter Review Commission is in the best interest of Montrose — not just for us today, **but for the next generation of leaders who will one day sit where you are sitting right now.**

And Mr. Mayor, Councilor Wooden — you have both recently come into the public scene. I may not know you personally yet, but I deeply respect the passion of the voters who believed in your commitment to the good of this community. That trust matters. And I extend that same respect to you tonight.

Because here is what I know to be true: we as a community will always do more

together than divided. That is why I am here.

I want to speak in support of a Citizens Charter Review Commission — not because I distrust this council, but because I believe a well-structured commission will make the council's work stronger and the community's trust deeper.

Let me be clear about what a commission is and is not. It is not a replacement for this council. It is not a workaround. A charter review commission produces recommendations — recommendations that this council retains full authority to accept, modify, or reject. The final decision remains exactly where our representative structure places it: with you, and then with the voters.

What a commission offers is something invaluable: a structured, transparent process where Montrose residents from all walks of life — not just those who attend council meetings — have a meaningful opportunity to engage with proposals that affect their city charter for generations. Charter amendments are not routine ordinances. They are foundational. They deserve foundational deliberation.

Research has shown this works in communities across the country. A commission does not weaken representative government. It informs it. It documents the community's voice so that when this

council presents proposals to voters in November, those voters can trust that the process was open, thorough, and fair.

I am not asking this council to surrender its authority. I am asking it to strengthen its credibility — by showing Montrose that charter changes were not rushed, but earned through genuine community engagement.

The suggestion that commission supporters are simply activists unhappy with an election outcome dismisses thousands of Montrose residents who have legitimate questions and deserve legitimate answers — in a forum designed for that purpose. These are our neighbors. Our customers. Our fellow citizens. They are not a problem to be managed. They are the community we serve.

This council has the power to demonstrate that Montrose values broad civic engagement. A commission, with clear scope and timeline, does not bypass this council — it equips it. It gives you, our elected officials, a documented record of community input to stand behind when you place amendments before voters.

That is not direct democracy. That is representative government at its best.

I respectfully ask for your support of the Citizens Charter Review Commission.

Thank you.

Tonya Maddox

HICKENLOOPER FIRES

Editor:

Some years back locals discussed with our elected representatives the benefits of aerial firefighting, the geographically dispersed demand, and shortfalls in ageing national assets, urging establishment of a Colorado aerial firefighting capability. Such an organization would be available for fire fighting in other states when not needed in Colorado, partially offsetting costs, but would ensure availability when needed at home. The benefits of corralling wild fires early before they spread appeared obvious. Appropriate special purpose aircraft were discussed and their capability to reload water rapidly by scooping from Blue Mesa right in this area. Our legislator at the time reported back a meeting with then-governor John Hickenlooper, who reportedly took the positions that there is no real need and should one arise federal assets would be available to respond. He didn't want to spend the money on fire fighting capability, and ignored the obvious problem of conflicting demands when federal aircraft were called to California. Had Hickenlooper made smarter decisions, Colorado's ability to attack wild fires would have evolved into a more potent tool. Then Hickenlooper went to the U.S. Senate. Did he do anything there to enhance the federal aerial fire fighting capability to make up for the lack of Colorado's capability? Enjoy the smoke and thank John as additional thousands of acres burn daily.

Richard Wojciechowski, Ouray County

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MRH PULMONOLOGY CLINIC MAINTAINS CARE DURING DR. ANDREW HERSH'S MILITARY DEPLOYMENT ***Additional pulmonologists will provide coverage while Hersh serves on temporary Air Force assignment***

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Andrew Hersh, M.D., a pulmonologist at Montrose Regional Health (MRH) and a member of the U.S. Air Force for 19 years, has been deployed on a temporary military assignment. He is expected to return in November.

"We're incredibly grateful for Dr. Hersh's service to our country and equally committed to ensuring our patients continue receiving the high-quality pulmonary care they expect from MRH," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health.

Patients with existing appointments should plan to keep their scheduled visits unless contacted directly by the clinic. MRH Pulmonology continues to provide robotic navigation for lung nodule cancer diagnostics without interruption. Patient evaluations, lung nodule workups, and diagnostic testing will continue throughout Hersh's deployment. The clinic will also continue evaluating pulmonary valve patients, with procedures tentatively scheduled following his return.

During Hersh's deployment, board-certified pulmonologists Heather Howe, M.D., and Bruce Suckling, M.D., along with visiting pulmonologist Rage Geringer, M.D., will provide coverage to ensure continuity of care. Howe will assume Hersh's lung nodule diagnostic responsibilities, with support and mentorship from Geringer, a NOAH Robotics superuser recognized for achieving one of the nation's highest first-pass diagnostic yields using robotic bronchoscopy. Geringer will focus on supporting the clinic's advanced diagnostic program rather than seeing clinic patients. Suckling will provide additional support for both diagnostic procedures and outpatient clinic care.

Howe has more than 15 years of medical experience and has provided pulmonary care in partnership with Montrose Regional Health for four years. Before joining MRH in March 2026, Suckling spent more than 20 years practicing pulmonary medicine in Colorado Springs. Both are board-certified pulmonologists. Geringer is a pulmonologist at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and is board-certified in pulmonary medicine and critical care. He has more than eight years of experience in pulmonary medicine. He was recently named an "Early Career Rising Star to Watch" by CHEST Magazine.

The expanded physician coverage allows MRH to continue offering advanced pulmonary diagnostics locally, helping patients avoid unnecessary travel for specialized lung nodule evaluation and care.

For more information about services available through the MRH Pulmonology Clinic, visit montrosehealth.com/pulmonology or call 970-252-2753.



Andrew Hersh, MD, Courtesy photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHY ARE WORLD CUP FANS ENTHRALLED BY OUR COUNTRY & WAY OF LIFE?

Editor:

I watched several videos of World Cup fans responding to the “wonders” of our country: free coffee refills, amazing food, Costco, Cabela’s, and access to a plethora of products not controlled by government, etc. Most of them admitted that their media had put a negative spin on the U.S. and made it sound like a dangerous place to live. I thought about the anti-American sentiment in here, and asked myself, “Why do so many Americans hate their country?”

Two answers surfaced: social media and our education system.

When I was in grade school on the South Side of Chicago, from day one we said the pledge to our flag and learned *The Star Spangled Banner*, and *My Country ‘Tis of Thee*. We learned about our Founders and the sacrifice our people made in order to overcome the tyranny of the British Crown, as well as the real history of our nation and that our freedom was bought by blood. We were taught civics; how our government works.

Today, however, civics is not taught in our public schools with the exception of most charter schools. The pledge and prayer went out of the window. Civics classes diminished over the years and what, at first, was required, then became optional, and finally not available. Most of our kids do not know the three branches of government, how laws are created, the Articles of the Constitution or who the presi-

dent is. However, they can talk at length about Taylor Swift or the latest video game or sports.

Instead, our children not taught how our government came to be; instead socialism, protesting ICE, and sexual education are promoted. My observations reveal that students are being radicalized to hate America. Many do not respect the rule of law and want to do what is right in their own eyes.

Also, our children (and parents) are caught up in distractions and most have become apathetic to their country. Many do not vote or pay attention to Socialism or Islam creeping into our towns and cities and government. Their focus, for the most part, is comfort and convenience, and when the next super hero movie is released. Getting clicks on YouTube channels is more important than the people around them who are suffering. Engaging face-to-face is trumped by impersonal texts.

So, why should Americans be excited about our country? If they do not understand from where we came and the struggles that ensued to be able to walk in freedom, I can see why they are disconnected from the greatness of the United States of America. They don’t realize how wonderful the freedoms we have are, but exploit them. There is not a country on this planet like the U.S.A.

Most of our rights have not been taken away, although there are many who would like to do so. We can dream about

starting a business, and actually succeed in making it come to fruition. We can speak against our government or any ideology and not get arrested because of the First Amendment. Try that in the United Kingdom, North Korea or China! Hello, gulag!

Those who are touting Socialism here, apparently do not understand that every socialistic government has failed, not to mention the approximately 100 million of lives extinguished (Lenin-Marx regimes), 12 and another 94-100 million deaths attributed to the regimes of Mao, Pol Pot, North Korea, USSR and Eastern European countries.

I believe we can learn a lot from World Cup fans who are visiting from abroad. Let’s look at our country with fresh eyes, and realize that there is no place like the U.S. We need to see how blessed we are, but we don’t because we’ve always had the freedoms, amenities, and conveniences since our birth, and we exploit them. I challenge everyone to look at other countries and see what their people are experiencing, and compare it to the freedoms and abundance of our country.

Leah Vandersluis

Montrose, CO

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Black_Book_of_Communist_Mass_killings_under_communist_states)

[The Black Book of Communism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Black_Book_of_Communist_Mass_killings_under_communist_states)

2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_killings_under_communist_states)

[Mass killings under communist states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_killings_under_communist_states)

3. <https://reason.com/2013/03/13/communism-killed-94m-in-20th-century/>



OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

LAWS

By Don Stott

There are many laws and sayings which concern economics as well as other items, and one of them I hear constantly is:

"Do you think metals will go up?" My answer is, "Of course, because the Fed's constantly printing dollars to pay bills Congress passed, the president signed, and the more they print, which are backed by zero, all things priced in dollars, will go up in dollars, but not in value, so government is stealing from you (inflation), to pay their bills, and there is nothing you can do to stop it, other than protecting yourself with insurance in the form of precious metals, real estate, or something tangible which is useful and of sound value."

"OK then, when will they go up?" My answer is: "I don't know what will happen ten minutes from now. Anyone who thinks they can predict what will happen even 30 seconds from now is lying. If I knew two earthquakes in Venezuela would happen a half hour apart, destroying thousands of buildings and killing thousands, would I have left before they happened? Or if I knew silver would go from \$1.20 down to 60 cents, would I have sold all of mine and bought it back at the low price, now?"

There is no such law as "If I had only known." That's only a universal saying when something happens, of which you wish you had foreknowledge!

We all wish there was a method of "Buying low (now) and selling high," other than luck or inside trading, which always seems to be well hidden.

Or how about "hindsight is always 20/20?"

Gresham's law states that, "Bad money drives out good money." This can be observed by people trying to get rid of bad money and keep good money, because bad money is undesirable. People spend their dollars as fast as they can, because they constantly lose value. A fixed rate mortgage of what mortgages were a few years ago, such as maybe 3%, is 'found money,' because you are paying

it off at the same amount of dollars (bad money) each month, when a mortgage today would be 6.5%. It's the same with anything bought on credit.

A friend of mine's daughter had a big credit card debt at 21% interest, and she just kept paying it each month and never thought about doing the sensible thing, which is paying it off as quickly as possible, and stop adding to it. She followed my advice and can't thank me enough. She's doing it and is amazed that she never thought of it.

Credit is bad money, and its cost is unbelievable. Get out of it and stop using it. Another friend went through a divorce and had to pay half of their net worth to his ex-wife. He asked me what to do, and I told him to borrow it, using his home as collateral, and pay it off as fast as possible. He did it and paid it off (\$175,000) within three or four years, and he's just fine, and his credit rating is probably 800 from his actions.

Since Gresham's law says that 'bad money' (dollars) drives out 'good money' (gold and silver), the smart thing to do, is get rid of the bad money (dollars), and put surplus bad money, in good money (gold and silver), and hold them, as Gresham observed. As the years pass, silver will go back to \$1.20 an ounce in bad money, and continue to escalate, as the buck's printing presses will continue to spew out bad money.

Stott's law says that, "The more of anything there is, the less they will be worth, and the less of anything there is, the more they will be worth." That applies to dollars as well as water in the desert, and practically anything you can think of, including gold and silver. There's far more silver than gold, so silver is worth usually about 80% less than gold per ounce, but it is a precious metal and inflation insurance also. I have both and everyone should have both, because eventually, no, I don't know when, you will need silver to barter with, when no one wants your bad money dollars.

People wanting to get rid of bad money, has happened over and over throughout history, and at the end, the bad money is used as insulation or wallpaper.

I'm so old, that I actually remember selling gold at \$250 and silver at \$1.25. I actually do remember nickel Cokes, Hershey bars and quarter a gallon gasoline. I was only six, but I remember my Dad buying a new Plymouth, in 1940, and I later found out he paid \$650 for it. After WW II, I do remember him buying a 1949 Ford for about \$1900, and it had overdrive, and a V-8 engine. I loved to drive that car, which today, would bring about \$25,000 in bad money. There are so few left, as Stott's law explains.

When things happen slowly, no matter how good or bad, as time passes, you get used to them, and eventually don't even give it a second thought. I've had my home for 35 years, and it's worth nine times what I paid for it in bad money. It's the same home! Bad money proves both Gresham's and Stott's laws.

This brings up another subject in economics, which few think about. Rent or buy? I consider this an easy one. If you rent something, as inflation continues, your rent will go up in bad money, because your landlord's costs and necessary profits go up in bad money. If you buy, your base price stays in place, and no one can increase your rent. When I had ten ice cream parlors in Philly, I always bought the buildings, and never even considered renting. The buildings stayed the same, and their value went up in bad money, but since I owned them, I was safe. Homes or businesses: If you can buy, do so and avoid renting anything!

Hope your Fourth of July was great! Trump gave two great speeches! If you were east of Texas, I'm sure you were unbelievably hot, and here with the western fires going, we had some smoke but our 11% humidity, even at 90 degrees, was pleasant. Advice? Get out of big democrat controlled 'sanctuary' cities.

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HOW FAMILIES CAN GET OUTDOORS *From pg 1*

many families don't have ties to outdoor experiences. Without those ties, it can be daunting and even dangerous to just jump into many outdoor experiences. I think we all agree that providing as many opportunities as possible for families and kids to be outdoors is a good thing.

Invite Someone Along

If you are lucky enough to have had a lifetime of outdoor experiences, consider asking yourself the next time you are getting ready for that outdoor adventure, "Who can I invite to come along that may want to give this a try?" If you own a boat, or like to fish, hike, or mountain bike, who can you invite along that may not have the equipment, knowledge or know where to go? Offer to take your neighbors to your favorite fishing spot, on a farm tour, or on a walk sponsored by the park naturalist at Colorado National Monument.

Volunteer

If you can't think of anyone you know, consider volunteering for one of the organizations that make it their mission to get families outdoors. Generation Wild Uncompahgre, led by the Montrose Recreation District and funded by GOCO, is a great place to start. Launched in 2023, the Generation Wild Coalition helps communities across Colorado introduce kids and families to new outdoor experiences. This inspires them to get outside more often by providing free or low-cost programs that serve our communities and support inclusive access to the outdoors.

Other volunteer options include Colorado Parks and Wildlife state park education programs, Grand Valley or Black Canyon Audubon Society, Montrose Botanical Gardens, The Ute Museum Ethnobotany Gardens, Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Colorado National Monument, and the US Fish and Wildlife Hotchkiss Fish Hatchery. In the Grand Junction area, volunteer opportunities abound with Colorado Canyons Association, Friends of Youth and Nature's Together for Resilient Youth program, and Riverside Education Centers' enrichment program for Grand Junction youth. All of these organizations and agencies lead youth field trips, nature outings and education programs during the school year and often in the summer. Give them a call and inquire about their

potential need for volunteers with community or youth events.

Opportunities Around Montrose and Ouray Counties

The Mexican American Development Association (MADA) has hosted hunters education classes and plans to have more in the future. These classes conclude with an option to hunt with an experienced hunting mentor. Ridgway State Park hosts beginning archery and fishing programs each month during the summer.

Many farms offer tours with close-up looks at behind-the-scenes operations. In the Montrose area, Valley Food Partnership is hosting a Montrose County Fair Farm Tour on July 21st, and they also have cooking classes and other opportunities to learn more about our local farming and ranching. The Billy Goat Farm in Montrose County offers farm tours focused on their hop growing operation. You can learn how it is grown, harvested, and processed for the brewery industry. Serendipity Farms is a charming alpaca farm near Montrose where you can meet their alpacas up close and learn about these gentle animals and the products made from their fur.

Opportunities in Delta County

In Delta County, there are many classes offered by the Learning Council for local food, crafts, and related topics. For music lovers, the "Picking in the Park" series has scheduled free concerts in Paonia town park every Thursday evening in August. There is an outdoor pool in Hotchkiss that offers water aerobics in addition to the regular pool activities and swim lessons. The Delta Recreation District offers many classes, and offers the YAK (Youth and Kids) pass that provides free access for youth.

Who can resist the sweet smell of lavender, taste lavender ice cream and take in the eye-popping fields of purple? Each year the North Fork Valley hosts the lavender festival where you can tour several farms and smell or taste the products of this plant. The festival is the last weekend in June, but many of the farms in Palisade and the North Fork Valley offer tours through the summer and provide lavender products at their farm stores.

Opportunities in the Grand Junction Area

In the Grand Junction area, Lincoln Park

and its pool are a very popular destination for summer fun. Grand Junction also offers an abundant network of bike trails, from the beginner-friendly paved Riverfront Trail to the more challenging singletrack trails at the Lunch Loops trailhead. The EUREKA! McConnell Science Center has culture and nature passes for checkout, which offer free access to The Art Center and Colorado National Monument, as well as other destinations.

Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service is hosting a tour of five Mesa County farms and farm stands on Sept. 10. Hear the challenges and successes of Mesa County farming, including presentations on hydroponics, tomatoes, peaches, mixed vegetables, pumpkins and fruit stands. Call (970) 244-1834 for more information.

Everywhere on the Western Slope

In addition, just about every town hosts farmers markets, which are a great way to learn about local farm products. The markets offer scrumptious homegrown goodies in a festive atmosphere.

And don't forget the night sky. How about a night excursion for a dark sky presentation at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park? The Black Canyon Astronomical Society offers these special nights with local experts using their amazing telescopes frequently. Check their [Facebook page](#) for upcoming presentations.

Be the Gentle Nudge

Taking time away from screens and being outdoors can help kids and families both mentally and physically. Many just need a gentle nudge and an enthusiastic "let's do this!" If you have the time, passion and patience to work with youth and families to provide your knowledge, advice and that gentle nudge—you are golden! Through volunteering, you can be the one that helps motivate a young one and their family to try a new endeavor in the outdoors. Inspiration is waiting!

Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) is a nonprofit organization that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experience outdoor activities and explore nature. For outdoor safety tips, trail game ideas, hiking trails, and other ways to get young people involved in the outdoors, or to donate to support this cause, visit [foyan.org](#)



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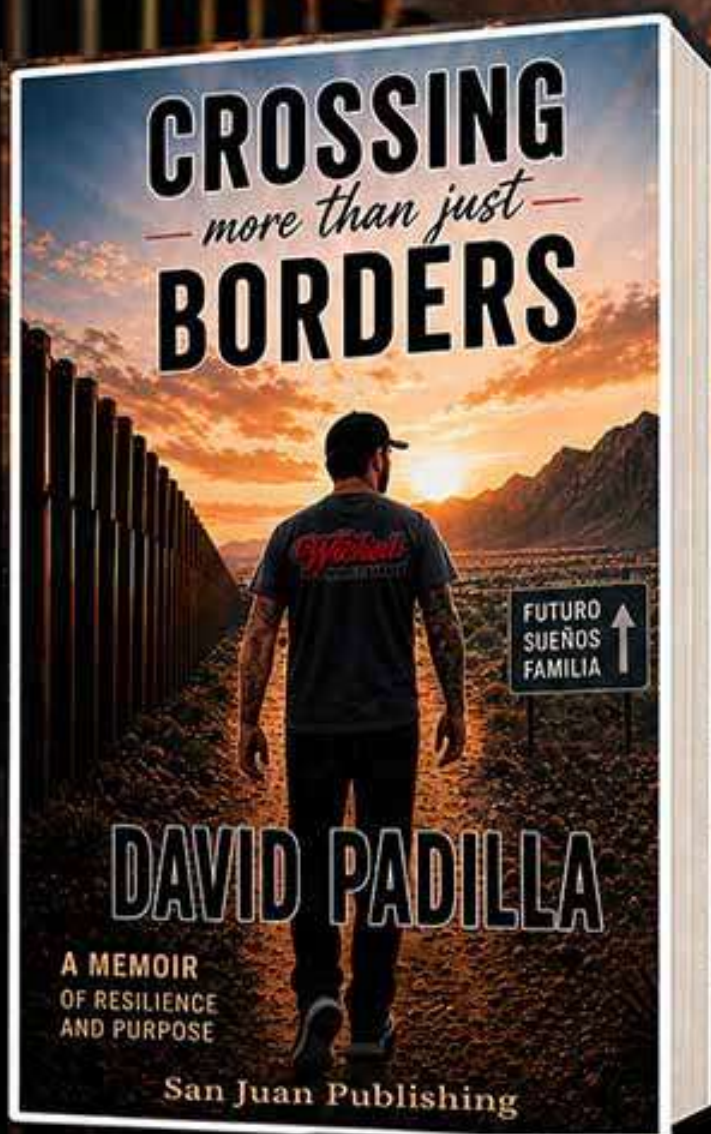
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THE FORUM HOSTS COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Last week Forum attendees heard from Colorado River District Board President (and Colorado Senator) Marc Catlin. On **Wednesday, July 15, 8-9 AM**, The Forum will host the second part of our water series featuring the **Division of Water Resources (Division 4) and Assistant Division Engineer Evan Jones**.

You might be thinking: Who are they? What role do they play in the big water picture? and Why are they located in Montrose? Or perhaps you have been wondering: Lake Mead and Lake Powell have issues. What is our part in that picture? Will they drain the reservoirs in our area to fill those two?

We are surrounded by reservoirs and dams and rely on water coming through the Gunnison Tunnel, but: Who is monitoring all that? What are the challenges? and What does our future look like?

"The State Engineer's Office (now DWR) was created in 1881. Its mission is to:

- Competently and dependably administer and distribute the waters of Colorado in accordance with the laws of the state;
- Ensure that dams and water wells are properly constructed and maintained to ensure public safety; and
- Develop, maintain, and provide access to accurate and timely information regarding water resources."

Worried about water? Want to know more? Come to The Forum on Wednesday, July 15th, 8-9 AM...and bring a friend!



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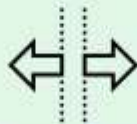
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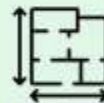
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Monday, August 3

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

Tuesday, August 4

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

Wednesday, August 5 - Friday, August 7

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

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

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

GOLD MOUNTAIN FIRE: THE WORK CONTINUES



Above, the Cimarron firefighters Camp (Photo by B. Switzer); right, firefighters working at Ridgway Reservoir as Anastazua Chavez (floating) looks on (courtesy photo); below right, Gold Mountain Fire Command Center (Photo by B. Switzer); below, Ouray Firefighters' Camp (Photos by Harry Switzer).



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MRS. CLAUS FOR A CAUSE PRESENTS FOURTH ANNUAL ADULT PROM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join Mrs. Claus and her crew for the 4th Annual Adult Prom, where all proceeds support Mrs. Claus for a Cause. This event will be on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at The Temple (511 E Main St.) in Montrose. Featuring live music by The Dirt, this 80s-themed bash will also include a silent auction, complimentary champagne, an appetizer/dessert bar, a photo booth, and more. Tickets are \$50 per person or two tickets for \$80. Sponsorship tables are also available. For tickets or sponsorships, visit mrsclausforacause.org.

About Mrs. Claus for a Cause: Mrs. Claus for a Cause is a non-profit that annually provides a free Christmas event for the children of Montrose and its surrounding communities. The 2026 event will be at Friendship Hall in Montrose on December 18th & 19th for all children, with December 20th as an event day reserved for children with special needs. For more information on the event or to donate or volunteer, please visit mrsclausforacause.org.

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Rib City
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GOVERNOR BASIN AREA TO CLOSE FOR CLEANUP WORK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District will implement a temporary closure in the Governor Basin area to protect public health and safety during a time-critical removal action at the abandoned Governor Basin Mine Site. Fafo Holdings, LLC will carry out the cleanup work with oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

The closures will be in effect July 13–25 and again August 3–November 30 unless rescinded sooner.

The closure area includes the upper section of Governor Basin Road beyond its intersection with Sidney Basin Road, as well as surrounding lands near the Virginius and Terrible Mines. Affected portions of the Virginius Mine Trail that crosses the project area are also closed. A map of the closure area and a more detailed description of the affected area can be found [here](#).

The EPA is overseeing cleanup actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Work includes, but is not limited to, consolidating hazardous mine waste containing elevated levels of lead and arsenic and installing drainage channels and erosion-control measures. Crews and heavy equipment will be working in the area throughout the cleanup, and the public is asked to respect the closure order for their safety. For more information on this closure, contact the Ouray Ranger District at 970-240-5300.

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Marcia Heckard's Remy.



Kay Schritter's Molly.



Kerry Rawls' Ellie.



Sharon Penasa's Poppy.



Vanessa Gurule's Layla.

**Thank you
Firefighters!**

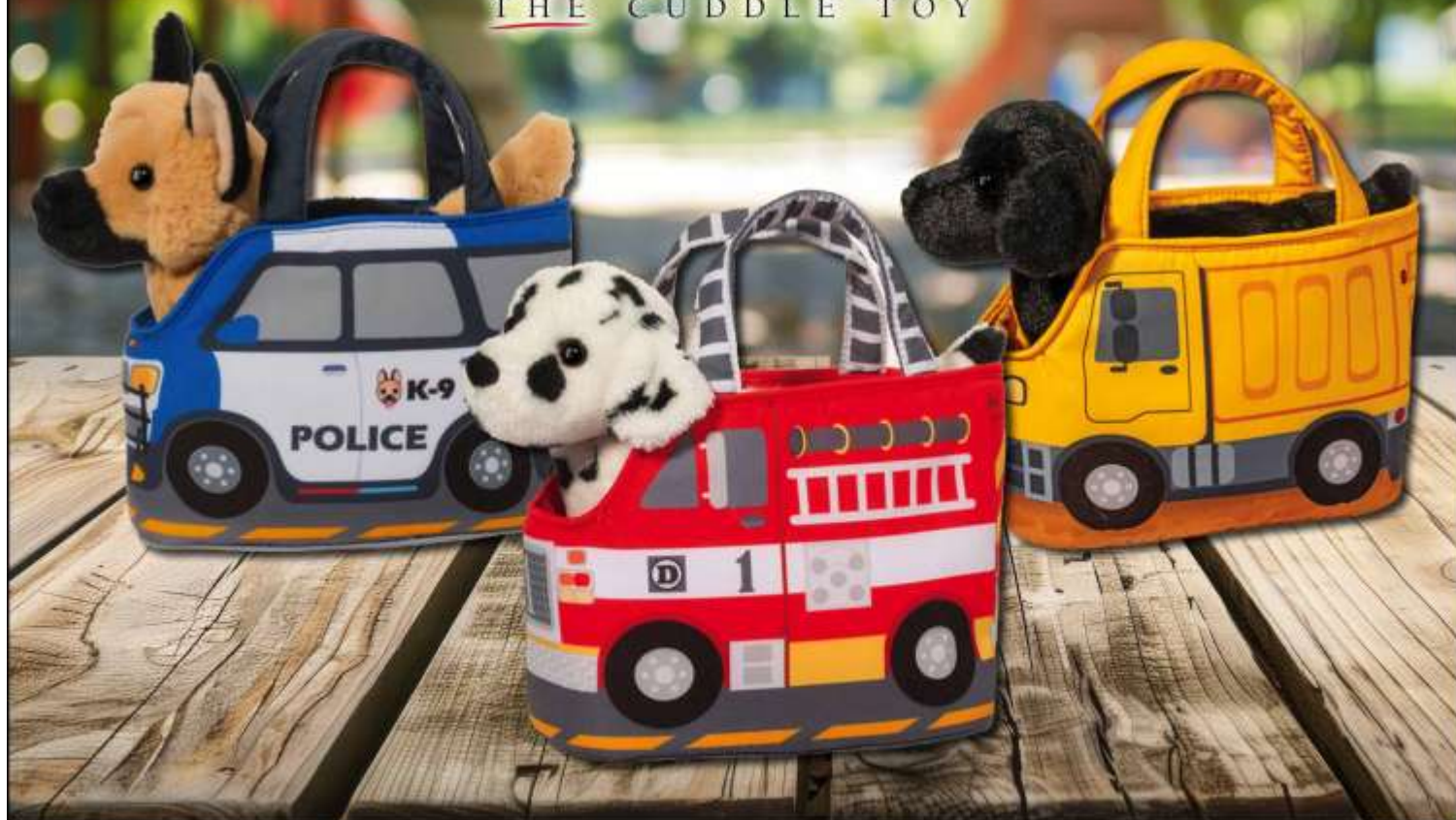
On July 2, David Vitwar, safety officer for the Gold Fire near Ouray, contacted Vanessa Gurule, president of Morningstar Therapy Dogs, a local therapy dog organization. He asked if Morningstar could send therapy dog teams to visit the firefighters at their early morning daily briefing in Ridgway from Friday, July 3 through Friday, July 10. Morningstar members made early morning visits to the Gold Fire command center every day last week. The visits have been greatly appreciated by the firefighters and support staff. Morningstar dog teams will visit the Cimarron Command Center July 14-20. Courtesy photos.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

POWER IS ALL DEMOCRATS CRAVE

Editor:

As I do my research each week for these articles, I have to continually ask myself: "Are Democrats totally incapable of finding just one normal person to represent them on the ballot anywhere in this country?" Graham Platner in Maine and James Talerico in Texas were both cherry-picked by the party to improve their appeal to young white male voters. Seriously. After spending decades demonizing white males, particularly straight white males, those two choices not too subtly reveal how terribly Democrats view the male population. I could fill this page detailing what a slimeball Platner is. Suffice it to say the party that calls conservatives "Nazis" every five minutes were perfectly OK with his sporting a Nazi tattoo on his chest for 18 years. They were also OK with ignoring allegations of his beating up and raping a few of his girlfriends. Believe a woman, unless she is accusing a Democrat seems to be their credo. Almost all of Platner's income comes from a "total disability." Total disability means an individual is unable to perform any substantial gainful work. I guess Democrats don't define being in the U.S. Senate as substantial gainful work. It took a rape allegation from a Democrat girlfriend plus tanking poll numbers to convince Democrats to finally dump him. Donna Brazile, who served twice as the chair of the DNC, had this to say: "Platner needs time to heal, focus on his family, and well-being." All that sexual assaulting must have worn him out? This is the same Brazile who was fired from CNN when she tried to make Hillary Clinton look good by sharing debate questions with her during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Talerico was presented as a fresh young face, capable of broadening the party's appeal to Texas males. As Texas rednecks say, that dog don't hunt. He has proudly espoused every nutball transgender theory ever expressed. He claims to be a Christian, but his views on Christianity can best be described as blasphemous. He believes there are six genders, that God is non-binary, and that men can get pregnant. (Those evil Republicans are using the dirty trick of playing video clips of Talerico talking about his views.) When Democrats ran Minnesota governor Tim Walz as Kamala's VP candidate, they tried to portray him as a

"macho man." That immediately fell flat when his public appearances revealed his effeminate mannerisms. Most people have no problem with effeminate mannerisms, but take exception to Democrats continually misrepresenting their candidates – like trying to turn Kamala's word salads into something remotely intelligible, or trying to portray Talerico as something other than a wimp. Americans want to know if Tim Walz advocates for tampons in boys' bathrooms or if that state's Democrats openly invite rampant fraud in their welfare programs. This week, Walz disgustingly pardoned an illegal from Laos accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting a ten-year-old child. The person Democrats nominated for Vice President wanted to protect the monster from being deported, so he issued a pardon. Just another example of Democrats doubling down on flawed radical candidates rather than seeking sane people who prioritize competence and American interests over power.

The insanity is everywhere you look. California governor Newsom considers himself a presidential candidate. This week, California Democrats bragged about robberies being down since Newsome took office. What they don't talk about is their making theft under \$1,000 perfectly legal, their slowing down the prosecution of robberies, and businesses no longer reporting thefts. This is the same governor whose family appears to be entangled in a serious corruption scheme. IRS documents show that Newsome's wife has been paying herself and her for-profit company up to a third of her nonprofit's entire income each year, pocketing over \$3.7 million. Democrat Pramila Jayapal represents the crazies in Seattle. She just said one of the most disgusting things ever uttered by a representative in Congress. Jessica Gorman testified before Congress about her daughter Sheridan, who was brutally murdered by an illegal alien in Chicago earlier this year. In a slap to the face of all Angel Families, Jayapal said that the hearing was basically a waste of time, complaining that "this is the fourth time we've done this (held a hearing on sanctuary cities) and there's many other things we could be doing." So, she has better things to do than listen to parents of those murdered by illegal aliens. Speaking

of Chicago, the city apparently has a "transfemicide emergency," or something. The mayor has declared a Transfemicide State of Emergency, which triggers additional resources and funding allocations – all for a crisis that doesn't exist. Somehow Mayor Johnson fails to identify the victims of transfemicide that compelled him to declare a state of emergency. Chicago recorded over 250 homicides through the first five months of this year. Not one was classified as a transgender-related case. Meanwhile, Chicago's South Side recorded 17 shootings in a single June weekend. Those actual victims got no emergency declarations, no press conferences, and no advocacy groups on stage.

Let's not forget NYC. It must be nice to be a socialist in charge of America's largest city. Not only can you make it impossible for landlords to earn a living renting out properties, you can simply legislate a giant pay raise for yourself using other people's money – an 18.2% pay increase for city leaders, backdated to January, plus automatic pay hikes of at least 2% every year in the future. Mamdani's new salary would pay him more than the combined salaries of the governors of Florida and Texas. Remember, this comes from a mayor who advocates for the abolition of private property, while he and his family own a luxury compound in his native Uganda surrounded by walls and armed security guards because everyone else is poverty stricken. It's kind of like Obama making a speech criticizing greed and capitalism ("There's only so big a house you can have.") while owning four luxury homes, two of them beachfront properties in Martha's Vineyard and Oahu. This is the same person who slams America's fixation on wealth and fame at the same time he builds an \$850 million shrine to himself in Chicago – and leaves millions in unpaid bills to minority-owned subcontractors, causing some to file for bankruptcy. Imagine how many homeless veterans could have been housed with the \$850M used to build the Obama temple. Power is all Democrats crave and they will underwrite anyone or anything they think will get it for them. The only sane person in the party now is Sen. John Fetterman, whose stroke somehow turned him into a wise man with common sense.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Some people think being civically engaged means you have to show up at every city council or county meeting. But that's not the full picture, nor is it the most important part. And let's be real, most people who show up to the meetings are there to voice their discontent. I know, I was there doing just that before I was on Council. But it is also just a small sample of the voice of the community. Stop a Councilor on the street, email us, call us, we are listening.

However, IMHO, the real power to make a difference by citizens comes down to two key things:

1. Stay informed. Learn about the issues and the candidates for yourself. Understand how decisions affect you, your values, and our community. Don't just skim headlines or scroll social media. Take time to dig deeper. This is exactly how our Constitutional Republic was designed to work. Thomas Jefferson said: "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government." He also warned that "if a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be".

Knowledge is power, and for too long, those in power have counted on voters staying uninformed, using misleading headlines to shape votes rather than giving citizens the full picture of how policies affect our freedoms and liberties.

2. Vote, this is your true power! If you don't cast an informed vote, you're letting yourself, our community, and our country down. Your informed vote is one of your most sacred rights and responsibilities. It's your voice that helps keep our Republic strong or risks letting us drift toward something far worse.

You don't need to attend every meeting to stay engaged. You can live your life and still be a vital part of the process. That's the strength of representative government. But it only works at its best when we have an informed and active electorate, as the Founders intended when they gave us this system of self-rule.

Be informed. Vote wisely. That's how we keep our community and our Republic alive.

We ARE listening!

But just because we have a different point of view doesn't mean I'm not listening. It simply means we see things differently or have different ideas about the issue.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor, Montrose, CO



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MAYOR PRO TEM ED ULIBARRI CALLS OUT 'BULLYING AND INSULTS' *From pg 1*

to identify themselves prior to speaking), but scolded Badagliacco for something he had written in his weekly *D.O.G.E. Report*. "...In his article today, 'The Divide Keeps Getting Deeper, Not Wider,' he succeeded in completely hurting my feelings," Spangrude said, "By insulting and demeaning those who did not vote the way he would have preferred during the primaries last week...the Mayor is called to represent everyone, not only the people who voted for him."

Spangrude quoted from the *D.O.G.E. Report*. "He said, '...Watching the results of primaries roll in across the country made it evident that the Left is doing all it can to install full blown Socialists and Communists...our voter rolls are so tainted that we cannot possibly have fair and honest elections.'"

Spangrude said, "That hurts my feelings. I voted a certain way, and I am assured that all of our...people who are taking in the votes and tabulating them are fair."

She read a bit more and encouraged all present to subscribe to the *Colorado D.O.G.E. Report*.

"The vote and the election was fair, and it's not a bunch of Leftists, Communists taking over...people voted the way their conscience told them to," Spangrude said.

Brian White spoke, saying that elections are important to all of us. He said that he does not agree that a Citizens Charter Committee is needed to review City Council's proposed Amendments to the Charter for the upcoming election. "Committees don't get things done," White said.

"Certain individuals in this community only want to create Chaos...reach out a hand to each other--let's get past this."

Evelyn Greenman Baird spoke. "I came to express my disappointment and sadness..."

Baird said that after Council had recently declined to issue a proclamation in support of PRIDE Month, a decision had been made not to issue proclamations at all.

Proclamations are a low-cost acknowledgement that shows someone is recognized and valued, Baird said. "We asked for five minutes of recognition, instead you gave us a blanket policy."

Councilor J. David Reed said, "I appreciate your comment, you know more than I

know..."

Reed asked City Attorney Chris Dowsey for confirmation that there would be no more proclamations, which Dowsey affirmed. "The Mayor has decided..." "I'm quite angry!" Reed said. "This is new! I have to learn it from a citizen! That's outrageous and unforgivable!"

With applause from the audience, Reed said, "I apologize to all of you for a terrible decision on his part!"

Beth McCorkle spoke about the need for a Charter Advisory Committee. "It's about trust."

Dave Bowman talked about what a great weekend the Fourth of July Celebration turned out to be despite a fireworks ban, and praised the laser show that took the place of fireworks. Bowman thanked Mayor Badagliacco for being only the second mayor ever to spend all day at the Montrose Summer Music Series. "It was just amazing! A wonderful, wonderful evening...let's be a team!"

John English spoke. He said that work recently done on Woodgate Road is an abomination. "It's really, really shoddy work..." English asked Council to review the contract. "How is it written? Did it talk about fixing defects and filling potholes? Who inspected it? Who approved payment...who do you represent, the taxpayers or incompetent employees...it's a mess out there. We should not pay for that...all they did was spread oil, strew gravel, and walk away..."

Regina Sowell spoke. "...it seems to me some of you have an agenda...your motive is quite suspicious..."

Regarding the proposed Citizens Charter Review Commission, Sowell said, "These issues take time to study; what's the rush..."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With Councilor Dave Frank abstaining as he had been absent, Council approved minutes of the June 15, 2026, special City Council meeting, and June 16, 2026, regular City Council meeting.

FORMATION OF A CITY CHARTER COMMISSION

Attorney Chris Dowsey discussed reasons for the proposed commission and the ways it could be accomplished.

Councilor J. David Reed gave a lengthy

speech "about the way that we choose to govern ourselves.

"...Do we rely upon the voices already seated at this dais, or do we invite the citizens who will live under these governing rules to become genuine partners...I believe there is tremendous value in allowing citizens from different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives to sit together, study our charter carefully, ask difficult questions, hear from the experts, debate respectfully, and then provide recommendations to this council..."

Finally, Reed asked Council to "please authorize the creation of a Citizens Charter Review Commission..."

Councilor Dave Frank gave a briefer speech, also in support of the Citizens Charter Review Commission.

Said Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri, "Actually I'm really disappointed. Ever since we brought up this charter commission and I said, 'hey I'd consider it,' I have been insulted, I have been bullied, I have been called a gang, part of a gang. Even tonight, when I felt that my communications with the public, the ones that can't make it here like all of you can...was a poor way to communicate with people. I disagree. And as such, if this is the kind of communication, the insulting and the bullying that I have received, I can tell you this right now, I do not support a citizens committee. We have charter amendments that Council hasn't even gone over...some of these I don't approve of. But yet here we are, we're disagreeing with each other, and again, I have never been so embarrassed in my life of people. And I'm ashamed, that everybody that's insulted me. That have tried to bully me into supporting this..."

Ulibarri shared a comment from a constituent who reminded him that he had been elected by a "pretty good majority."

"The reason why they elected me was that they have faith and trust in me, and that's what I'm asking, faith and trust as we debate these charter amendments..."

Councilor Adam Woodden said that he favors going through the amendments that Councilors have brought to the City Attorney, and if there is time, placing one on the November ballot. "I would like to see them voted on," Woodden said. "The

MAYOR PRO TEM ED ULIBARRI CALLS OUT 'BULLYING AND INSULTS' *From previous pg*

Commission for me is the community commission, the citizens' commission is not a necessary step in my mind."

Mayor Badagliacco opened the floor to community comments.

Speaking in favor of the Citizens Commission were Dave Stockton; Bob Nicholson; Holly Speaks (who also apologized to Mr. Ulibarri); Barb Fine; Cliff Faurer; Katrina Davis; Tonya Maddox (who has provided her full remarks to the *Mirror* for publication); Karen Sherman Perez; Jacquelyn Corday; and Jim Haugsness.

Clara Carrasco, who discussed Philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau, asked that if the Citizens Commission was approved, that Council use a statistical representation of citizens chosen through a random sample. If the commission was not approved, Carrasco asked that Council share the hopes and intentions that they have for the Charter and community.

Mayor Badagliacco made several comments following the speakers, saying that he had spoken with 1,000 different people while campaigning, and that the proposed charter revisions were made after those conversations. Charter revisions made in 2014 and 2025 were made without the assistance of a Citizens Commission, Changes proposed in 2014 passed; changes proposed in 2025 did not pass.

If Council were engaging in a full charter review, a Citizens Commission would be appropriate, but that is not the case this time.

"All we're doing is putting them on the ballot for everyone who is a registered voter to vote on...There will be no closed doors, there will be dialog and discussion."

Badagliacco reminded those present that citizens can present ballot amendments of their own through a petition process, and apologized to Councilor Reed for not informing him that proclamations would not be issued. Reed then interrupted and began to talk over the Mayor. "Let me tell you, Mr. Mayor...!"

Councilor Ulibarri said that Reed had made changes in the past without inform-

ing him.

Badagliacco began to speak as Reed interrupted. Badagliacco said, "We can agree that everybody loves Montrose; this is my time right now."

The Mayor said that he loved the suggestions offered by Clara Carrasco.

"We haven't even had a chance to discuss our proposed amendments because our time was usurped...we were elected, it's a plurality. People elected every one of the people up here, and people will vote on the proposal. It's not people in a silo on this."

Councilor Dave Frank moved to direct the City Attorney to begin drafting a resolution to form a City Charter Commission; the motion failed in a vote of three to two with only Reed and Frank voting to approve.

DART BUDGET CORRECTION RELATED TO PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT SERVICES

After some discussion and hearing from numerous citizens, Council voted four to one to approve the correction of a typographical error in the 2027 budget to fully fund the DART Professional Contract Services budget at \$272,620. Adam Woodden, who spoke about criticism he had received from citizens regarding the DART program and asked that DART funding requests instead be approved by City Council, voted No.

Council took a five-minute break.

QUASI JUDICIAL ITEMS

EL CHAPIN ADDITION ANNEXATION HEARING

Council voted to approve Resolution 2026-08, Findings of Fact for the El Chapin Addition Annexation.

Also approved were Ordinance 2717 on first reading, for the annexation of the El Chapin Addition, and Ordinance 2718 on first reading, zoning the El Chapin Addition as an R-3, Medium Density District.

ORDINANCE 2719 - FIRST READING

Council voted to approve Ordinance 2719 on First Reading, amending the zoning district designation of a portion of Lot 39 of the Amended Ponderosa Ranch Subdivision Filing No. 2 Lots Park and 39 from R-

6, Medium Density/Manufactured Housing District to B-3, General Commercial District.

ORDINANCE 2720 - FIRST READING

Council approved Ordinance 2720 on First Reading, designating the Lathrop Hardware building, with a historic address of 439 East Main Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property pursuant to § 11-3 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose.

ORDINANCE 2721 - FIRST READING

Ordinance 2721 on first reading was also approved, designating the E.A. Lee Garage, with the historic address of 219 East Main Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property pursuant to § 11-3 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose.

HORSESHOE RIDGE SUBDIVISION AMENDED PRELIMINARY PLAT

Council voted to approve the Horseshoe Ridge Subdivision Amended Preliminary Plat expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinance and Municipal Code provisions are met and that the Applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to execution of the Final Plat.

STAFF REPORTS

Utilities Manager David Bries gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Dave Frank gave kudos to Jon Sullivan for his hard work on the Fourth of July Laser show.

Councilor Adam Woodden thanked the Montrose Police for being proactive on the firework ban.

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri thanked the City Manager for the emergency ordinance stopping the sale of fireworks.

Mayor Michael Badagliacco, who attended the Fourth of July Celebration at the Montrose Amphitheater, said that there were no negative comments about the lack of fireworks. "Everybody was absolutely ecstatic and happy; it was an extremely positive event..."

With no further comments, Mayor Badagliacco adjourned the meeting.

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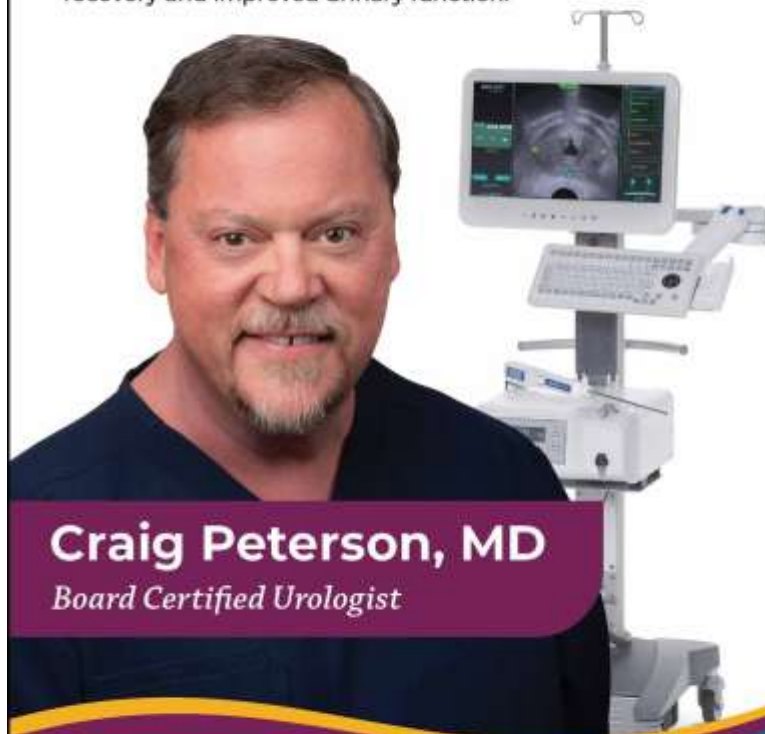
Special to the Mirror

MESA COUNTY - On July 5, 2026, investigators with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of potential human remains found near the Wild Rose Picnic Area off of Lands End Road on the Grand Mesa in Mesa County, Colorado. Investigators confirmed the remains were human, prompting a death investigation. At the time of the discovery, the remains were found to have been scavenged and scattered. Investigators with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office determined the deceased had been consumed by a bear and likely other wildlife. The cause of death remains undetermined at this time. The Mesa County Coroner's Office is responsible for identifying the deceased, and determining the cause and manner of death. Witnesses who may have seen anything suspicious in the area of the Wild Rose Campground between June 22 to July 5, 2026, are encouraged to contact Investigator Jenna Reed at 970-244-3274.

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BE BEAR PREPARED IN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

MESA COUNTY-The Mesa County Sheriff's Office is sharing the below message on behalf of our partners at Colorado Parks and Wildlife. It's important to stress that Colorado Parks and Wildlife believes there is no threat to human health or safety. Like many areas throughout Mesa County, this area is home to black bears. When human-bear conflicts occur they are more often than not traced back to human behavior. Being bear-prepared while camping and recreating in Colorado is the most effective way to prevent human-caused conflicts with bears. Six Outdoor BearWise Basics Stay Alert & Stay Together - Pay attention to your surroundings and stay together. Walk, hike, jog, or cycle with others when possible. Keep kids within sight and close by. Leave earbuds at home and make noise periodically so bears can avoid you. Leave No Trash or Food Scraps - Double bag your food when hiking and pack out all food and trash. Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill. Leaving scraps, wrappers, or even "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food. Keep Dogs Leashed - Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for trouble; don't force a bear to defend itself. Keep your dogs leashed at all times or leave them at home. Camp Safely - Set up camp away from dense cover and natural food sources. Cook as far from your tent as possible. Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking, or toiletries in your tent. Store in approved bear-resistant containers OR out of sight in a locked vehicle OR suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. Local regulations vary. Know What To Do If You See a Black Bear - If you see a bear before it notices you, don't approach. Stand still, enjoy, then quietly move away. If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run; running may trigger a chase response. If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell "Hey Bear" until it leaves. Stay with your group. If it keeps approaching, use bear spray. If a black bear makes contact with you, do NOT play dead; fight back aggressively. Carry Bear Spray & Know How To Use It - Bear spray is proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you. It doesn't work like bug repellent, so never spray your tent.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SECURE YOUR LOAD BEFORE YOU HIT THE ROAD!

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Warmer temperatures signal peak times to move, camp and complete yard work across Colorado. But before loading up the back of a pickup, filling a trailer, or strapping items to your roof, Colorado State troopers are reminding drivers that un-

secured loads can quickly become dangerous hazards. Falling items or items left on roadways often lead to crashes, injuries, and roadway closures, not to mention costly cleanup efforts.

Last year, the Colorado State Patrol stopped 355 drivers across Colorado for spilling or failing to properly cover their loads.

Colorado Law under Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) 42-4-1407 prohibits operating any vehicle on a highway unless the vehicle and its load are constructed, loaded, or securely covered to prevent cargo from blowing, dropping, shifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping onto the roadway. Drivers must ensure all cargo is properly secured using ropes, straps, chains, netting, or other appropriate tie-downs, and that loose materials are covered with a securely fastened tarp.

Whether using a work vehicle, your personal vehicle, or a rental, the driver is responsible for properly transporting equipment or securing the load. It's up to you to help keep roadways clear of debris and hazards.

Tips for Safely Securing Your Load

Drivers hauling cargo in personal vehicles or trailers should remember these important safety practices:

-Nothing Can Fall: A load is considered secure if it is unable to slide, shift, fall, or become airborne during transport.

-Cover Loose Materials: Gravel, dirt, mulch, yard waste, trash, and recyclables should be completely covered with a securely fastened tarp.

-Tie Down Large Items: Furniture, appliances, equipment, and other oversized cargo should be secured. You may need to use ropes, chains, cargo netting, or even heavy-duty ratchet straps.

-Load Heavy Items First: Place heavier items on the bottom and as low as possible. If you are utilizing a trailer, center the heavy items or place them slightly ahead of the trailer's axles.

No matter how short the trip, drivers should always take the time to properly secure their cargo before getting on the road. Attempting to hold a load in place by having a passenger ride on or with the cargo is not safe and is not an acceptable substitute for proper tie-downs. If a load cannot remain secure on its own using appropriate straps, chains, ropes, netting, or a tarp, it is not ready for transport. Taking a few extra minutes to secure your load properly can prevent serious crashes, injuries, and unnecessary tragedies.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN THEM!

Downtown Montrose Business and Property Owner's "Need to Feed" at the Public Trough on Full Display

By David White

As some of you reading this may know, there was a bit of a kerfuffle going on at City Hall a short time ago over an apparent "clerical error" with the City of Montrose's 2026 budget that resulted in a significant funding discrepancy for the Development and Revitalization Team (DART), where the budgeted amount was mistakenly entered as \$4,200 instead of the intended \$242,640. This error led to discussions on how to address the funding issue and restore the "necessary support" for DART's economic development programs. When the "discrepancy" was made public, you would have thought that the equivalent of a suspension of Social Security benefits had befallen mostly downtown businesses and property owners. The City Council was bombarded with calls and public comments before and at their City Council Work Session meeting on June 15th with over a dozen local business owners and members of the community encouraging them to support fixing the error.

The funding that DART provides supports various initiatives, including façade improvement grants; mural projects; public art programs; emergency restaurant repair grants; downtown beautification efforts, etc. At the last City Council meeting on July 7th, discussions focused on restoring the funding and ensuring that future budget processes are more accurate. The "clerical error" was corrected restoring full funding to the program on a 4-1 vote.

With this background and as I have reported over the last few years, the City has spent millions of dollars (your tax dollars) on these projects as well as other more capital intense developments such as the Rathbone Hotel (over \$1.5M) and Colorado Outdoors development which came to life under the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) in late 2016 and into early 2017. Through that process, we learned that in order to create an Urban Renewal Authority (URA) certain re-

quirements had to be met.

In Colorado, URAs are local public entities created to revitalize designated "**blighted**" areas that meet specific statutory criteria (such as deteriorating structures or inadequate infrastructure). They function primarily through **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**, a mechanism where URAs capture the **incremental increase** in property and sales tax revenues generated by new development or rising property values, rather than levying new taxes or raising existing rates. The City Council, acting as the MURA Board of Directors, declared the **ENTIRE** City of Montrose to be "**blighted**" in 2017 and a "base" level value was determined for properties in the URA. All increases above that as well as sales tax revenue generated in the URA stay in the URA for as long as 25 to perhaps 30 years depending on how the URA is structured.

So why was the City declared to be blighted? Perhaps it was to plan for a future that would see the formation of URA Districts throughout the City which, coincidentally, are now coming to light in a very methodical fashion with a focus on the "historic downtown" area. A pattern has now emerged that I find quite interesting and suspect that many of the ideas that have led to where the City is about to take these upcoming URA Districts have come from sojourns to the non-profit organization Downtown Colorado, Inc. and their conferences and meetings.

Basically, what has been happening is that a property owner or an investor with an interest in buying downtown property is approached by the City's contracted Business Development Director (Anthony Russo) or other official about investing in downtown Montrose. A purchase is made and then next steps are followed to have the property declared historic. Once that happens then the money starts to flow through grants or low interest loans or now, through subsidies created by having the property located in an URA. This has happened with increased frequency.

The building that housed the now closed Wild Horse Wine and Whiskey Bar, located at 439 East Main was acquired by the Dragoo family who facilitated the original formation of MURA with their Colorado Outdoors project. They're seeking historical designation of the building for tax purposes. The Montrose location of Producers Co-Op located at 38 West Main Street is being acquired by the City in a swap agreement for the City's soon to be vacant Public Works Facility on the San Juan Bypass (this is being done without a public sale process just like the "sale" of the Historic City Hall which occurred a few years ago for substantially below market value and which cheated taxpayers of hundreds of thousands of dollars that should have gone into the public treasury).

Once enough properties have been designated historic and presumably blighted, a new URA District is created. And this is the new way to save downtown Montrose? Interesting. Not only interesting, but one needs to look at who some of the players are in all of this. Let's give it a go.

Downtown Colorado, Inc. (according to available research) is a nonprofit membership association (the City pays an annual fee to them) that supports downtowns, business improvement districts (BIDs), downtown development authorities (DDAs), and **urban renewal authorities**. Their mission is to "build prosperous, equitable, creative, and welcoming communities by providing tools, resources, advocacy, mentorship, and education."

In order to facilitate what appears to be coming for our downtown area (**an area that, in spite of millions of tax dollars spent to spiff it up, can't seem to support businesses nor make the area a destination point**) the City has been paying the law firm **Bear Peak Law, LLC** thousands of dollars in legal fees related to the creation of these new downtown URA Districts all to be managed under the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority's Board, aka the City Council.

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN THEM! From previous pg

Bear Peak Law is specialized legal firm based in **Boulder, Colorado**, that provides strategic counsel to **real estate developers, landowners, and investors**. The firm focuses on guiding clients through the complexities of land acquisition, development, and disposition, offering services that range from entity formation and joint ventures to public-private partnerships and tax increment financing.

On top of these entities, the City has had a long-term relationship with Anderson Analytics, LLC (Colorado Springs) who perform Tax Increment Financing Revenue Projections and Financing Capacity Analysis for MURA.

In addition to these three entities, the City has been working very closely with the **Colorado Historical Foundation** to finance projects that have or will occur in the historic downtown area. To be noted and understood, the Colorado Historical Foundation (CHF) is a **private, nonprofit entity**. It is established as a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization that operates independently to support history and preservation projects statewide. While it collaborates with public agencies and administers funds like the State Historical Fund on behalf of the state, **the foundation itself is not a government body nor is it funded by the State of Colorado. It is, in simple layman's terms, a mortgage company.**

The President of the Colorado Historical Foundation (CHF) is local resident by the name of Catherine Stroh. She is a frequent guest of the City Manager and often accompanies him and City Staff to Downtown Colorado, Inc. conferences and is

very involved in gaining "historic designations" for downtown buildings on behalf of clients who are seeking a financial advantage when adding such properties to their portfolios or investment accounts. As a side note, Ms. Stroh's husband, an architect, recently tried to run for Montrose County Commissioner but was unable to gain support from GOP delegates to the County Assembly to make it onto the recent Primary Election Ballot. Both Stroh's were active in the recall campaign against former Commissioner Scott Mijares last year.

CHF arranges financing of the purchase, renovation or restoration of properties that have been designated as historic through Federal, State or Local historic boards or commissions. The financing plans are attractive (<https://cohf.org/preservation-loans-jwp/>) so it's no wonder that the City is working closely with them.

So, you might ask, what's the point of all of the above? While supporters of what the City is doing point to a new downtown URA District or, as is the case here, "Districts" as well as believe that a new URA will encourage infill development and the elimination of "blight" to, among other reasons, improve public safety, and create jobs and affordable housing, the real net result is that property owners nearby as well as those inside the URA boundaries gain increases in their investments from **increased property values** and improved infrastructure without paying direct URA fees. Somewhat selfish if you ask me, but that's what the capitalist is in it for, so you can't blame them for

what they're being sold.

However and more to the point, critics contend that URAs divert tax revenue away from **sister governments** (schools, counties, special districts), creating financial burdens for these entities. Recent legal challenges, such as the *Kaiser v. Aurora Urban Renewal Authority* ruling, have highlighted disputes over how tax increments are calculated, **with some arguing the system allows municipalities to subsidize private development at the expense of broader public funds**. And that folks is what this is all about in my opinion. More giveaways by your City leaders.

Based upon how things have gone so far with the Colorado Outdoors project controlled by MURA, the good ole boys who are playing ball in Montrose real estate are going to be the winners at the end of the day. We, good folks, won't be. The millions of dollars "loaned" to MURA may never be paid back and they know it. But what the heck is a good Ponzi Scheme all about if you can't keep it going. Someday, the music is going to stop. I hope everyone has a chair when it does.

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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

Perspective or Gaslighting? *Criticism of City Manager Bell – Warranted or Not?*

By David White

In an opinion piece in last week's Mirror, community activist Beth McCorkle offered her perspective on this writer's ongoing criticism of City Manager Bill Bell and his documented misuse of taxpayer dollars to fund his personal P.R. campaign as well as numerous other expenditures that have benefited him and his family along with other questionable personal interests. The list is seemingly endless.

Ms. McCorkle opined and suggested that (and I quote) ***"At some point, it becomes reasonable to ask whether this is really about accountability or whether it has become personal."*** That is a totally fair question to ask. Quite simply, as a formerly elected official at both the municipal and county levels with 16 years of experience and as a private citizen and decades long business owner, for me, it's all about accountability.

The actions that this City Manager has taken over the course of his 15 years as City Manager would have seen him terminated by most of the City Councils and County Commissions I have served on, yet he soldiers on with multiple Councils agreeing (with or without a full understanding of what was taking place with the municipal checkbook) to keep him employed. Perhaps they more than Mr. Bell are where the problem lies. It's time to take these **DOCUMENTED** accountability questions directly to the elected officials as **NOTHING** has impacted Mr. Bell and his Staff to thwart their ongoing behaviors.

An additional comment made by Ms. McCorkle that is worth considering is in the statement ***"Accountability is healthy (I agree). Persistent personal criticism is something else (I disagree). If there are***

concerns about spending, let's examine the spending (I agree). If there are concerns about City policies, let's debate those policies (I agree). If there are concerns about management decisions, let's discuss the decisions (once again, I agree)."

"Persistent personal criticism" is a bit of an overstatement in my opinion. Bringing information forward that even Ms. McCorkle agrees is worth considering when questionable spending of taxpayer dollars is called out is not "criticism", it's making a public servant accountable for their actions. I have yet to find anyone in the Montrose community that does the research that I do on that subject. The mainstream media is noticeably inept at anything remotely resembling investigative journalism which gives folks like Mr. Bell and his buddies plenty of leeway to grease the proverbial skids for their personal agendas cloaked by the shell game they play with your dollars.

So, my "perspective" on Mr. Bell could be interpreted as an attempt to "gaslight" the reader by Ms. McCorkle in that a recent interview with WKRP in Montrose (<https://wkrpmontrose.com/p/you-re-doing-less-than-both-of-these-people-and-they-ll-inspire-you-to-do-more>) revealed that she has some close ties to the City and several organizations that rely on the City and its generosity. She serves as an alternate on the City's Planning Commission. Works with Region 10 (partially funded by the City) and their RSVP program. Is active in leadership with the Montrose Pride organization as their Vice President. Is involved with the Red Cross locally as well as Partners. She has also worked for the Montrose Daily Press and Montrose Regional Health. All have ties

that some say bind.

Connections that fit her interests suggest a possible political future for her. Her view of the current City Council and the "Gang of 3" (Michael Badagliacco, Adam Woodden and Ed Ulibari) as she calls them is telling (watch the video in the above link) and suggests something's up. Of particular interest is her reference at the end of her letter to her affiliation with a group by the name of ***Neighbors for Good Governance***. Turns out, this is a new non-profit organization that was registered with the State of Colorado on June 5, 2026, and was formed by Democrat Party operative Linda Gann who, along with Democrat Party benefactor and Community Activist Phoebe Benziger, co-founded the "Recall Scott Mijares Committee" that led the effort to recall Commissioner Mijares from office. I guess, like with anyone, you're known by the company you keep.

While Ms. McCorkle and I might disagree on our approach to the challenges and opportunities (to quote her) that lie ahead for our community, we can certainly agree to having an adult conversation about what the future looks like for all of us who live in this beautiful part of the world. I'm game. Any time, anywhere!

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

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MARDELL TRUJILLO

October 1, 1949 — June 20, 2026



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our beloved Mardell "Mardy" Trujillo, who entered into the presence of her Lord

and Savior, Jesus Christ, on June 20, 2026, at the age of 76.

Mardy was born on October 1, 1949, in her mother's lifelong home in Montrose, Colorado, to Trinidad Morales and Lilly Martinez-Aguilar. She was raised in Montrose alongside her ten siblings and attended Montrose schools, graduating from Montrose High School.

She is survived by her siblings: Leroy Morales of Montrose, Colorado; Gene Morales of Edmond, Oklahoma; Dale Morales of Denver, Colorado; Gloria Morales of Montrose, Colorado; Elaine (Del) Magdaleno of Gunnison, Colorado; and Patsy (Bill) Quintana of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was preceded in death by her brothers Manuel Morales, Trini Morales, and Lloyd Morales, and her sister Barbara Morales.

After graduating from high school, Mardy spent time in California, where she enjoyed many new experiences, including attending a memorable Santana concert. Upon returning to Colorado, she and her father moved to Center, Colorado. It was there that she met the love of her life, Andres "Filemon" Trujillo. They were united in marriage on October 22, 1975, and together built a life filled with love, faith, and family. They were blessed with three

children: Melissa Trujillo, Cynthia Trujillo, and Phil Trujillo. During her younger years, Mardy devoted herself to raising her family as a homemaker while also working part-time sorting potatoes in the fields around Center. She approached every role in life with dedication, humility, and grace.

Although she never belonged to a particular church congregation, Mardy's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was the foundation of her life. She opened her home for Bible studies, welcomed family and friends for countless gatherings, and shared God's love through her kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith. Her home was a place where everyone felt loved, accepted, and encouraged.

Mardy possessed a beautiful creative spirit. She loved writing songs and poetry and was blessed with the opportunity to write professionally for country singers. Music brought her great joy, and she loved to sing and dance whenever she had the chance. She also had a remarkable gift for gardening. Her yard was always bursting with colorful flowers, reflecting the beauty and care she poured into everything she touched.

In 1990, at the age of 40, Mardy experienced one of life's greatest blessings—becoming a grandmother. From that moment on, she became known simply and lovingly as "Nan." Being a grandmother was more than a title; it became her greatest joy and purpose. Her grandchildren were the light of her life, and she cherished every moment spent with them.

Mardy is survived by her husband Andres "Filemon" Trujillo, her children, Melissa Trujillo and Phil Trujillo, and she leaves behind seven beloved grandchildren: De-

siree (Laura) McKibben of Montrose, Colorado; Deidre (Kaleb) Robinson of Montrose, Colorado; Troy McKibben of Montrose, Colorado; Devon (Veronica) Miramontes of Olathe, Colorado; Destiny Miramontes of Alamosa, Colorado; Delilah Trujillo of Denver, Colorado; and Lexi Trujillo of Denver, Colorado. She was also blessed with ten great-grandchildren, each of whom brought her immense pride and happiness. She also has numerous nieces and nephews.

Mardy was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Trinidad Morales and Lilly Martinez-Aguilar; her cherished daughter, Cynthia Trujillo; her grandson, Damian Miramontes; her brothers Manuel Morales, Trini Morales, and Lloyd Morales; and her sister Barbara Morales.

Mardy will be remembered for her steadfast faith, compassionate heart, infectious laughter, beautiful singing voice, creative talents, welcoming home, and unconditional love for her family. Her life was a testament to God's love, and her legacy will continue through the countless lives she touched with her kindness and generosity.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 10, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado. Mardy had a special love for the color red. In her honor, the family kindly asks that attendees wear red and black to the service. There will be a luncheon to follow.

Though she is no longer with us in body, her spirit lives on in the lessons she taught, the faith she demonstrated, the love she so freely gave, and the quiet, enduring imprint she left on every heart she touched.

As nanny always said, "Everybody be happy, the lord loves you!"

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DANIEL JOSEPH BESHOAR *July 23, 1940 — June 25, 2026*

DANIEL J. BESHOAR, beloved husband, father, grandfather, educator, outdoorsman, and writer, passed away peacefully at his home in Montrose, Colorado, on June 25, 2026, at the age of 85.

Dan was born on July 23, 1940, to Barron and Sally Beshoar in Denver, CO. He graduated from Regis High School before earning his degree from Regis University, where he began preparing for a career that would profoundly impact generations of students.

An innovative educator well ahead of his time, Dan dedicated his career to helping young people discover their potential. He began teaching in Silverton, CO, before a move to Montrose High School. At Centennial Middle School, he pioneered the UPS (Unlimited Potential School) Program, creating a "school within a school" for at-risk students or unengaged students. Centered on experiential education, the program recognized that students often learn best by doing, exploring, and discovering.

Dan's greatest passions naturally found their way into his classroom. He developed the highly popular Outdoor Skills class, introducing countless students to the outdoors, conservation, and self-reliance. He also created the Literary Heritage class, in which his love of reading and writing talent inspired students to appreciate literature and storytelling.

His vision extended far beyond the classroom walls. Through partnerships with the Youth Conservation Corps, the Bureau of Land Management, and members of the local community, Dan helped create an archaeological dig site at Centennial Mid-

dle School that became the centerpiece of a hands-on Colorado History curriculum for the UPS program. His ability to bring people together in support of meaningful educational experiences reflected both his creativity and his commitment to students.

Dan's connection to the outdoors extended well beyond education. During his summers, he served as a wildland firefighter for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, embracing the hard work and camaraderie of protecting the public lands he loved. After retiring from teaching, he returned to the forests in a new role as a Small Timber Sale Administrator with the U.S. Forest Service, where he continued his lifelong stewardship of the natural resources that had shaped so much of his life.

Outside of work, Dan found his greatest peace in the outdoors. He was an avid upland game and waterfowl hunter, passionate fly fisherman, and cherished spending time on the rivers and wild places of the American West. His adventures inspired numerous short stories published in outdoor magazines, allowing him to combine his love of nature with his gift for writing. Whether casting a fly into a quiet stream, walking behind bird dogs through autumn fields, or putting pen to paper, Dan found joy in the beauty and stories of the natural world.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sharon Beshoar (Cullerton); his brother, Barron Beshoar, and wife Wendy; his sons, Brian Beshoar, Barrett Beshoar and his wife, Carin, and Dwayne Beshoar and his wife,



Stephanie; and his beloved grandchildren, William (Liam), Elizabeth, Rebecca, Helen, Mark, Olivia, Clara, Julia, and Jack. His family was his greatest source of pride, and he delighted in watching each new generation grow.

Dan will be remembered for his adventurous spirit, quiet wisdom, boundless curiosity, and unwavering belief that education should inspire students to experience the world, not simply read about it. Whether in a classroom, on a fire line, in the forests of the West, or beside a favorite trout stream, he lived a life defined by service, curiosity, and a profound respect for the natural world. His influence lives on in the countless students whose lives he changed, the family he cherished, the stories he wrote, and the rivers and mountains he loved so deeply.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MILDRED ANN STURGEON

December 28, 1949 — June 23, 2026



Whether you knew her as Mildred, Ann, Anna, or Blue, you probably knew her to be someone who wore many hats. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, and friend. She was a student, a teacher, an avid writer, and reader. She was a spin-

ner, a weaver, a sculptor, a musician, a librarian, a puppeteer (and more). She even started a YouTube channel in her 70s, despite her deep disdain for technology.

Whatever name you knew her by, and whatever context you knew her in, you also know that her faith in Jesus was of the utmost importance to her, and whatever hat she was wearing, she always wore it in a way that glorified God and loved his people well.

Mildred was always giving gifts to people. If you knew her, you likely have something that used to belong to her or something she created just for you: a book she wrote, a musical instrument, a hand-woven project, a piece of pottery. She loved making things, and she loved putting time and effort into her hand-made gifts as a way to show her love for others.

Mildred also loved groups of people. She was drawn to Native American tribes, the Mennonite community, the Weaver's

Guild, and various church congregations over the years. She said she loved the idea of belonging somewhere. While we know we have to say goodbye to one of the world's most loving, creative people, we know that she's spending eternity in heaven with the one who created all things, and we can't imagine anyone who belongs there more.

Mildred passed away on June 23, 2026. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Ron Sturgeon; her sons, Roy, Joel, and Ian; her beloved grandchildren, Noah, Levi, Rhiannon, Gabriel, Darrin, Ali, Emmett, and Eli; and her great-grandson, Owen.

Join us in celebrating her faith, generosity, and love for others as we remember Mildred Ann Sturgeon.

A memorial service will be held at the Church of Christ at 164 Grand Blvd. in Delta, Colorado, on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Friends of the Montrose Library.

FRANCIS PAUL DUCKETT

January 3, 1938 — July 4, 2026

FRANK DUCKETT was born January 3, 1938, in Asheville, N. C., to Charles Duckett and Ida Faye Bryson Duckett. He was the second of four children; all of whom predeceased him. He grew up in Asheville and Knoxville, TN.

On his birthday in 1957, Frank enlisted in the United States Air Force. In November of 1963 he married Betty Jean Tye. Three children were born to this union,

Frank's Air Force career necessitated frequent moves and the family lived in many places, including Arkansas, Spain, California, Nebraska, Georgia, Puerto Rico, Florida, Virginia and Texas. He retired from the Air Force after 26 years; receiving a meritorious service award at retirement. He graduated from the University of Texas-San Antonio with a BA in Political Science in 1986.

The Ducketts relocated to Montrose, CO in 1992. He was longtime member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Ouray. He was an avid, lifelong Tennessee Volunteers football fan and could often be seen wearing orange in honor of the team.

He is survived by his wife, three children — Elizabeth White of Montrose, Amy Hallmark (Mike) of Datil, New Mexico, Jeffrey Duckett (Amanda) of Delaware, Ohio, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank San Juan Cancer Center and Valley Manor Care Center for the care Frank received.



ISSUE 582 July 13, 2026

ART & SOL

LOCAL AUTHOR DAVID PADILLA PENS A MEMOIR OF RESILIENCE AND PURPOSE

By Kathryn R. Burke

REGIONAL—This is the first in a series of interviews with authors, illustrators, and publishers who will be attending the Book Fair in September. David's book – his first, a must-read, inspiring, compelling story – just came out this week. His book signing will be July 23 at MADA, 17 N. 6th St., from 5:30-7:30pm. He will also be at the 1st Annual Montrose Book Fair in September.

(Kathryn Burke) KRB: What made you decide to write this book?

(David Padilla) DP: A lesson I learned, the hard way, and want to share with others who may be facing the same struggles that I did. It is this: Where you start will never be as important as having the courage to keep going. Don't let your beginning convince you that's where your story ends.

KRB: Where does your story begin?

DP: I came to this country when I was 5 years old with nothing but my family's hope for a better life. I didn't know the language. I didn't know where life would take me. I just knew we were chasing a chance. Life wasn't easy. There were struggles, mistakes, moments of doubt and fear. Times I wondered if I'd ever be enough.

KRB: You subtitle your book, "A Memoir of Resilience and Purpose." What does that mean?

DP: This book is my life journey, but it relates to others on a similar path. It wasn't written by someone who had all the answers. It was written by someone who refused to let his circumstances decide his future. This is for the kid who feels like



Author David Padilla, above, has written about his own life experiences to inspire others who may be struggling. Courtesy photo.

they don't belong. For the teen parent who's been counted out. For the one who's been told they'll never make it. For anyone carrying a past they wish they could erase. If my journey proves anything, it's this: You build your future from your past, good and bad; but those are just building blocks. Only you can make those blocks strong and determine who and what you want to be.

KRB: Crossing More Than Just Borders. What are those borders?

DP: The first one was that big metal fence we crossed to get from Mexico to the United States. Then, it was adapting to a new world: different language, culture, weather, food. Trying to fit in in a place where you know you don't belong. At times, it was terrifying.

KRB: What helped you get through the struggles?

DP: Family faith, determination, and special mentors who believed in me. Mrs. Mora, my ESL teacher at Morgan Elementary (where the library is now)—she always told me to keep my head held high and she never gave up on me. We still keep in contact. Juan Ramirez—he owned the shop where I started working during my darkest days. Now that shop is my own business, Wicked Mobile Garage. By example, Juan helped me get my life back on track. He is one of the biggest reasons that I am the man I am today.

KRB: You now work with Partners and in In-School Mentoring Engagement Program in Montrose and Delta County. You've come full circle from needing help

Continued next pg

CROSSING MORE THAN JUST BORDERS: A MEMOIR OF RESILIENCE AND PURPOSE

From previous pg

to helping others.

DP: I plan to continue dedicating my time and energy to working with kids in the community, helping to guide and mentor the next generation. Through building strong partnerships with families, schools, and community members, I believe real change happens when people come together with a shared purpose.

David's book will be available at the Book Signing at MADA, on Thursday, the 23rd. But supplies are limited. It's selling quickly. We've already ordering a reprint. To be sure you get your copy, order it online now and have it shipped or pick it up at the book signing. We are saving some to make sure we have them available for sale there and at the Book Fair.

The web page to read more about David and order his books is: <https://sanjuanpub.com/david-padilla/> Pictured at right: Author David Padilla.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

KELLY THOMPSON TO RETIRE FROM HOPEWEST



Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Kelly Thompson is retiring after 12 years with HopeWest. Kelly served in multiple roles before taking the position as Program Director in Montrose. We are grateful for his influential role in developing strong community relationships and reaching the countless families who experienced compassionate care when they needed it most.

"Kelly has been a dedicated leader whose passion, knowledge, and commitment to excellence have made an impact in Montrose and Ouray counties," said Vice President of Regional Operations, Jenni Neil. "His leadership and advocacy for the individuals we serve will leave a lasting legacy."

As we look ahead, we do so with both gratitude for Kelly and his contributions to HopeWest and all the patients and families we are poised to serve.

Join us in congratulating Kelly on this milestone and wish him all the best in retirement!

At left, Kelly Thompson.

COLORFUL WITH A STURDY FOUNDATION.

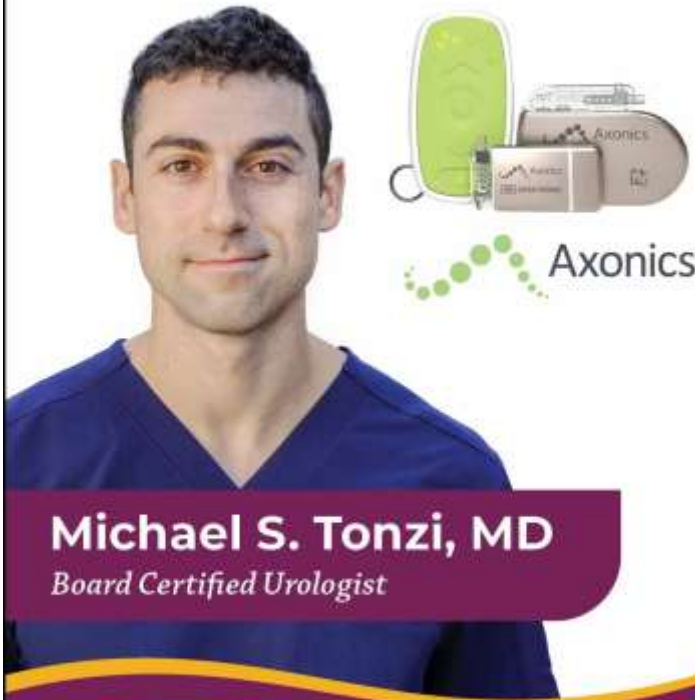
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

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ABIGAIL LAMBERT NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST FOUR SEMESTERS FOR CSU AGRICULTURAL/ANIMAL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose High School Graduate, Abigail Lambert, class of 2024, has received Dean's List honors for Colorado State University College of Agricultural Sciences/Animal Science for the last **four semesters**.

The Dean's List recognition is awarded to students who completed 12 or more credits and earned a term grade point average of 3.80 or higher. <https://agsci.colostate.edu/about/deans-office/deans-list/>

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR & RODEO CELEBRATES 140 YEARS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The Montrose County Fair & Rodeo will celebrate a significant milestone this summer as the community gathers for the 140th annual event July 17-25, 2026. For more than a century, the fair has served as a showcase for local agriculture, youth achievement, and western heritage.

Montrose County is proud to serve as the Presenting Sponsor of this year's milestone event, which will feature junior livestock shows, horse events, open class exhibits, rodeo, live entertainment, youth activities, and opportunities for residents and visitors to celebrate the county's agricultural heritage together.

The fair schedule includes popular events such as the Ranch Rodeo, Team Roping, Buck It Bull Riding, the CPRA Rodeo, Mutton Bustin', Little Kid Shows, the Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry, royalty events, kids crafts, and the Junior Livestock Auction. The Open Show features a variety of categories, including art, photography, ceramics, quilting, foods, woodworking, horticulture, and floriculture. The fair also highlights the accomplishments of local 4-H and FFA youth who have spent months preparing projects and livestock for exhibition and competition.

A key part of supporting those young exhibitors is the Stockmen's Buyers Club, which allows local businesses and community members to invest directly in the next generation of agricultural leaders through participation in the Junior Livestock Auction. Proceeds from the auction help youth participants reinvest in future projects, save for college, and continue building skills in agriculture, business, and leadership. Community members interested in supporting local youth are encouraged to consider joining the Stockmen's Buyers Club or participating in the auction.

One of the week's featured events will be the Vectra Bank Community Night on Tuesday, July 21. Beginning at 5 p.m., the evening will include free food while supplies last, community activities, and opportunities for residents to connect with local organizations and public safety personnel. Members of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners will distribute locally made hand pies from Straw Hat Farms to attendees while supplies last, while representatives from the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and other local first responders will be on hand to visit with residents, answer questions, and provide families an opportunity to interact with the agencies that serve the community year-round. Arena events begin at 6 p.m. and include the J\$ Cattle Company Ranch Rodeo, Mutton Bustin', Calf Dressing, and the Rescue Race.

"The Montrose County Fair & Rodeo is one of the best examples of what makes our community special," said Commissioner Sue Hansen. "For 140 years, it has brought together agriculture, youth development, volunteerism, and community pride. Montrose County is honored to be the presenting sponsor of this year's fair and we encourage everyone to come out and support the many young people and volunteers who make it possible."

Fair Board President Molli Yorckak said the 140th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate both the history and future of agriculture in Montrose County. "The fair exists because of the dedication of our volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors, and community supporters," said Yorckak. "Whether you're attending the rodeo, viewing open show exhibits, supporting a junior livestock sale participant, or volunteering your time, every person who participates helps continue a tradition that has been part of Montrose County since 1886."

The 2026 Fair Board includes Molli Yorckak, Micah Mckee, Dawn Fritze, Whitney Shelton, Jennifer Sherwood, Ally Nichols, Kaleb Lee, Josh Hansen, Kim Wilson, and Matt Box.

Additional information, event schedules, tickets, and entry information can be found at montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com and fb.com/montrosecountyfairandrodeo.

The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.



The Satisfied Self

THE SATISFIED SELF: REMEMBERING THE LIFE YOU HAVEN'T LIVED YET



By Gia Pirelli

Lately I'm shifting into the idea of not only life expansion, but identity expansion. Up to this point we've explored how we think, how we move, how we behave, our habits. Now I'd like to explore the idea of how we *imagine*. It can be so hard to imagine anything other than struggle when that is your current model of reality. And your nervous system doesn't give a shit what your vision board says. So I've started this practice for myself, morning and evening. It is remembering a life I haven't yet lived. I'm writing memories from the future. Sometimes it's just a Tuesday morning at home. Sometimes it's from a place I plan to visit. Or an old bookstore, where I found an old used book. Or on a train through Switzerland. The things that build a life—not a car or a business, or an impressive house. But an actual life. Building an entire vision feels daunting, but building scenes feels accessible. So I want to share this practice with people, because surely I am not the only person who struggles with shedding an old identity in order to step into a new one.

People often assume that because I teach yoga, meditation, and sound healing, or talk about neuroplasticity, that I've somehow mastered these things. I haven't. I still catch myself worrying about the future. I still fall into scarcity. I still forget that the stories I tell myself aren't necessarily true.

Information isn't transformation. If it were, we'd all be living extraordinary lives. More often than not, transformation requires pain. It requires a series of circumstances that dismantle the version of ourselves we've been clinging to.

Looking back, the most meaningful chapters of my life didn't begin with clarity. Quite the opposite.

They began with uncertainty.

Loss.

Disappointment.

A plan that didn't work.

It almost seems that ruin is the road to transformation. Not because life is cruel. Because it has a remarkable way of clearing space for something we never would have chosen for ourselves. And this is where wonder and discovery live.

Lately I find myself in a constant space of uncertainty. So I am practicing *a lot* of mindfulness, and strategic thinking. One of the practices, the one I'm sharing with you, is taking time to reflect over coffee in the morning and again before bed, remembering a life that doesn't exist.

Not fantasizing.

Remembering.

Not because I'm trying to escape the present. Because I'm trying to give my mind a new reference point. Most of us spend years remembering the past. Sifting through piles of evidence to support why something won't work, or to paint a picture of what we expect.

But what if we practiced remembering the *future* with the same consistency?

Not the future as wishful thinking. The future as intention. The future as identity. Neuroscience tells us the brain is constantly building predictions about what comes next. It uses our past to estimate our future. Efficient, but limiting. If the only evidence your mind has is yesterday, it will keep predicting more yesterday.

I've found myself becoming emotional during these reflections, and I don't think it's because of the house, or the place, or the circumstances I'm imagining. I think it's because, for a few moments, I stop relating to myself as the person I've always been and begin relating to the person I'm becoming. The struggle falls away and the dream comes to life. The emotion is the offspring of grief and hope.

The survival brain asks: "Given what I currently have, what can I realistically build?"

The visionary mind asks: "If reality were more flexible than I currently believe, what would be worth building?"

For many of us, the brain won't even allow itself to imagine something unless it can already see a plausible path. Which means imagination never gets to do its job. That muscle eventually starts to atrophy.

This is the inherited affliction of adulting. But children do the total opposite.

For example:

"I want to be an astronaut."

No plan.

No money.

No rocket.

No problem.

52-year-old me? I immediately start calculating fuel costs. Before I've even chosen a planet. Six-year-old me? My rocket is *red*! So, here is the exercise. For 15 minutes...

Money doesn't exist.

Age doesn't exist.

Debt doesn't exist.

Responsibility, career, obligation, "success" doesn't exist.

Don't build anything yet. Just answer one question. What kind of life feels beautiful? Not successful. *Beautiful.*

Don't describe the job or business. Don't describe the bank account or even the partner. Those are vehicles. Describe the landscape. Instead of asking what business do I want, or how much money is in the bank, ask "what would Tuesday feel like if my life fit me perfectly?"

You wake up where?

Who wakes up besides you—or maybe no one? (For me, it's my dog, Bodhi.)

What do you smell?

What does your bedroom look like?

Are there big windows? What's outside?

What are you planning to do [today](#)?

Are you flying somewhere?

Reading a book?

Is there music playing?

You get up, do you make coffee or tea?

Where do you drink it?

What clothes are you wearing?

THE SATISFIED SELF: REMEMBERING THE LIFE YOU HAVEN'T LIVED YET

From previous pg

What are you looking at?
 Do you work? (If so, how many hours?)
 Do you have a dog or cat? Where are they?
 Who calls you? (Who doesn't?)
 What makes you laugh?
 How tired are you?
 What are you building?
 Not what's "realistic." What feels *true*.
 Because sometimes, you don't need a five-year plan. You need to fall in love with a future version of Tuesday.
 Start here. Maybe explore the house in more detail. What art is on the walls. Do you have books? Collected objects that reflect your life? Treasures from different

trips? What colors would you choose to have around you? What's one whimsical thing about this house that you absolutely love, that isn't practical. Maybe a music room, a purple piano, or a green house, an outdoor shower, a library. Step out of the practical space and just let go. (What color is your rocket?) Over the coming weeks, I'd like to share this process with you. Not as an expert handing out instructions. As someone walking the path. Together, we'll explore how our minds shape our reality, why we become attached to old identities, and how small, intentional shifts begin creating entirely different lives.

Because before we can build an expanded life, we have to become acquainted with it. We have to visit it often enough that it no longer feels impossible.

Perhaps the future we're longing for isn't waiting to be discovered. Perhaps it's waiting to be *remembered*.

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

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CPW TO HOST A CAST AND BLAST FOR NOVICE SPORTSWOMEN AUG. 7-9 IN NORWOOD

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD— Colorado Parks and Wildlife will host the Ladies Cast, Blast & Fling workshop for new hunters and fisherwomen Aug. 7-9 at the Jim Olterman Lone Cone State Wildlife Area in Norwood.

This program is for women brand new to hunting and fishing. Lessons will include the basics of archery, fly fishing, shotgun shooting and wildlife management. Participants will be expected to participate in all topics covered. Those not interested in learning and trying all lessons should not apply.

"This program is designed for women and provides a very supportive atmosphere for those who want to learn about fishing, hunting and wildlife," said Kelly Crane, District Wildlife Manager in Ouray. "We especially invite women who have little or no experience to join us."

This program is for women 18-and-older, and all participants must have a valid fishing license.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. July 24. Accepted participants will be notified via email if they have been accepted. Registration is limited to 25 participants, and the event will be canceled if at least 15 people are not registered.

The event is free, but a \$40 deposit check to hold your place is required with registration. The check will be returned the day of the event. Those accepted who are unable to make it and do not cancel within at least five days prior to the workshop will not be refunded.

CPW will provide all necessary gear, including shotguns and ammo, bows and arrows, fly rods and tackle. Those with a 20-gauge shotgun may bring their own, as well as those who already own fly fishing gear.

Participants should bring their own tent and camping gear or bring a sleeping bag if allotted space in a cabin bunk bed. All food will be provided. Those with strict dietary restrictions should consider bringing supplemental food.

To apply, send a completed [application form](#) to:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

2300 S Townsend Ave.

Montrose, CO. 81401

[Applications](#) may also be submitted to Brittany McKinney at brittany.mckinney@state.co.us or via fax at 970-252-6053. McKinney can also be reached at 970-252-6000.

For more information, contact District Wildlife Manager Kelly Crane at kelly.crane@state.co.us.

The [Jim Olterman Lone Cone SWA](#) is a 5,030 acre property located roughly 25 miles south of Norwood in Dolores County.



District Wildlife Manager Kelly Crane leads a fly fishing clinic during a previous Ladies Cast, Blast and Fling event in Norwood. CPW file photo.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

TOUR TRUE GRIT MOVIE LOCATIONS IN RIDGWAY!

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Looking for a fun way to spend an hour while in Ridgway? Once again the Ridgway Western Heritage Society is sponsoring guided walking tours to some of the locations seen in the 1969 movie *True Grit*. Participants can follow in the footsteps and John Wayne and Kim Darby through Ridgway which filled in for Fort Smith, Arkansas in the 1880s. John Wayne won his only Oscar for his portrayal of marshal Rooster Cogburn.

"We have a dedicated group of knowledgeable guides who will entertain you with a behind-the-scenes look at the moviemaking. You are sure to learn more than a few things that you didn't know," said Eve Becker-Doyle, the society's president.

Scheduled tours are free and offered 3 pm Fridays in July and August. Other tours are offered at 10 am Mondays and 3 pm Wednesdays in July. Those who cannot make these times can arrange a special custom tour by calling Becker-Doyle at 469-682-9710. Custom tours are \$10 per person. Tours begin at the Hartwell Park gazebo. Arrive 10 minutes early.

"Guides will be there regardless of the weather as showers typically pass quickly. The current wildfire brings a bit of smoke, but the afternoon winds typically come from the west or southwest and clear things out a bit in the afternoon, so don't hesitate to come," said Edward Bovy, one of the movie tour guides.

In 2022 this tour was named best small town historic tour by the readers of *True West Magazine*.

See truegrittours.org for more information.

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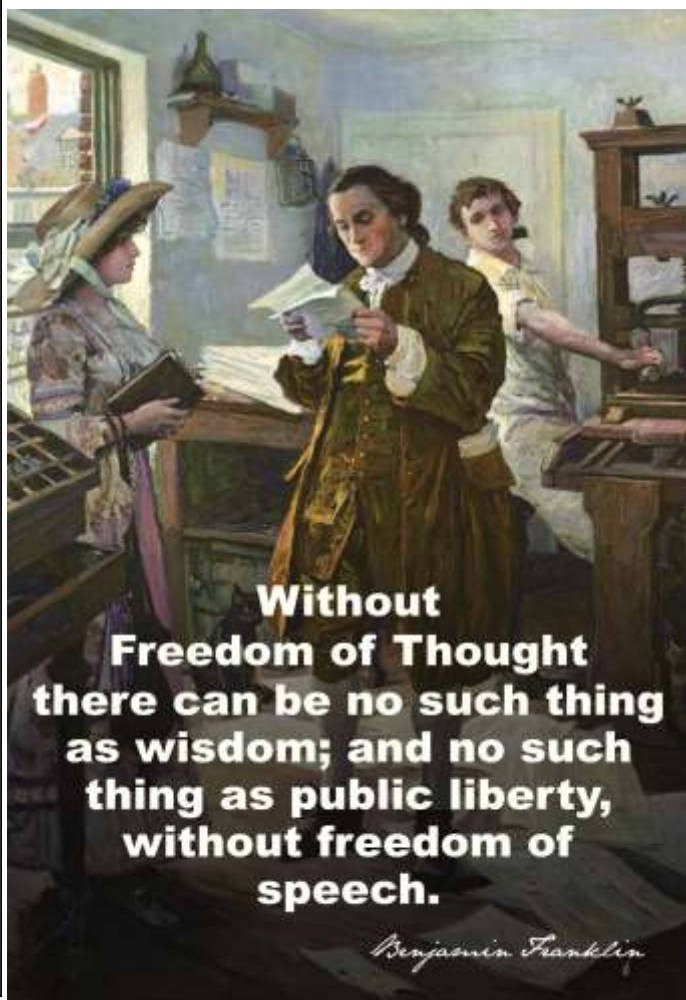
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MD, MS



Marie Abbinante,
MSN, AGPCNP-BC



Victoria Oliva,
DNP, APRN, FNP-C



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

Benjamin Franklin

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXPERIENCE THE HEART OF PALISADE AGRICULTURE DURING THE 2026 PEACH FESTIVAL

***Exclusive Agricultural Tours and Reimagined Evening in the Orchard
Offer Guests an Authentic Taste of Colorado's Fruit Country***

Special to the Mirror

PALISADE-While thousands of visitors come to the Palisade Peach Festival for fresh peaches, live entertainment, and family fun, some of the festival's most memorable experiences happen beyond the festival gates.

This year, the Palisade Chamber of Commerce is excited to bring back its beloved Agricultural Tours with a fresh, more intimate approach while also unveiling a reimagined farm-to-table dining experience, Evening in the Orchard, formerly known as Feast in the Field.

Together, these exclusive experiences invite guests to slow down, connect with local growers, and discover the people, places, and passion behind Colorado's world-famous Palisade peaches.

A More Exclusive Agricultural Tour Experience

New for 2026, the Peaches & Vines Agricultural Tour has been thoughtfully redesigned to provide a smaller, more immersive experience for guests interested in learning about Palisade's thriving agricultural industry.

With only 50 tickets available, this limited-capacity tour offers an intimate look at the journey from orchard and vineyard to the finished products visitors enjoy throughout the valley.

Guests can choose from 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. shuttle departures and spend the day exploring the stories behind Palisade's renowned peaches and wine grapes. Along the way, participants will enjoy:

- Guided visits to local orchards and vineyards
- Behind-the-scenes insight into growing, harvesting, production, and marketing
- Exclusive wine and beverage tastings
- A locally inspired lunch

- Fresh Palisade peaches
- Round-trip transportation throughout the experience

"This year's tour is designed to give guests an authentic look at the people and processes that make Palisade agriculture so extraordinary," said Jessica Burford, President & CEO of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce. "By limiting the number of participants, we're creating an experience that's more personal, educational, and memorable."

Evening in the Orchard Gets a Fresh New Look

Also returning in 2026 is one of the festival's most anticipated culinary experiences but with an exciting new identity. Formerly known as Feast in the Field, Evening in the Orchard has been reimagined as a two-night celebration of local food, agriculture, and hospitality. Set among the beautiful peach trees at Peach Fork Orchards, this unforgettable evening showcases the incredible bounty of the Grand Valley through a carefully curated farm-to-table dining experience. More than just dinner, guests will enjoy:

- Live music

- Locally crafted hors d'oeuvres
- A seasonal salad
- A thoughtfully prepared entrée featuring locally sourced ingredients
- A handcrafted dessert
- Award-winning Peach Fork Orchard wines
- Stunning orchard views during Colorado's golden hour

Nearly every element of the evening has been grown, raised, crafted, or prepared right here in western Colorado, celebrating the farmers, ranchers, winemakers, and culinary professionals who make the region so unique.

With limited seating available, tickets for Evening in the Orchard are selling quickly. Whether guests choose an immersive day exploring the valley's agricultural roots or an elegant evening dining beneath the peach trees, these signature experiences offer a meaningful way to discover the people and traditions that have made Palisade one of Colorado's premier agricultural destinations.

Tickets and additional information for both experiences are available at www.palisadepeachfest.com



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CONTACT DETAILS

970-249-0493

manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com

www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com

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CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-week prayer and communion, Wednesday, Noon, Multi-denominational Community Prayer Hour.

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

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

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, 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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Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442





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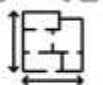


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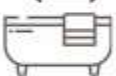
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UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN BROWN RANCH



3819 Chestnut Dr.

Offered at \$610,000 MLS # 836814

Delightful sunny, new home, completion expected by Aug. 15, 2026. 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage, tile, laminate, quartz, large back yard, covered porch faces East, morning coffee anyone?



Peg Evanoika
970-209-3934 Realtor@PegEvanoika.com

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970-249-5673 THE-RES.COM

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This spacious home has open, split floor plan, natural light and relaxing tones of soft grey, neutral & charcoal. Primary suite features a refreshing "rain shower" and soaker tub. Large east facing covered patio is perfect for relaxing... morning coffee anyone?



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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 17-Please join the Montrose Republican Women, Friday July 17th from Noon to 1:30p at the Hampton Inn Montrose. Our program features Kelly Thompson of HopeWest of Montrose. He will discuss his tenure at HopeWest and brief us on the services offered by this nonprofit resource. Also, we have invited Montrose County to update us on the surrounding fires. Brown bag lunch, doors open at 11:30a. Contact Kerri for info 970-209-5170.

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

MOUNTAIN FIRES BRING WILDLIFE TO MONTROSE



As fires tear through the high country, wildlife have been seen taking refuge at lower elevations. On Sunday afternoon, several deer were spotted enjoying the shade at Grand View Cemetery on Sunset Mesa. Photo by Harry Switzer.

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