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ASSOCIATION



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SUE HANSEN RESIGNS FROM BOCC, NAMES REPLACEMENT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The July 15 evening meeting of the Montrose County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) was brief but impactful, with BOCC Chair Sue Hansen resigning and naming Caryn Webb Gibson as her replacement.

With all three commissioners present, Hansen opened the meeting and Commissioner Sean Pond led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Delivering the Invocation was Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church. Leuthauser said, "...I think there's probably a lot of things that you do, that people have no idea. problems you save us from we don't even know about. I wanted to thank you, to encourage you...Jesus says, 'If you give even a little one a cup of cold water, you will surely receive your reward...Father thank you so much for these servants here, and workers, God I pray that you give them wisdom...I ask that you show them, Lord, how to make this a better place...I pray

Continued pg 7



After resigning and naming Caryn Webb Gibson as her replacement, Sue Hansen nominated BOCC Vice Chair Kirstin Copeland as BOCC Chair. The two switched seats for the remainder of the meeting (above). Commissioner Sean Pond was named Vice Chair. Meeting screenshot.

140 YEARS! EVERYONE BELONGS IN THE RING!



The No Limits Show welcomes people with disabilities to experience the excitement of showing livestock. Courtesy image Montrose County Fair & Rodeo.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE- It's Fair time! The Montrose County Fair and Rodeo has returned and runs July 17-25. This year's theme is "140 years! Everyone belongs in the Ring!"

The full schedule can be found [here](#)--from 4-H and FFA Projects, junior livestock shows, horse events and open class exhibits, to live entertainment and the rodeo.

According to a county news release, the 2026 fair includes ever-popular events like 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 offers art and photography, ceramics, quilting, foods, woodworking, horticulture, and floriculture.

On Friday, July 24 at 2:30pm, the No Limits Show welcomes people with disabilities

Continued pg 2

Kate Burke:

Barbara Torke: artist, Author, Educator!

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Letters to the Editor!

Regional News Briefs!

Regional Events

Calendar!

Hispanic Heritage Mosaic Craft

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4:00-5:00 PM
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EVERYONE BELONGS IN THE RING! ***From pg 1***

to borrow a livestock animal, step into the show ring and experience the excitement of showing alongside our fair community. No experience is needed, just a willingness to have fun and make lasting memories.

Sponsored by Vectra Bank, Community Night will take place on Tuesday, July 21 beginning at 5 pm. There will be free food while supplies last and fun activities. Members of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will share hand pies from Straw Hat Farms while supplies last, while representatives from the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and other local first responders will visit with residents, answer questions, and provide 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 2026 Fair Board includes Molli Yorchak, Micah Mckee, Dawn Fritze, Whitney Shelton, Jennifer Sherwood, Ally Nichols, Kaleb Lee, Josh Hansen, Kim Wilson, and Matt Box.

For more information visit <https://montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com/>

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,

the Montrose Mirror

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





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SUE HANSEN RESIGNS FROM BOCC, NAMES REPLACEMENT

From pg 1

pray Lord that you would encourage them...in their service, and I pray Lord that they can take joy knowing that they they've touched lives even when those people don't even know..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ron Henderson spoke, noting Consent Agenda Item 5, "Ratification of Commissioner Hansen's signature on comments to the Federal Office of Management and Budget regarding proposed changes to the rules governing federal grant awards."

Henderson recalled that the County had "rearranged" the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Funds. "I find it curious that you did what you're trying to write about..."

Commissioner Kirstin Copeland discussed the problems associated with Federal grant awards and the new rules that have been approved. "...Once a competitive Federal grant has been approved, the funding is provided, it can be cancelled even mid-stream, mid-project under the new rules..."

Said Henderson, "I think what you bring up is truly egregious..." he encouraged commissioners to go to every budget meeting that they can, noting, "...the convenience of moving money around is an ongoing problem."

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Joe Kerby asked to remove four Consent Agenda items, C-14, C-15, C-16 and C-17, noting minor modifications to contracts.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Items were approved with four items removed and with Resolution No. 26-2026 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 7 and Resolution No. 27-2026 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 12.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The BOCC approved Grant Agreement AIB #3-08-0044-015-2026 with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$131,068, for the project to Reconstruct Taxiway C and Rehabilitate Apron at Nucla Hopkins Field and the Grant Agreement AIB #3-08-0044-016-2026 with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$750,000, for the project to Reconstruct Taxiway C and Rehabilitate Apron at Nucla Hopkins Field.

Also approved was the contract with Reams Construction Company for AIP Project No. 3-08-0044-015/016-2026, for Taxiway C Reconstruction and Apron Rehabilitation at Nucla Hopkins Field in the amount of \$856,666.32 effective July 15, 2026 as reviewed by Counsel.

Commissioners adopted Resolution 28-2026, amending Resolution 01-2026 and appointing a Chair and Vice Chair through the second Tuesday in January, 2027. Commissioner Kirstin Copeland was named BOCC Chair, and Commissioner Sean Pond was named BOCC Vice Chair.

Hansen announced that she would be stepping down so that Candidate Webb can step into the roll and get up to speed.

Hansen said that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the public; Chair Copeland expressed her appreciation for Hansen's service.

The BOCC adopted an amendment to County Attorney Julie Andress's Employment Agreement.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Three items were approved:

- The Alvin English Resubdivision Preliminary Plan [MA26-002] Proposal to divide 8.830 acres into five lots at Parcel 376724400031;
- The Jefferson Road Minor Subdivision [MI26-006] proposal to divide 10.34 acres into three lots at Parcel 376508105003; and
- The Willey Minor Subdivision Extension [EXT26-002] proposal to extend the time period of a Minor Subdivision application at Parcel 425929200016.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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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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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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

STAYING IN THE PROPER LANE: *Defined Roles Strengthen Government*

By Michael J Badagliaccio, "MJB"

Many people assume that strong performance in one role automatically qualifies someone for expanded duties. Experience shows the opposite. Most individuals and organizations perform at their highest level when they remain focused on their primary responsibilities. Anomalies exist, but they are exceptions. The principle of staying in one's lane applies directly to local government structure.

Council's Lane: Policy Making and Detailed Oversight

City Council occupies a specific lane defined by the Montrose Charter and the Council-Manager form of government. That lane centers on **policy making and oversight**. Oversight includes rigorous budgetary review. Approval of an overall budget does not fulfill the responsibility. Council must examine departmental requests, line items, and expenditures in detail to ensure alignment with community priorities and fiscal discipline. This detailed work protects taxpayer resources and maintains accountability to the voters who elected the Council.

The City Manager's Lane: Administration and Execution

The Charter assigns the City Manager a different lane. The Manager serves as the chief administrative officer responsible for **executing the policies set by Council**. The Manager implements, manages daily operations, and ensures departments carry out Council direction. *The Manager does not create policy*, particularly on core functions such as public safety. When reporting lines place the Police Chief and City Clerk under the Manager rather than the elected Council, the structure grants an appointed administrator influence over policy areas reserved for the people's representatives. This blurs the lanes estab-

lished in the pre-2014 Charter, where *the Police Chief, City Manager, City Attorney, Municipal Judge, and City Clerk reported directly to Council*.

Constitutional and Charter Support for Clear Lanes

Constitutional principles reinforce these lanes. **Article IV, Section 4** of the United States Constitution guarantees every state a republican form of government. In practice, this means elected representatives set direction and remain accountable to citizens. The Supremacy Clause further establishes that local structures must operate within the framework voters approved through the home rule Charter. Montrose's Charter establishes a clear division: **Council makes policy; the Manager and staff execute it**. Deviations from this division, such as the 2014 shift of Police Chief authority, moved policy responsibility away from elected officials and hands that responsibility to an unelected position, *a clear contradiction of the Charter's mandate*.

Budget Oversight Requires Depth, Not Just Approval

Budget oversight illustrates the point clearly. Council approval of a total spending figure without departmental scrutiny fails the oversight test. Each department presents specific needs and performance data. Council has both the authority and the duty to question those requests, compare them against measurable outcomes, and adjust priorities before final adoption. This process is not micromanagement. *It is the core of representative government applied to public funds*.

Restoring Proper Lanes Serves the Public

Other lanes matter equally. The Police Department operates in the lane of law enforcement and public safety under policies established by Council. The City Attor-

ney provides legal counsel within the bounds of professional ethics and Council direction. When any position steps outside its defined lane, the entire system loses focus and accountability suffers.

The current conversation about Charter amendments seeks to restore proper lanes rather than expand Council power. Returning Police Chief and City Clerk reporting to the elected body realigns the structure with the original Charter intent. *It ensures that policy decisions on critical services remain with officials directly answerable to the citizens of Montrose*. The Manager retains full authority to administer operations efficiently within the policy framework Council establishes.

Staying in the proper lane produces the best possible results. Council focuses on vision, priorities, and accountability. The Manager focuses on competent execution. Departments focus on delivering services, and "We the People" remain informed and perform our most sacred duty, to **vote!**

When these roles remain distinct, government operates with clarity, efficiency, and respect for the voters who created the structure. **Montrose benefits when every participant respects the lanes the Charter and sound governance principles define.**

Ample, robust and inclusive public discussion from a wide swath of citizens, through open meetings **and** public interaction, allows elected representatives and residents to examine these alignments and provide their perspectives allowing for the elected representatives to make sound decisions. Voters ultimately decide whether the current structure serves the community or requires realignment. That process itself respects the fundamental lane of citizen oversight through informed consent via their vote.



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This 1,127 sq ft, 3-bedroom, 1-bath home has been completely remodeled from top to bottom. Every major system has been replaced: new electrical, plumbing, HVAC, tankless gas water heater, windows, doors, and a reinforced foundation with new interior supports. Inside, an open concept living, dining, and kitchen layout is finished with solid wood floors, new carpet in all three bedrooms, quartz countertops, new cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, and a fully tiled bathroom with a solid glass sliding shower door. \$395,000



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT IS “FAIR?”

Editor:

The Montrose Mirror’s report on the July 7 city council meeting cited a lady declaring her belief the “people who are taking in the votes and tabulating them are fair,” implying all the election functions are fair. That depends upon your concept of fairness. Colorado counties have been shown to have more people on voter rolls than census counts of voting age residents. It is known that adult children who have moved away, and live elsewhere permanently, even off the North American continent, remain on the local voter rolls and vote here. They are not “residents.” The Colorado secretary of state, and through her, county election officials, have resisted cleaning up voter rolls; it took years of litigation to force even some partial clean up. Is it fair that distant former residents (or second or third home owners) get to influence local elections, in which a dozen or so votes can make the difference in our small communities? Their ballots carry much more weight here than if voted where they actually reside, in large cities such as Denver or LA or Houston. Their knowledge and understanding of local issues and candidates are likely to be skewed, but whether or not accurate, they are not true “residents” as the laws intended. The state secretary of state sets the tone on what is “fair” in elections; does the tone set by the current candidates coincide with your concept of fairness?

Note that the outgoing (term limited) secretary of state who resisted performing her job in accordance with the laws is now running for the state’s top law enforcement official.

Richard Wojciechowski, Ouray County

FAMILIES ACROSS THE DISTRICT DESERVE TO BE TREATED EQUITABLY

Dear Editor:

Thankfully, the school board has decided to hold a July public meeting, Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 pm! That is good news.

I understand there is a proposal to allow students attending the Classical Academy to enroll in kindergarten if they turn five by August 1, even though the district’s current kindergarten eligibility date is October 1.

I would simply ask the Board to consider one question: if this is the right policy for one school, why isn’t it the right policy for every child in our district?

Families across the district deserve to be treated equitably. If there is sound educational research or compelling evidence that an August 1 cutoff better serves children, then that same reasoning should apply to every elementary school in the district—not just one.

On the other hand, if the district believes the October 1 cutoff remains the best standard for kindergarten readiness, then that standard should be applied consistently for all schools.

Consistency builds trust. Parents should know that the rules are based on what is best for children, not on which school they choose to attend.

I encourage the Board to either maintain one consistent district-wide kindergarten enrollment policy or, if you determine that a change is in the best interest of students, make that change for every family in the district.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our students and community.

Linda Gann

Montrose, Colorado

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUBLIC SERVICE SHOULDN'T REQUIRE BODY ARMOR

Editor:

School board service is public service, often thankless and under intense scrutiny. In communities like Montrose and Olathe, Colorado, School Board members face serious questions about whether online harassment escalates into real-world threats including stalking, and defamation.

These issues demand open discussion, not silence.

Social media platforms amplify voices, but can also fuel bullying. Persistent, targeted campaigns against individuals raise concerns: Do they cross into behavior that places reasonable people in fear for their safety or that of their families?

Colorado law defines stalking under C.R.S. 18-3-602 as knowingly making a credible threat combined with repeated following, approaching, contacting, or surveillance—or repeated conduct causing serious emotional distress to a reasonable person. [<https://tinyurl.com/2kkyt8dh>]

Pointed questions arise from reported incidents:

- Did Phoebe Benzinger start this when she threatened the Board, saying, "I am watching you" at the beginning of the year?
 - Did Alice Murphy and Ellen Angeles's son stalk a board member's place of work? If so, what message does that send about boundaries in public disputes? Is this appropriate for a former second grade teacher and a Board Director?
 - If this is true, what kind of parent would allegedly encourage or allow a child to engage in such actions as "dirty work"? Is this appropriate behavior for Ms. Angeles, who professes to be a Catholic and former teacher? Is this acceptable adult behavior, or does it model poor conflict resolution for the next generation?
 - Is an intense focus on specific board members breeding unfounded conspiracy theories, rather than constructive dialogue about school policies?
- These are not abstract issues. Online adult bullying—questioning character, spreading distortions, and soliciting dam-

aging claims—deserves scrutiny. Reports mention what looks like an alias (fake Facebook account) "Claire Johnston" has regularly shared altered AI-generated images depicting board members with exaggerated features like long noses, alongside portrayals of legal counsel as a "marionette puppet master."

Concerns have been raised: Is Joelle Recalde, a Northside Elementary mom, who is on the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), "Claire Johnston?" Is she involved in coordinating or encouraging such content? Recently, she was confronted of her being the alias "Claire Johnston" at line dancing at Corner Taps. Did this lead to her absence the following week? Is avoiding in-person accountability how adults handle disagreement? What happened to civil, face-to-face conversations where people can agree to disagree respectfully? School board members have reportedly received significant online threats via Facebook and other platforms. Is intimidation the goal of these campaigns? Does it aim to deter qualified people from serving or to pressure decisions outside proper channels?

Meanwhile, what has the school board actually been doing? In the Montrose County School District, they have pursued investigations into significant incidents at Olathe Elementary School. They have followed standard practices by placing involved administrators on non-punitive paid leave. Why? To protect the administrator, staff, complainants, and students while ensuring complaints are heard seriously and people are safeguarded. This reflects responsible governance amid difficult situations—not the conspiracies some allege.

Public officials are not above criticism. Robust debate strengthens democracy, however, when criticism veers into falsehoods that damage reputations, repeated targeting that causes fear, or explicit threats, it raises legal and ethical red flags.

Relevant Colorado Laws on Defamation, Stalking, and Threats:

- Defamation: False statements of fact

published to third parties that harm reputation. Public officials must generally prove "actual malice" (knowledge of falsity or reckless disregard for truth) under U.S. Supreme Court standards. Colorado follows these principles, with civil claims requiring proof of falsity, publication, fault, and damages. Truth is a strong defense.

- Stalking (C.R.S. 18-3-602, Vonnie's Law): Felony offense involving credible threats plus repeated conduct, or repeated actions causing serious emotional distress. First offense is typically a class 5 felony; repeats escalate to class 4. This applies to in-person and digital behavior.

- Harassment (C.R.S. 18-9-111): Misdemeanor for repeated unwanted communications, insults, or conduct intended to harass, annoy, or alarm, especially via electronic means.

True threats require recklessness as to their threatening nature per U.S. Supreme Court guidance in *Counterman v. Colorado*. [<https://tinyurl.com/46ywnspa>]

School board members, as public servants, deserve the ability to do their jobs without fear of personal reprisal.

Parents and community members have every right to voice concerns at meetings, through proper channels, or in public forums. But crossing into harassment, stalking, defamation, or threats harms everyone—especially students who need stable, focused leadership in districts like Montrose County, serving areas including Olathe.

Communities thrive on civil discourse. Let's demand better: evidence-based criticism, in-person engagement where possible, and respect for the rule of law.

If patterns of bullying and threats persist, authorities should investigate fully. Public service shouldn't require body armor—metaphorical or otherwise. What steps will our community take to ensure disagreements stay productive rather than destructive?

Sincerely,

Leah Vandersluis

Concerned Citizen, Montrose, CO

PUBLIC NOTICES: CHANGE OF NAME

☒ County Court ☐ District Court ☐ Denver Juvenile Court Montrose County, Colorado Court Address: 1200 N Grand Ave Bin A Montrose CO 81401	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲ Case Number: 26C98 Division E Courtroom 1C
In the Matter of the Petition of: ☒ Adult: Christopher David Yniguez or ☐ Parent/Petitioner: for Minor Child: For a Change of Name to: Christopher David Trujillo	
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME	

Public Notice is given on JULY 7, 2026 (date) that a Petition for a Change of Name of a ☐ Minor Child or ☒ Adult has been filed with the Montrose Court.

The Petition requests that the name of

Christopher David Yniguez
 First Name Middle Name Last Name

be changed to

Christopher David Trujillo
 First Name Middle Name Last Name

By [Signature]
 Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk



NEWSPAPER: PLEASE PUBLISH THIS NOTICE THREE TIMES WITHIN TWENTY-ONE DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ORDER.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH WELCOMES TROY ELLER AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta Health is pleased to welcome Troy Eller as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), bringing more than 25 years of healthcare experience and a passion for strengthening rural, independent healthcare organizations.

Eller joins Delta Health after serving as CFO at a rural Critical Access Hospital in South Florida. Throughout his healthcare career, he has held financial leadership roles in organizations ranging from 25-bed rural critical access hospitals to large, 250-plus-bed health systems. His broad experience spans both the provider and payer sides of healthcare, giving him a unique perspective on financial strategy, reimbursement, and revenue cycle management.

"We are excited to welcome Troy to the Delta Health leadership team," said Nick Coleran, Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Executive Officer of Delta Health. "His depth of financial expertise, commitment to rural healthcare, and collaborative leadership style will help support our mission of providing exceptional care to the communities we serve."

Originally from rural West Tennessee, Eller says relocating to Western Colorado has been a long-time dream for him and his wife. "My wife and I have always wanted to live out West," Eller said. "The biggest surprise has been realizing just how kind and welcoming the people of Western Colorado are. Everyone has been incredibly thoughtful and accommodating, making us feel right at home in the community."

Eller's path to healthcare leadership began with military service. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Field Artillery Surveyor. During his service, he was stationed in Germany during the Cold War and witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall. He later deployed during Operation Desert Storm, serving in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, where he participated in missions alongside the 1st Special Forces Group.

Following his military service, Eller earned a bachelor's degree in Business from Belhaven University and a Master of Business Administration in Accounting from Indiana Wesleyan University. Healthcare finance has remained a natural fit throughout his career. "I've always been a numbers guy," Eller said. "Working for an independent healthcare organization isn't just about profitability. It's about providing the healthcare our community needs while maintaining our independence and financial strength. Rural organizations also have the ability to be agile and adapt quickly as healthcare continues to evolve."

Eller said several factors drew him to Delta Health, including the organization's culture, leadership team, independence and opportunities for growth. "I chose Delta Health because of the location, the culture, the leadership team, the organization's independence, the opportunity to help it grow, and the healthy work-life balance," he said. "It checked all the boxes."

As he begins his new role, Eller is focused on helping Delta Health continue to grow while supporting the talented team already in place. Outside of work, Eller enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife recently celebrated 31 years of marriage and have a 20-year-old son, Noah, who is studying Computer Science Engineering in Central Florida. He is also an avid car enthusiast—especially when it comes to Corvettes—and enjoys amateur photography in his spare time.

Delta Health is pleased to welcome Troy and his family to Western Colorado and looks forward to the leadership and experience he brings as the organization continues its commitment to delivering high-quality, compassionate healthcare, close to home.



Delta Health CFO Troy Eller.
Courtesy photo.

LET THE SUN SHINE! LOCAL NEWS FOR LOCAL READERS
Read the Montrose Mirror Online News Blast

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



CHARTER AMENDMENTS

I trust You, the voters of Montrose and your ability to make the choice that is right for you in November.

The proposed amendments were openly discussed during the campaign and are well known throughout our community. And we will discuss them more before the final list is presented for the November ballot.

My goal has always been to ensure all voters can decide these issues at the ballot box.

I have said before, the council's responsibility is to formulate proposals based on our ideas along with citizen input through open meetings and dialogue. Then present them for your approval or rejection at the ballot box. That is what we will do.

These are not my amendments. They reflect conversations with you, the people of Montrose. The decision belongs entirely to the voters. The choice to adopt or not is fully yours, I will fully accept and support your choice.

What is on the Agenda this Week?

Work Session Discussion Items

- VALE Grant Authorization
 - Locust Road Addition Annexation
 - 2026 Private Activity Bond Allocation
 - Municipal Code Amendments for Electrical-Assisted Bicycles and Classless Electrical-Assisted Vehicles
- City Council Agenda Items
- Google Workspace Authorization
 - 2026 Streetlight Upgrade & Replacement Authorization
 - Pavillion Design (Phase 1) Contract Award
 - Hillcrest Sidewalk Replacement Construction Contract
 - Colorado Flight Alliance Contribution
 - Temporary Workforce Housing Ordinance
 - El Chapin Addition Annexation & Zoning
 - Ponderosa Ranch Subdivision Zoning
 - Historic Property Designation

439 E. Main

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Thank you,

Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor – Montrose, CO

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ARRESTS MADE IN MURDER CASE

Montrose County Sheriff's Office News Release

MONTROSE-Two individuals are now in the custody of the Montrose County jail in connection with the deadly shooting that occurred on November 23, 2025, near LaSalle Road.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office arrested Ahlija Fall Johnson, 22 yoa, and James Patrick Trujillo Jr, 25 yoa.

The two were charged with first-degree murder in Montrose County.

We are deeply grateful to the Montrose County community for their patience as investigators worked carefully and thoroughly to identify those responsible and make these arrests. Even during times when new information slowed, investigators never stopped keeping the family in their thoughts and remained fully committed to this case.

This investigation is ongoing. Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

The charges are merely an accusation and the defendants are presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty.

DELTA MAN FOUND DECEASED, ONE ARRESTED ON MURDER CHARGES

Delta County Sheriff's Office News Release

DELTA- On June 25, 2026, Deputies with the Delta County Sheriff's Office responded to a home in the area of Hidden Mesa Road on reports of a male party who was found deceased.

A vehicle belonging to the victim was reported missing and was located at a hotel within the City of Grand Junction with assistance from the Grand Junction Police Department. Investigators obtained a search warrant for a hotel room where items belonging to the victim were found.

The Delta County Coroner identified the victim as thirty-nine-year-old Jeremiah May and determined the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds.

Jason Ju'Uant Blevins, 35, was arrested and booked into the Delta County Jail on the following initial charges:

18-3-103 - 2nd Degree Murder, a class 2 felony

18-8-610 – Tampering with Physical Evidence, a class 6 felony

This incident remains under investigation and additional or amended charges are pending from the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office. No further information is available at this time.

As are all persons accused of a crime, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



PUBLIC NOTICES: NOTICE OF DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS



PUBLIC NOTICE

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INC. NOTICE OF DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS

Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc., a Colorado community nonprofit corporation, is now accepting applications to fill available positions on its Board of Directors.

Application packets are available for download at www.montrosehealth.com, by email request to BODapplications@montrosehealth.com, or pick up at the Montrose Regional Health Administration office, located at 800 South 3rd Street, Montrose, Colorado, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The deadline for return of completed applications is **Friday**, August 14th at 5:00 p.m. at the MRH Administration office.

Elections will be held by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in October.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "m/vader", is positioned above a blue horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Mary Vader, MD" is printed in a small, blue, sans-serif font.

Dr. Mary Vader, Chairperson
Nominating Committee
Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc.

800 S. 3rd Street • Montrose, CO 81401
970-249-2211

MontroseHealth.com



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK ANNOUNCES NAME CHANGE TO THRIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK *Rebranding reflects expanded regional service across Colorado's western slope*

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Montrose, Delta, Ouray, San Miguel, Gunnison, and Hinsdale Counties-- Tri-County Health Network announced that it will change its name to Thrive Community Health Network, effective Aug. 1, 2026. The new name reflects the nonprofit organization's expansion from serving three counties to six counties across Colorado's Western Slope. The name "Thrive" also better represents the breadth of programs and services the organization provides throughout the region.

"Our new name, Thrive Community Health Network, better reflects both who we serve today and our vision for the future," said Amy Rowan, Co-Executive Director of Community Programs. "As our service area has grown beyond three counties to six, it is important that our identity clearly represents the communities we serve. We are still the same organization – our mission, vision and values remain the same"

The organization was founded fifteen years ago with the mission to "Collaborate with our communities to improve health for everyone." Thrive Community Health Network will continue to provide community health programs, care coordination, insurance enrollment and behavioral health resources under the new name, with no interruption to existing services or partnerships. The rebrand includes an updated logo, and an improved website coming this fall.

"We are regularly mistaken for a public health department or government agency. By taking the word "county" out of the name, we hope to reduce that confusion in the community," said Melanie Montoya Wasserman, Co-Executive Director of Advocacy and Inclusion.

The transition to [Thrive](#) Community Health Network marks a strategic step in strengthening regional collaboration. The organization will continue building partnerships across counties to efficiently address evolving community health needs and improve long-term health outcomes throughout the region.

"We have over 25 programs that have a wide range. Some are clearly health related, and others are more on that end of what we call social determinants of health - factors that greatly impact a person's wellbeing," said Montoya Wasserman. "We know that for someone to thrive, there are a myriad of factors that play into that. We may not be able to address all of them, but the ones that we do focus on have a big impact on people's lives."

For more information on Thrive Community Health Network and the resources available in your community, visit tchnetwork.org or call 970-708-7096.

WELCOME

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MRH HEALTH FAIR CONNECTS COMMUNITY WITH FREE SCREENINGS AND LOCAL HEALTHCARE EXPERTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health's annual Blood Draws and Health Fair returns Aug. 1-8, culminating in a free community Health Fair on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Montrose Pavilion. The event offers free skin spot checks, hearing screenings, and oral cancer screenings, along with opportunities to connect with local healthcare experts, learn about MRH specialty services, and access affordable blood testing.

The event will be held Saturday, Aug. 8, from 6:30 to 11 a.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. Community members will have the opportunity to visit booths hosted by many of MRH's specialty service lines and learn more about the programs, services, and resources available through MRH.

Participating departments include the Digestive Health Center, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Center, Spine & Pain Center, Urology Clinic, Cardiology, San Juan Cancer Center, Family Center, Mountain View Therapy, Medical Imaging, and other programs. Caregivers will be available to answer questions, provide educational information, and help community members better understand treatment options, specialty programs, and support services available through MRH.

"Many people know the event for the discounted blood draws, but the Health Fair offers much more than laboratory testing," said Katie Klossner, director of marketing and public relations at Montrose Regional Health. "We want people to leave with a better understanding of their health and a greater awareness of the healthcare services available close to home."

For more than 37 years, MRH's annual Blood Draws and Health Fair has helped thousands of community members take a proactive approach to their health through affordable laboratory testing, early detection, and health education.

Participants can choose from a variety of discounted laboratory tests, including the popular HealthScreen Panel, which provides a broad overview of cholesterol, thyroid function, kidney and liver function, iron levels, electrolytes, and other key health indicators. Additional testing options include an Advanced Lipid Panel, hemoglobin A1c, PSA screening, vitamin testing, hormone testing, blood typing, and more.

Blood draws will be offered at multiple locations throughout the region:

- Saturday, Aug. 1: Ridgway Event Center (7-10 a.m.)
- Monday, Aug. 3: Olathe High School Gym (6:30-9:30 a.m.)
- Wednesday-Friday, Aug. 5-7: Montrose Pavilion (6:30-9:30 a.m.)
- Saturday, Aug. 8: Montrose Pavilion during the Health Fair (6:30-11 a.m.)

Due to ongoing wildfire response efforts in Ouray County, the Ridgway Event Center is currently serving as an incident command center.

The Aug. 1 blood draw event remains scheduled as planned; however, participants are encouraged to visit montrosehealth.com/healthfair for the latest updates regarding event locations and schedules.

Online registration is encouraged for all blood draw locations at montrosehealth.com/healthfair to reduce wait times and streamline check-in. Walk-ins will not be accepted Aug. 5 or 6. Event updates, including any wildfire-related changes, will be posted at montrosehealth.com/healthfair.

MRH extends sincere thanks to its 2026 Health Fair sponsors: Alpine Bank, Elevate, Mountain West Insurance, and TEI Rock Drills. For those participating in blood draws, a 12-hour fast is recommended. Participants should drink plenty of water and continue taking medications as usual. Those using hormone creams or hormone sublingual tablets should not apply or take them on the morning of their blood draw.



Event features specialty service line booths, affordable blood testing, and opportunities to learn about healthcare services available close to home. Courtesy photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FASCISTS OR SPOILED BRATS?

Editor:

Does Montrose have fascists or just spoiled adults who have never learned that you do not always get your way? This is exemplified by their refusal to accept election results including County Commissioner in 2024, last Fall's School Board election, and more recently the new City Council election results. Their actions demonstrate a clear case of being "election deniers."

The common thread is that many of the individuals who advocated and succeeded in the recall of County Commissioner Scott Mijares are now targeting the new School Board and its President, Neisha Balleck, as well as our new Mayor, Michael Badagliacchio, along with his newly elected conservative colleagues.

These opponents are emboldened from their success in removing Scott Mijares. A move though technically legal under Colorado law actually violated the Constitution, because Mijares was legally elected; however, he was removed by less than half of the votes that got him elected. This was not democratic, but a coup!!! A recall should only occur if an elected official has been convicted of a

crime, immoral conduct, and/or unethical behavior. The recall was all due to the fact these anti-democratic forces did not like Mijares personality and that he kept his campaign promises of promoting an agenda to provide transparency and government accountability. Mijares actions were not unethical or met the constitutional justification for removal. The voters though could have relied on his record and/or dislike of him as a reason(s) not to re-elect him for a second term - but not to remove him from office under a recall. The bottom line is that Mijares opponents did not accept his election. This group did not even like or accept that the Republican Party in the 2024 Primary elected Mijares over his opponent with multiple Federal Tax Liens. In fact, too many in this group attempted to use a 30-year-old SEC civil fine against Mijares while advocating his Primary opponent with tax liens still existing in 2024 should have been the Party's Primary candidate and subsequent County Commissioner.

Now, to current events regarding the newly elected School Board and City Council members. No one on the School Board and the City Council has a Mijares

personality, but this has not stopped the same anti-democratic forces from attacking these newly elected members. Unfortunately, again they refuse to accept the election results. Furthermore, these so-called advocates for democracy have a disturbing pattern of employing fascist tactics. Examples include attempted bullying tactics, alleged threats, threats of recall, verbal assaults, lack of civil discourse, demands to adhere to their radical Leftist agenda contrary to choices made by the voters. If not fascists, at a minimum, spoiled adults who throw a fit when elections don't go their way and when our newly elected officials propose or implement policies they do not favor or support; forgetting their loud minority voices of misconduct, childish behavior, and anti-democratic acts do not override the will of the majority.

Yes, the minority has every right to protest, object, complain, and/or question our elected officials peacefully; however bullying, fascist, or communist tactics are not the solution, but a threat to our Constitutional Republic.

Monty George,

Chairman, Montrose Republican Party



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM, MASSIVE WILDFIRES, AND NOW THE GORP ACT! HAD ENOUGH YET??

Editor:

As we watch the fires raging across our state, I can't help but wonder if the "Environmental Activists" are proud of the success of their cause. Isn't the point of their activism to protect and defend the environment against the supposed harm done by ranchers, loggers, campers, hunters, miners and the like? Isn't the goal to make sure that the resources are protected and cherished? I think that we all can see the truth, we just need to have the courage to admit it. This cause is anything but protection of our forests and resources.

It is about the billions of dollars going into the pockets of the elite who don't have to live with the damage that their policies cause. Over the last several years, as one bill after another blocks access to management and use of our natural resources, insect devastated forests have led to fires that have raged across our once beautiful state. When any type of vegetation is overpopulated it becomes stressed and susceptible to disease and insects.

One just has to drive over any mountain road to see that the beetle kill trees are a massive wildfire waiting to happen. The lack of timber management due to the climate lobby's war on timber harvesting, has led to unhealthy forests, leaving the forest floor littered with deadfall timber that fuels the massive blazes.

Now there is another new bill being quietly put together that will again do nothing but neglect these once thriving forests, and set us up for even more devastation in the years ahead. It is called The GORP Act (Gunnison Outdoor Protection Act) I would bet that the majority of you reading this have never heard of it. Many of your county commissioners sold you out by supporting this bill for a few perks. This bill will affect 730,000 acres with the allure of benefitting the people of this state. According to page 17 of THE GORP Act, the "Purpose of the Wildlife Conservation Areas are-(1) to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future genera-

tions the wildlife and wildlife habitat of the Wildlife Conservation Areas, and (2) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the natural, scenic, scientific, cultural, watershed, and recreational resources of the Wildlife Conservation Areas.

The GORP Act, page 44 states in (g) Vegetation Management (1) IN GENERAL-No project shall be carried out in a covered area for the purpose of harvesting commercial timber.

The sponsors of this bill met with the owner of the only large lumber mill still active in this area a little over a year ago, and that mill is now in the process of closing. I will let you make up your mind on what likely transpired in those meetings! This mill closure will cause the loss of hundreds of jobs and decimate an entire industry that is our only line of defense against these fires. Call the sponsors of this bill, and the sponsors of others like it currently in the works, and tell them that we are not interested. These bills that lock up our land and prohibit management, are what has caused this disaster that we are now dealing with. If we do not manage our forests, they will become diseased, die, and burn. I don't think that anyone with a shred of common sense, can look at what is currently happening in our state, due to the exact types of policies in The GORP Act, and argue that this rosy picture painted in the bill is actually the outcome.

How are we tolerating our brave firefighters being burned alive because of the purposeful and intentional mismanagement of our forests. Their families and loved ones don't see your "Environmental Activism" as compassion and preservation! How are we tolerating tens, if not hundreds of thousands of animals burning alive, or the "lucky" ones who aren't burned alive, that are suffering irreparable harm from smoke inhalation, and being driven from their habitat to fight for survival. How many more will starve to death this winter because of lack of feed. How are we tolerating billions of dollars' worth

of property and homes destroyed. Families are displaced and are losing everything they have worked their entire lives to build.

True environmental stewardship promotes forest management. This includes grazing and logging. Both are tools that are used to make sure that there is proper ground care and tree spacing, reducing the risk of ground fires and massive wildfire spread.

If you still believe that not taking care of our forests is the proper way of preserving our forests and maintaining them for wildlife habitat, scenic enjoyment etc, for this and future generations, you need to meet with the families of our lost firefighters, and those who have lost everything. Drive through the charred areas and think of how many burned animals lie there. Think of the overwhelming loss of our innocent wildlife, and the loss of their entire habitat for miles and miles.

Take a drive through almost any of Colorado's forests and look at the destruction and devastation this "Protect the Environment" cause has achieved. Is it "conserved, protected, enhanced, and restored for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations and the wildlife and wildlife habitat of the Wildlife Conservation Areas" as the bill above would have you believe? Absolutely the opposite.

Just as with any garden, it must be properly maintained and managed or it will be unhealthy and eventually die due to lack of care. Instead of spending billions on fighting the fires, and rebuilding homes, we should be managing our forests and making them places that are healthy and beautiful areas for all of us to enjoy.

Fire is a natural and sometimes necessary part of life, but making it a yearly inevitability due to our purposeful negligence is not. If the dead heroes, the smoke-filled air, and the horrific amount of wildlife that have burned alive doesn't help this reality to sink in, move to the desert and let those of us with a heart take over!

Tammy Jolley, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA CONDUCTING UTV LINE INSPECTIONS IN JULY & AUGUST

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Throughout July and August, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) crews will work alongside Fast Forward, a technology company specializing in utility inspections, to conduct annual inspections of power poles and overhead electrical equipment in rural portions of Montrose and Delta counties.

Using the Fast Forward Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV), technicians will travel existing utility rights-of-way to capture high-resolution images and thermal data of DMEA's electrical system. The inspections are part of DMEA's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe, reliable electric grid and proactively identifying equipment that may require maintenance or replacement.

Fast Forward's inspection platform combines high-speed imaging, artificial intelligence, and thermal technology to inspect thousands of utility poles each week. The system automatically analyzes images of poles, crossarms, insulators, transformers, and other electrical equipment to identify potential issues that may not be visible during a traditional visual inspection.

By identifying potential problems early, DMEA can prioritize repairs, improve system reliability, and reduce the likelihood of unexpected power interruptions.

"Investing in advanced inspection technology allows us to find potential issues before they become outages," said Cody Carver, DMEA's Chief Operations Officer. "This proactive approach helps us improve reliability for our members."

Inspection activities will occur during daylight hours throughout July and August. Members may see the Fast Forward UTV traveling near power lines in rural areas. The work is non-invasive, and no action is required from members.

Annual inspections are a key part of DMEA's comprehensive asset management program, helping to ensure that more than 3,400 miles of electric distribution lines continue to serve members safely and reliably throughout Montrose and Delta counties.

To learn more about Fast Forward's utility inspection technology, visit <https://ff-ai.com/solutions>



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CAPITALISM PULLED UNTOLD MILLIONS OUT OF POVERTY IN RECENT HISTORY ***In the 20th century, communist countries who claimed to practice socialism killed more than 100 million of their own people***

Editor:

Tragically, our country is faced today with burgeoning support for socialism/communism from within the Democrat party, largely because our public schools have intentionally avoided teaching the truth about that system and its disastrous results anywhere it's been attempted. Members of the Democrat party – or should I say, the Democrat Socialist of America Party (DSA) – are enthusiastically embracing the teachings of Karl Marx. That type of ignorance and immorality does not just show up organically. It has to be very carefully infused by repeated indoctrination, and that is what our high schools and universities have done now for decades. Here are some truths that you will not only not hear from our academic geniuses, but are forbidden topics for discussion anywhere in their academic bubbles.

The most damaging aspects of socialism are: 1) It is an economic system destined for failure, and 2) It is totally dependent on brute force. I'll talk about those shortly, but let's first talk about socialism's inherent immorality. Thomas Sowell: "I have never understood why it is greed to want to keep the money you have earned but not greed to want to take somebody else's money." Also: "One of the consequences of 'entitlements' is that people who have contributed nothing to society feel that society owes them something, apparently just for being nice enough to grace us with their presence." One of the preconditions necessary for people to be enamored with communism is a moral decay that generates a disdain for work and an excessive entitlement mentality, demonizing others' success. An inherent feature of capitalism is that it rewards innovation, hard work, and risk taking. It is dependent on individual freedom and free choice. When that is eliminated under socialism, the achievers stop achieving, the innovators stop innovating, and the contributors stop contributing. The kid that grew up dirt poor, started working in middle school to put clothes on his back, worked his way through college, graduated with honors and got a good job, and worked way more than 40 hours per week to excel on that job would achieve some degree of affluence in a capitalist system. Under socialism, that achiever would be no better off than the person who chooses to sit on his couch all day because of the achiever's tax money. The achiever is no dummy. He stops contributing under a social-

ist system.

Socialism is an economic system destined for failure. It functions only as long as it can feed on the economic substance of the middle class and the wealthy. Margaret Thatcher: "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." Advocates of socialism can only temporarily conceal the fallacies and growing inefficiencies of their doctrine through a continuous raid on productive wealth. Lenin coined the term "useful idiots" to describe the uninformed public enamored by the promise of a socialist "utopia" and "equality." Those "useful idiots" enjoy a brief period of improvement before the economic realities set in and they realize their new "equality" means they are equally poor and equally dependent. Here's the really bad part: as economic reality sets in, socialist governments inevitably turn to what Lenin and Marx said is necessary to achieve communist utopia: brute force. Socialist nations must resort to force to control large populations' every economic move. Tragically, the "useful idiots" are slow to recognize what that force looks like until the government begins to apply it in earnest to ensure complete compliance. At that point, it is too late. They now live in a society where a small minority of elites live well, and everyone else are paupers and puppets. The "useful idiots" who were lied to for decades now realize that even the "poor" in America were far better off than all but that small number of elites running their new communist "utopias."

The "useful idiots" fell for so many lies. They believed that socialism is not the same as communism, but didn't bother to read history or listen to what the new DSA leaders were actually saying. Marx clearly pointed out in his Das Kapital, Communist Manifesto, and other writings that socialism is not the goal. It is just an essential step in the goal of communism. David Jenkins, DSA leader: "Our goal is liberation. Our goal is communism." Today's socialist is tomorrow's communist; that's the plan. The "useful idiots" also excuse the failure of every historical experiment with socialism by claiming they failed only because it wasn't done right. Insanity has been defined as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Never mind that socialism in the Eastern Bloc worked so well that they had to build a wall to keep people from escaping all that happi-

ness. Somehow all the attempts to cross that wall were all in one direction – away from communism. Venezuela went from one of the richest countries in the world in 1992 to eating zoo animals to survive because of socialism. Like Cuba, 90% of the Venezuelan people are poor and hungry. Cubans and Venezuelans flee to America, not the other way around. Socialist advocates also excuse the failure of Russia's 70-year experiment with socialism by claiming it failed because it wasn't done right. Most people don't realize that Israel is a clear postwar example of a country built on explicitly socialist foundations that then abandoned them when they failed, embraced market reforms, and became dramatically more prosperous as a result. Israel turned from socialism after 1984 when their economy collapsed. The results are undeniable: growth resumed, unemployment fell sharply, and Israel entered a sustained expansion. They transformed into a global innovation powerhouse. Advocates also don't want to talk about the sharp contrast between communist North Korea and capitalist South Korea.

The 'useful idiots' have also been taught to talk about those great socialist countries like Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. None of those countries are socialist, but are instead capitalist countries with extensive social programs. All have a strong private sector, market-based economies, and individual freedom to succeed. That's a far cry from socialism. Sweden actually went broke trying the Marxist experiment. They learned their lesson, reformed, and now have a system that's even more free market than the United States. Norway is filthy rich due to their oil reserves in the North Sea, and can easily afford generous social programs.

Capitalism pulled untold millions out of poverty in recent history. In the 20th century, communist countries who claimed to practice socialism killed more than 100 million of their own people. It is no longer enough for Democrats to try to "fundamentally transform" the United States, something one wouldn't do if they respected and appreciated it. They have now joined with the crazies who want to destroy America. And make no mistake about it, that will start with the replacement or destruction of you – the informed, patriotic middle-class voter anywhere outside of Democrat-controlled cities.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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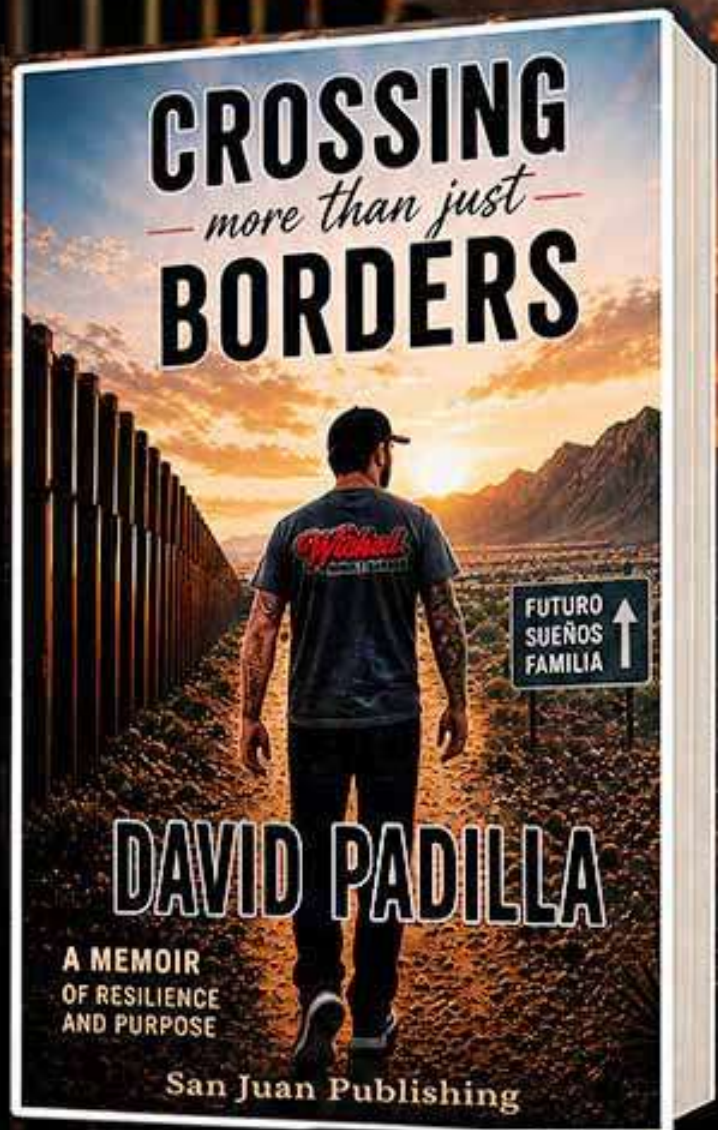
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BOARD PRESIDENT NEISHA BALLECK SHOULD STEP ASIDE

Dear Editor,

There comes a point when the issue is no longer whether one decision was right or wrong. The issue becomes whether the leader making those decisions still has the confidence of the community.

I believe Board President Neisha Balleck has reached that point.

When this board was elected, many people hoped for a fresh start. We were promised accountability, transparency, and a willingness to listen. Instead, within months, our community has become more divided than ever. Our superintendent has been placed on leave. A formal grievance has been filed against the board president alleging retaliation and govern-

ance failures. Teachers, parents, employees, and taxpayers have been forced to pick sides while confidence in district leadership continues to erode. That is not leadership.

Good leaders understand that authority is not the same as trust. Trust is earned by bringing people together, by treating critics with respect, and by making decisions in a way that leaves little room for doubt about your motives. Whether every allegation against President Balleck is ultimately proven is almost secondary to the fact that so many people no longer believe the process has been fair.

I have no interest in protecting personalities. My concern is protecting one of the

most important institutions in Montrose. Our school district belongs to all of us. It is one of the largest employers in our community. It educates the next generation, supports hundreds of families, and shapes Montrose's future. It deserves steady leadership, not constant controversy.

Sometimes the strongest act of leadership is recognizing that your continued presence has become a distraction from the mission itself.

For the sake of restoring public confidence and allowing this district to move forward, I believe President Neisha Balleck should step aside.

Respectfully,

Ryan Hyle, Montrose



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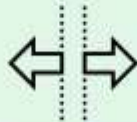
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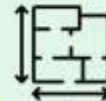
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE GOODNESS OF DOGS & NEIGHBORHOOD DOG PARKS

Editor:

Good evening, Cobble Creek Folks, and fellow Montrose community members.

My name is Randy White. I am a Cobble Creek Home owner, a community volunteer influencer, and a gratified citizen of MONTROSE. I write this in collaboration with my brilliant Dog Curious (Curi) because we think Cobble Creek and Montrose deserves nothing less than the very best of life.

This is about 'The Goodness of Dogs & Neighborhood Dog Parks'. Even though Curi is only 16 months old and 10 pounds he has already earned a BSc in Canine Anthropology and is working on his MSc in Cultural Anthropology. That education together with his socialization in Arizona Dog Parks has enabled a skill set that is extraordinary. Hence I listen carefully to the little guy.

We are Snowbirds who spent last winter in Arizona. We are both regulars in the Neighborhood Dog Park in Quail Creek south of Tucson. Through that dog park, we were able to benefit many of the residents to enjoy times, have more fun and wellness. Residents visit our dog park twice a day and have 'Yappy Hours'. **If you follow the QR code in the ad near to this, it will lead you to view some video clips and you will laugh and cry...**

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We miss those times and feel like we want to have a community Dog Park here in Cobble Creek for our friends n neighbors. And, Curi really wants his Colorado Dog buddies to enjoy open space, safely run free together and amuse owners and visitors. In researching and experiencing I have learned that canines benefit their people enormously. Health and wellness is amplified, and they are much more fun 'n joyful as opposed to lonely and grumpy. Sadly those that are lonely and grumpy, do not understand these things and have become an irritable opposition to a Dog Park in our Cobble Creek community. Some have even gone as far as to call the police when they see some of the sweetest well behaved canines off their leashes, even for a short time! And there have been amplifications of negative thoughts towards all dogs written by the grumpy leaders in our Club at Cobble Creek. They say "just drive your dogs down to Cerese Park and use that dog park". Curi and I tried that and it is hazardous, -full of 'FoxTails' that poke into dog skins and can even hurt their mouths throats and eyes. It is just so much better to stay in our own neighborhood, on good grass, with dogs we know and trust.

I don't want to say too much about all that irritable opposition at this point and will save it for the next article. So stay tuned, and follow on YouTube at "CobbleCreekClub"

Oh, by the way, Curi has in mind to pursue a PhD in Therapy/Service Dog, but that will take some time. (Though there is a fast track available through more time in Dog parks). One final thought is about Anne; she is heartbroken and misses her dog so much. She longs for another to come her way, and also wants neighborhood dog park where she can visit others dogs in the meantime.

Randy White, Montrose

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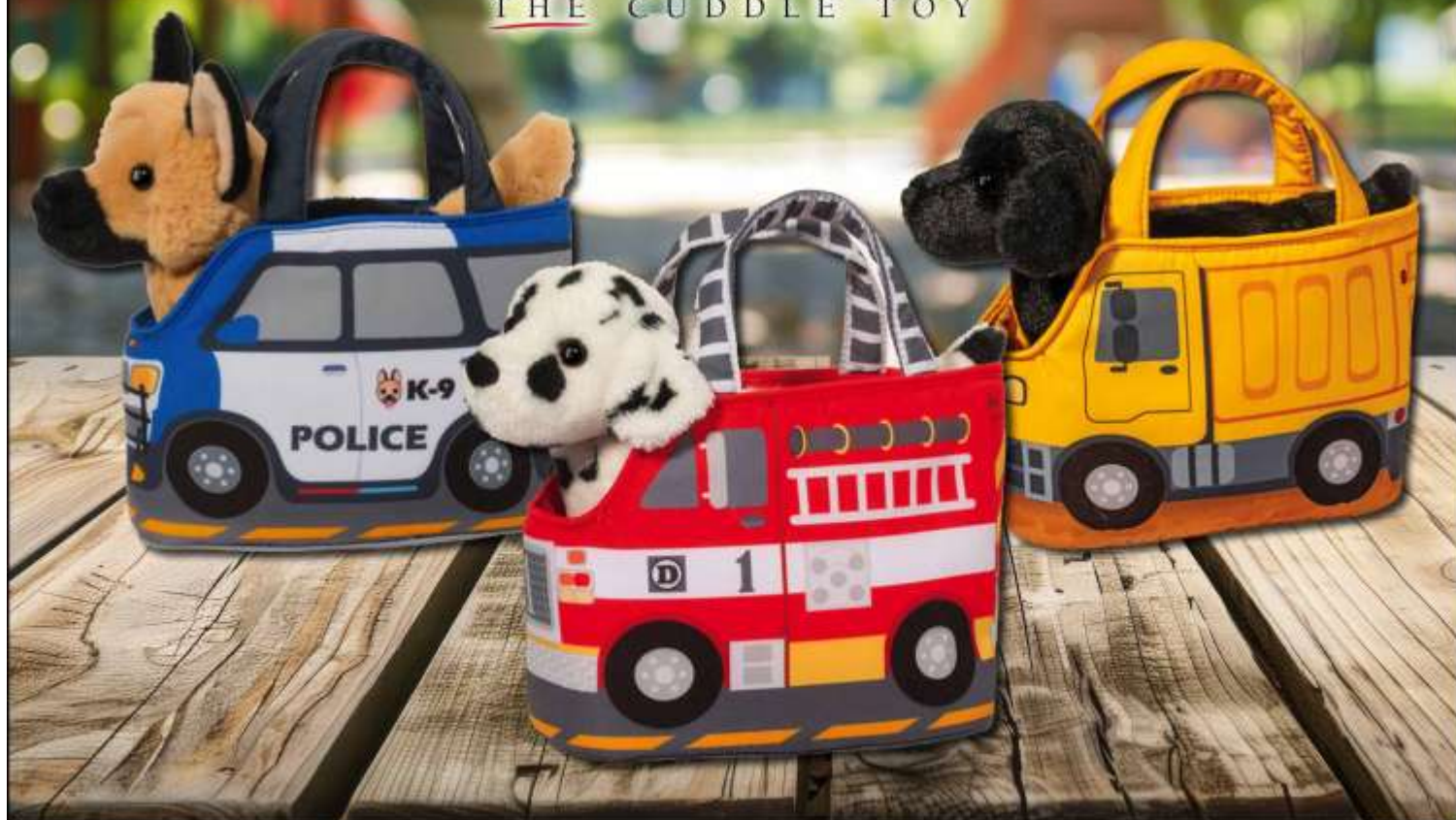


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FACTS

Editor:

In his recent response, David White suggested that I have "close ties" to the City of Montrose and implied that those relationships somehow explain my perspective. I'd like to set the record straight.

Over the years, my work and volunteer service have allowed me to build relationships throughout our community. Those relationships should not be mistaken for allegiance to any one organization, individual, or political viewpoint.

I am a contractor for Region 10, where my position is funded through an AmeriCorps grant, not by Region 10 or the City of Montrose. Montrose Pride partners with the City on logistics for our annual event, as many nonprofits do, but we receive no City funding. The same is true of my volunteer work with the American Red Cross. Throughout my career, I have worked in roles that naturally connected me with people from every corner of our community. I served as Volunteer Coordinator at Montrose Regional Health for two years and later worked for the *Montrose Daily Press* as a Digital Marketing Specialist. During my six months there, Dennis An-

derson, the current publisher, was not employed by the newspaper locally.

Mr. White also questioned the company I keep. The answer is simple: I talk to people. It's something I learned from my father. He taught me to treat everyone with respect and to never be afraid to have a conversation, regardless of a person's title, political affiliation, or background.

On the morning of the Fourth of July, my wife and I volunteered at the Warrior Resource Center, serving pancakes to veterans and thanking them for their service.

We visited with veterans, volunteers, Mayor Michael Badagliacco, Dave Frank, and many others. On any given week, you might find me talking with nonprofit leaders, business owners, church members, elected officials, first responders, or residents who simply want someone to listen.

Those conversations don't make me beholden to anyone. They make me a better listener and a more informed citizen.

I believe strong communities are built when people are willing to cross boundaries, listen to one another, and build relationships instead of assuming motives based on who someone knows. My opinions are my own, shaped by the many

voices I hear, not by loyalty to any individual or institution.

Mr. White also pointed out that Bill Bell has served as City Manager for 15 years. During those years, he has served under numerous City Councils made up of many different elected officials. That doesn't suggest one group controlling the outcome. Instead, it raises a different question: what specifically caused Mr. White to change his opinion of Mr. Bell?

Since Mr. White has served our community as both a City Council member and a County Commissioner, I'd sincerely welcome his perspective on a few questions.

What first caused you to lose confidence in Bill Bell? If you were City Manager today, what are the three things you would do differently? And based on your years of public service, what lessons do you believe today's City Council could learn from your experience?

Healthy communities are strengthened by respectful disagreement, honest questions, and a willingness to listen to one another. Those are conversations worth having, and I hope we continue to have them.

Beth McCorkle, Community Advocate

NEIGHBORS FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IS A NON-PARTISAN COMMUNITY GROUP

Dear Editor:

Forty years ago last month, I moved to Montrose with my family. I knew from previous visits it felt like "home".

Having grown up in a small northwestern Kansas community, I valued knowing almost all the people in our town and county. We rallied in crises and protected each when challenges presented. Common sense and a pragmatic approach to problem solving was expected. Mutual respect, honesty, and integrity in personal business and community concerns gave us a deep feeling of pride. They were the order of the day. I saw and felt those qualities in Montrose 40 years ago. I was proud to live here.

Lately, the explosiveness, the disregard for the rule of law, the personal agendas and vendettas all seem to be alive and well in our "representative" government entities. It is sad to see the drama, divi-

siveness, and personal attacks eroding the morale of our community and the delivery of services to citizens and students. This environment and unprofessional style of leadership creates apathy and discourages many qualified people from running for office. No one wants to be a part of the circus. I, for one, don't recognize our community.

By becoming more involved in local issues, local elections, and nominating well-qualified and informed candidates for office, we can reclaim our community. Citizens that are well informed and remain current on governance topics and issues will be a more responsible and educated electorate. It is imperative that nominated elected candidates become informed and conversant in the local, state, and national regulations for the office they are seeking. Having this awareness allows for more effective and

efficient participation and a seamless transition. Clearly understood and defined responsibilities, role limitations, and job descriptions are important ingredients in successful service and productive government.

Neighbors for Good Governance is a non-partisan community group dedicated to strengthening and stabilizing local governments by supporting candidates dedicated to exemplary leadership skills, accountability and respectful civic discourse. I for one want to return to the type of governance we can respect and a community of which we can be proud. I am committed to staying more informed and educated for the betterment of our community and bringing back respect and civility. Montrose is my home and I love it.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Schneider
Montrose, Colorado

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT SEEKS INPUT FROM COMMUNITY ON GRAND MESA SCENIC BYWAY UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is inviting residents, businesses, visitors, and community stakeholders to participate in a community input session as work continues on an update to the Grand Mesa Scenic Byway [Corridor Management Plan](#). The planning process is being led by Grizzly Peak Consulting on behalf of CDOT, with support from Delta County and Visit Delta County. Together, the partners are working to gather community input to ensure the updated plan reflects the people who live, work, recreate, and travel along the byway.



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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

DHS RESCINDS 2022 BIDEN-ERA REGULATION REGARDING PUBLIC CHARGE DETERMINATIONS

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON— The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has issued a final rule rescinding the 2022 Biden-era regulation regarding public charge determinations, further aligning immigration law with Congressional intent that aliens in the United States be self-reliant and not dependent on taxpayer-funded government benefits. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), an individual applying for a visa, admission, or adjustment of status is inadmissible to the United States if deemed likely at any time to become a

public charge.

The now-rescinded Biden-era regulation restricted which public benefits DHS could consider, limiting officers' ability to review all relevant factors as intended by Congress. With this final rule, USCIS officers are empowered to assess all pertinent facts on a case-by-case basis for each applicant.

"The Trump administration is upholding the rule of law and protecting American taxpayers from subsidizing aliens who may become dependent on public benefits. USCIS is committed to safeguarding

the safety, security, and financial well-being of Americans," said U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services spokesperson Zach Kahler.

The rule will take effect on Sept. 18, 2026. USCIS will publish a revised Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. Older versions of Form I-485 postmarked or submitted electronically on or after the effective date will not be accepted.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on [X](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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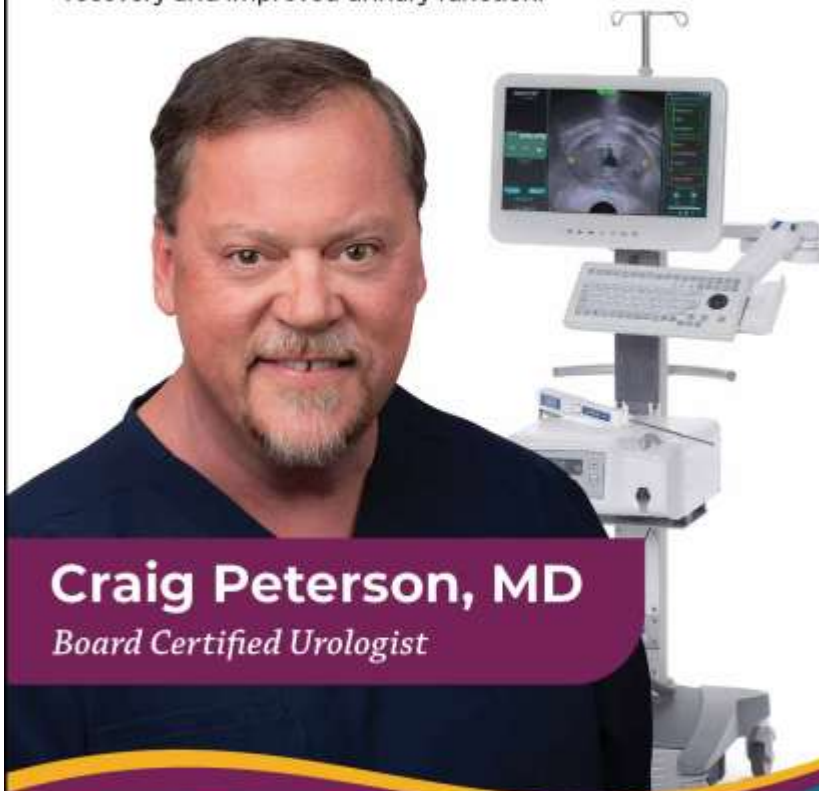
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE POLICE SERGEANT COURTNEY JONES TO SPEAK AT FORUM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, July 22, 8 - 9 AM, The Forum will host Montrose Police Department Sergeant COURTNEY JONES, Western Colorado Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA) Director and Professional Standards Sergeant.

Sergeant Jones will be speaking about the why and how of the development of Montrose's own police academy. The academy, after only 5 years, is ranked second in the state of Colorado of 26 academies!

This year there are 11 cadets sponsored by five law enforcement agencies. After a rigorous screening process, students begin four demanding months of instruction and skill application designed to prepare them to protect the lives and property of residents of the communities they will serve. Students also learn valuable de-escalation skills to manage situations and protect the health and safety of those involved, including their own emotional, mental, and physical wellness.

Sergeant Jones will be joined by Dave Copeland, Police Officer, and Matt Magliaro, Public Safety Attorney for the City. We hope you will join us for this informative presentation.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

TRUMP'S CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

By Don Stott

President Trump has created a savings account for small children, to teach them to save, and so far over six million have signed up. Each child's account will have \$1,000 in it. That's \$6 billion, and as usual, it will be paid by government, and you in the form of ever decreased dollar value.

I was born in 1934, and if I were awarded \$1,000 by FDR, let's see what I could have bought. How about 25 gold Double Eagles and 25 Silver Dollars? That would be \$1,000.

In 1934, the U.S. Mint only made 1,011,000 silver dollars, and assuming they had never been used, but would be like brand new or MS 60, each one would be worth \$32,500. This is not a coin store mark up, but what they would be worth on a wholesale basis. Today 25 would be worth \$812,500.

Twenty five Double Eagles. A gold 'Eagle,' was a \$10 gold coin, and a 'Double Eagle' was twice the size of a single Gold Eagle. There were none made in 1934, as FDR had issued an 'executive order' telling everyone to turn in their gold, for a paper \$20 bill, if you can imagine such a thing. Millions kept their gold! After he collected a lot of gold he raised the gold price from \$20.67 which it had been for a hundred years, to \$35 an ounce, thereby stealing millions from the morons who turned in their gold. I'll go back a couple of years to 1931, and in that year, 3,044,750 gold Double Eagles were made, and today, each one would be worth \$55,000 X 25 = \$1,375,000. \$1,000 worth of gold and silver, 92 years later, would be worth \$2,190,500. Not bad for a \$1,000 input.

Assuming that the initial thousand dollars remained in a bank savings account, today, at 2% compound interest added since 1934 that savings account would have \$2653.38 in it. As is shown above, if that \$1000 had been used to buy then commonly used gold and silver items at 1934 prices, and kept, it would now be worth \$2,190,500 in the same paper dollars as were used in 1934.

If that isn't fair, let's go back to when I started dealing in precious metals, which was 1975. In 1975, \$1,000 would have bought a thousand ounces of silver at a dollar an ounce, and today, as I write this, even at today's super low prices, the 1,000 ounces of silver bought at a dollar an ounce in 1975, would be worth \$56,320. How do I know? I was selling silver at a dollar an ounce then!

From 1975 to today, \$1,000 at 2% compounded interest your savings account would have \$2,653.30 in paper dollars in it. Had you bought from me, in 1975, a thousand ounces of silver at a dollar an ounce and put it in your safe, with no interest, no reporting, no taxes, and being able to leave it to your kids with no inheritance taxes, it would be worth \$56,320.

Could there ever be a better illustration of the beauty of saving your surplus assets in silver and gold, or the futility of saving in dollars? It's fun to write these, as they are a perfect illustration of LOGIC. Save in dollars? Stupid. Save in metals? Logical.

Will metals prices go lower? I haven't the foggiest, but since the budget is never balanced, and the Fed keeps pouring dollars into the system, are there any prices which will not go up? As a kid, I used to buy Quaker State motor oil for 50 cents a quart.

An alarm system is imperative to have in your home or business. Just to say 'hello,' I called David "L" yesterday, and I hadn't talked to him for a long time. Dave has a coin shop 20 miles from me, and he specializes in numismatics with which I never deal. It is sad what has happened to him and his store. It has been broken into twice, and tens of thousands of dollars have been stolen, plus damage to his store, which building he owns. He never bought an alarm system! It's taken him financially down, and he is trying to get rid of his stock so he can sell his 8,000 square foot building. Dave will be OK, since he's 9 years younger than me and is debt free, but I mention this because of Dave, who I would never believe operated a gold and silver business without one. Everyone needs one, and with a camera!

Every homeowner and business person needs guns and several of them distributed in various places. Always shoot to kill, not wound. I've never had to shoot anyone, but if needed, I'm certain I would. I may be 'preaching to the choir,' but Dave "L"'s situation shocked me, so I pass it on.

The United States currently has population of 348 million, and has a \$39.5 trillion debt, or about \$118,000 per person. The Federal Government, so far as spent \$5.5 trillion, and collected \$4.1 trillion, making a deficit of \$1.4 trillion, which is the amount which has been added to the currency supply, either dollars bills, or computer entries, but the bills must be paid, and we never voted for the spending! The dictionary definition of inflation (prices going up) is, "An increase in the currency supply."

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE CITY OF DELTA ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH DURING WILDFIRE SMOKE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Delta County Public Health and the City of Delta are encouraging residents to take precautions as wildfire smoke continues to impact air quality across the region. Smoke from wildfires, even those burning many miles away, can create unhealthy air conditions that affect everyone, particularly those most vulnerable to respiratory and heart conditions.

Wildfire smoke contains fine particles (PM2.5) that can travel deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. Exposure may cause coughing, irritated eyes and throat, headaches, shortness of breath, and can worsen asthma, chronic lung disease, and heart disease.

While everyone can be affected by smoky conditions, extra precautions should be taken by:

- Older adults
- Infants and young children
- Pregnant individuals
- People with asthma, COPD, or other respiratory conditions
- Individuals with heart disease
- Anyone working or exercising outdoors

“As wildfire smoke and high temperatures continue to affect our community, we want residents to know there are actions we can all take to reduce exposure and protect our health,” said Jacqueline Davis, Public Health Director for Delta County Public Health. For those times when staying home or outdoors isn't the safest option, we are grateful to partner with the City of Delta to provide a place where people can find relief from the smoke and heat.”

Cooling and Clean Air Relief Available

The **City of Delta** reminds residents that the **Riverbend Resource Center** is available as a **Cooling Center and Cleaner Air Relief Center** during periods of extreme heat and poor air quality.

“Providing a Clean Air Relief Center within the Cooling Center was the next right step to support our community,” said Elyse Castleberry, City Manager for Delta. “We hope residents will use this resource whenever they need it. It is here to help everyone stay safe and comfortable.”

The center provides an air-conditioned space where residents can cool down, reduce their exposure to wildfire smoke, and take a break from unhealthy outdoor conditions. Individuals without access to air conditioning, those with health conditions, or anyone needing relief from the smoke are encouraged to utilize this resource.

Riverbend Resource Center's hours of operation

320 Main Street, Delta

Open: Monday, 1 pm-5 pm, and Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-3 pm.

Free N95 Masks Available

To help reduce exposure to wildfire smoke, free N95 respirators are available while supplies last at:

- Delta County Public Health
- Delta EMS
- Delta County Sheriff's Office
- North Fork EMS
- North Fork Annex
- Delta Police Department
- Hotchkiss Police Department

Residents should continue monitoring current air quality conditions by visiting [AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov) before spending extended time outdoors, as smoke conditions can change throughout the day depending on weather patterns and wildfire activity.

If you experience severe difficulty breathing, chest pain, or symptoms that do not improve after getting out of the smoke, seek medical attention immediately.

Ways to Reduce Smoke Exposure

Residents are encouraged to:

- Limit outdoor activities, especially strenuous exercise, when air quality is unhealthy.
- Keep windows and doors closed when possible.
- Use air conditioning on the recirculate setting or use a portable HEPA air cleaner if available.
- Wear a properly fitted N95 respirator if extended time outdoors is unavoidable.

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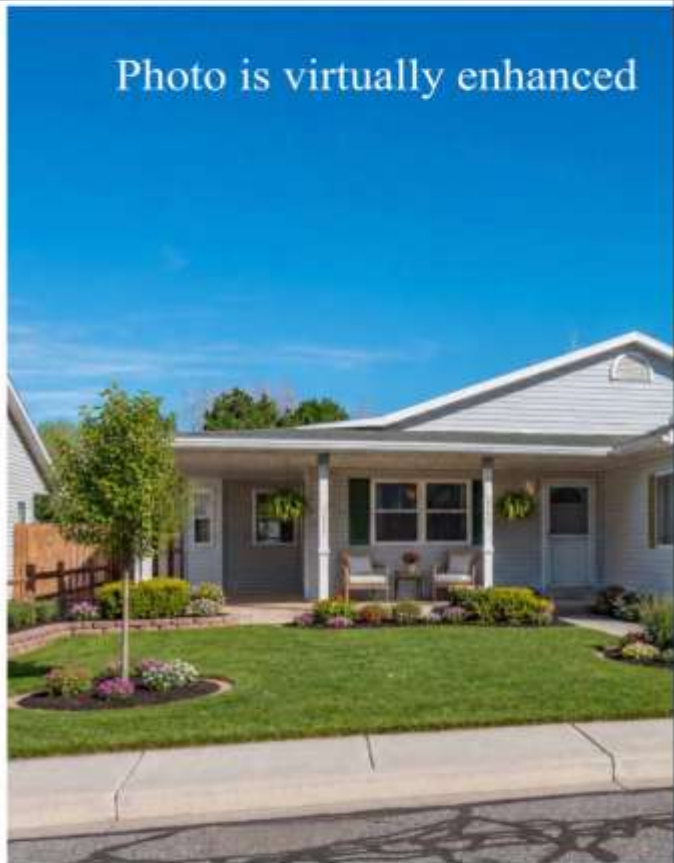
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OPINION/EDITORIAL:COMMENTARY

GOOD GOVERNANCE — BASED ON WHOSE STANDARDS?

Vocal “Community Activists” are Now to Be Arbiters of What is “Good” Governance?

By David White

Emboldened by the successful campaign to recall now former County Commissioner Scott Mijares from office after he had served in office for less than one year, the liberal activists that led that recall effort in our community have now decided that they will dictate what the definition of “governance” at all levels should look like through a newly formed organization by the name of ***Neighbors for Good Governance***.

Mijares was direct, provocative and at times abrasive and seemingly rude which many found to be offensive. However, bringing critical thinking to government from the standpoint of a business owner and private citizen who didn’t have the “polish” that an experienced politician typically has just rubbed the sensitive souls in our community wrong despite the fact that his personality was counter-balanced by the other members of the Board of County Commissioners.

With the proverbial “blood in the water” symbolism of their success, these liberal activists, led by Linda Gann and, if I had to guess, sidekick Phoebe Benziger, incorporated as a non-profit organization Neighbors for Good Governance on June 5, 2026, under Ms. Gann’s name. Their new website (www.nfgg.org) is up and running but bereft of any definitive cause of action outside of the usual liberal playbook jargon such as ***“Local voices for representative leadership in Montrose County”*** or ***“Our work is non-partisan. We do not endorse political parties or ideological platforms — only the values of transparency, accountability, and community.”*** If you believe any of this and the other similar, feel-good, progressive wording on their website, I’ve got a bridge somewhere in New York City to sell you.

Simply put, not content with removing a sitting County Commissioner, their mission is clear...disrupt the political systems found throughout the City and County with community activism that the left has become known for (think Antifa style tac-

tics without the violence). Some of the more vocal individuals associated with the “non-profit” organizations that are now storming the Montrose City Council Chambers every two weeks include members of the Democrat Party, Montrose-Ouray Counties Indivisible, The League of Women Voters, the Western Colorado Alliance, the Hispanic Affairs Council, M.A.D.A., Colorado Rural Voters, Unify Montrose and other similarly constituted organizations.

When reviewing the websites of these organizations and Neighbors for Good Governance (NFGG) more specifically, the theme is the same. “We’re progressives and we want change.” “We want you to govern the way we want you to.” “It’s fine that you listen to other people and points of view, but you’d better vote the way we want you to or else.” There are already rumors circulating that they’re going to try and recall the Mayor of Montrose! Is this how you get what you want? Political discourse and agreeing to disagree are apparently a thing of the past. “Do what I tell you to or else” is now how the game is played. “Oh, don’t worry, I’ll give you all of the “legitimate” information you need to make a good voting decision.” I’ve got you! So goes the theme of NFGG!

From their website:

“We attend and review public meetings so our neighbors don’t have to go it alone.”

“We identify and encourage potential candidates who reflect our community’s values — people motivated by service, not ideology. (Really — how kind of them. NOT!)”

“We make voting straightforward — from your mailbox to the ballot box.”

“Meeting recaps and plain-language issue guides delivered to your inbox and social feeds.”

Again, these statements and more lead one to believe that they and their cohorts are the TRUE arbiters of what “Good Governance” entails.

As an example of the echo chamber that

Ms. Gann and Ms. Benziger live in, here are some statements made in a Facebook post by Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible (aka D3 Indivisible) this past weekend regarding our City Council, County Commissioners and School Board which closely mimics what NFGG is trying to foist on the local populace.

-By volunteering to watch & attend these meetings, you will have the opportunity to play a crucial role in keeping our elected officials accountable, advocating for important issues, alerting citizens to important issues, staying informed & keeping others informed about local policies, initiatives, projects, & representing the voices of our diverse community.

-Your presence at these meetings can make a real difference in shaping the direction of our city, county & schools, and ensuring that the needs and concerns of our community are heard and addressed.

-TOGETHER, let’s watch, attend, and engage in the decision-making process to ensure that our city, schools & county reflect the values and priorities of our diverse community. Your involvement is key to fostering a more informed, inclusive, and participatory local governance.

All of this smacks of these groups attempting an end run around our elected officials. Sorry folks, the elected officials make the decisions. You can give them input and they can gather their own from citizens and their staff members. If you don’t like their decisions (which you won’t at least half the time), then run for office. Stop the recall B.S. Like the good Democratic Socialists they are, that’s not acceptable though. They expect the elected officials to be their mouthpieces. That’s not the way it works folks.

The redundancy and interlinking of these groups that we’re seeing would have you believe that through market saturation and communication on social media; control of the mainstream media through their surrogates staffing the various print and electronic outlets to include those

GOOD GOVERNANCE – BASED ON WHOSE STANDARDS?

From previous pg

funded by the City of Montrose and other grassroots efforts, that the City of Montrose and Montrose County have become bastions of leftist propaganda.

Through these means, it is seemingly stressed that people have to make their own decisions on the issues they're being pressed to advocate for or against. Much of the time, though, the organizer(s) will have a pretty good idea of what the community should be doing, and they will want to suggest, maneuver, and persuade the community toward that action. They will not ever seem to tell the community what to do; instead, they will use loaded questions to lead the community in the direction that they want it to go.

It is quite apparent that the 1971 book by American communist radical Saul Alinsky (Rules for Radicals) is being used as a template for what we see happening in Montrose and Western Colorado. Briefly, ***Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals***, offers guidance to activists on building grassroots movements ***to challenge power structures and achieve social change through nonviolent tactics***. ***It outlines thirteen rules for organizing, including leveraging ridicule, keeping pressure on opponents, and personalizing targets, while emphasizing that ends can justify means depending on context.***

The folks behind these organizations cropping up all over Western Colorado may not understand their roles as pawns in a serious game that seeks to turn us away from the founder's vision for this country and into something that hasn't worked in all of human history. I hope that those on the outside of these organizations can see the forest for the trees and not succumb to the promises of a Nirvana that won't ever come. Stayed tuned. It's going to get more interesting as the months ahead come into focus.

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

CITY OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS OF LATE

What are your Tax Dollars Doing for You or Not!

Water lines, Spy Cameras, City Charter Flaps and more...



By David White

There's only so much news that a person can absorb in a day, week, month or year. In a growing City like Montrose, there's always something going on. You see signs indicating street closures. Or there are postings on Facebook, Instagram, in *The Montrose Mirror* and other publications with more information than you've got time to take in.

With that in mind, here are a few things that don't generally pop up on most of the above outlets' radar screens that you all might find of interest:

East Miami & 6700 Roads Water Line:

From a City news release dated May 4, 2026:

Contractors working on a nearby residential subdivision will be closing Miami Road immediately west of 6700 Road starting on May 6, 2026, in order to perform waterline replacement work. Local traffic to all nearby residences will be maintained throughout the closure; however, it will not be possible to cross the closure area on Miami Road with a vehicle. As a result, local traffic will be detoured to Hillcrest Drive or 6700 Road as shown in the attached overview drawing. The closures are expected to last into mid-June.

Guess what? They're still not finished! Guess why? According to City Engineer Scott Murphy in an email to the Columbine Point East subdivision Homeowner's Association which represents all of the residents in the subdivision that have been totally inconvenienced by this mess, it could be several months before the streets are cleared, the dust, noise and truck traffic brought to an end, etc. Here's some of what he said:

"The contractor was initially on track to be complete before mid-June; however, they were a little rough in their handling of the transite (asbestos-cement) pipe removal and ended up scattering some chips of pipe around the storage area and roadway. There is no immediate risk to the public at this time but given the nature of their work, they are required to work with the State (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, CDPHE) on getting the pipe chips properly cleaned up. We have been in contact with CDPHE as well as a second layer of inspection for the cleanup work. The contractor is working through the cleanup plan and permitting with CDPHE, but we are not sure of the timeline at this point."

He further stated: ***"Unfortunately, since***

this is all regulated by the State, we do not have any control over the timeline and are unsure how long it will take them to get through the process. Worst case I could see this taking several months depending on how that process goes with them."

All of this mess and inconvenience to the public because the contractor got a "little rough" with some old asbestos-cement pipe? Sounds like we've got a lack of oversight by the City on this project as well as a public health hazard that folks need to be assured has been mitigated. The Columbine Point East neighborhood deserves some consideration as well as the traveling public. As of this weekend, East Miami appears to be open to through traffic, but signs and barriers are still present at the site suggesting further closures could occur. More to come on this as I get more information from those involved.

Flock Cameras:

Flock Group, Inc. is a security company based in Atlanta, GA. Their business is surveillance – ground and air. According to sources I've researched, the party line from Flock is that its cameras are automatic license-plate readers that are generally linked together in groups to provide local security to neighborhoods, condo associations, business properties, and the like. The information is then compiled into a short-term database, allowing the proper authorities to review it to help solve crimes — only with customers' permission or a valid search warrant. ***But there are issues right off the bat because at least one Flock functionality actually isn't up to you: The system automatically notifies law enforcement if it flags a plate they're looking for. Additionally, departments can put up their own Flock cameras. Then they're customers, with all the rights of a customer over the information.*** Read more here: <https://www.jalopnik.com/2194735/how-flock-cameras-work/>

CITY OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY From previous pg



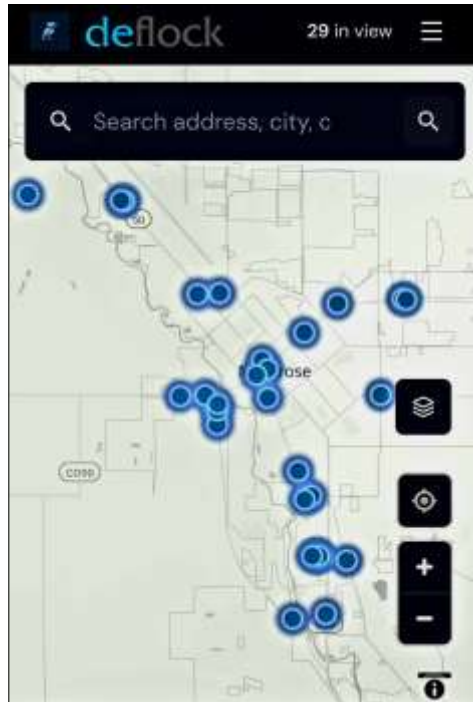
Of concern to me is the potential for misuse as well as the violation of your privacy rights. As always, these things are sold to the citizenry as something good that will help keep you safe. That's true until they turn it on you for purposes outside of what was intended.

The Flock Group readily admits that the external details it can identify extend far beyond what was initially reported. The systems can actually recognize "other visible characteristics" ranging from roof racks to toolboxes. What else could those visible characteristics be? Well, digging deeper finds this choice nugget: "All CJIS data is stored in the AWS GovCloud and is only available to Law Enforcement agencies." CJIS here refers to "Criminal Justice Information System," which is basically any data law enforcement relies on to do its job — and includes biometric and biographic information. So, Flock would seem to be getting that info from its cameras somehow.

In fact, some sources have reported that Flock is indeed building a searchable database of individuals and offering extended video coverage, including live feeds, from its cameras. In other words, your car isn't the only modern technology greedy for your personal data.

So how does this relate to the City of Montrose. According to the website DeFlock (<https://deflock.org/>), there are over 30 Flock cameras in operation in the Montrose and Olathe areas with more coming.

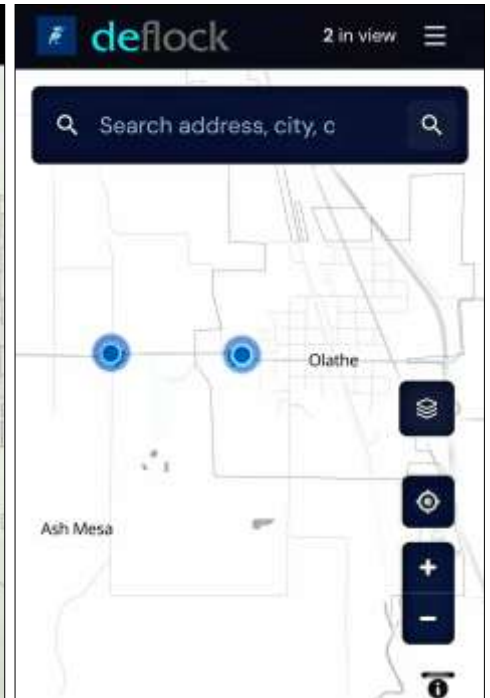
In conducting research for this article, I have found that the City of Montrose has



expended **OVER \$155,000** for the purchase, licensing and maintenance of the Flock Group's camera systems without any public fanfare or notice of the extent of the surveillance being foisted upon us no doubt to keep us all in the dark as to what is going on. Again, keeping us safe is what we pay the Police Department to do. However, this silent and ever-present surveillance is unwarranted in my opinion for a community our size. Starting salaries of \$80,000 a year for a patrolman should warrant an automatic increase in public safety. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is concerned about civil rights violations. 55 localities nationwide have ended their contracts with Flock in the last year alone due to privacy concerns and lawsuits. Ft. Collins, Colorado is one of the more recent cities to do so.

City Charter Proposed Updates:

All of a sudden, the more liberal elements in the community along with Councilors Dave Frank and David Reed are crying foul over the majority of the City Council's decision to consider a review of the City's Charter ***WITHOUT*** establishing a Charter Review Committee or Commission. With their knickers in a knot, they've bombarded the City Council with emails, letters, in person testimony and diatribes exhibiting righteous indignation over the fact that they want a hand in proposing Charter changes. My question for them is quite



simple...Where were you in 2014 and 2025 when the City Council's of the day, in conjunction with the City Manager (the same one we have now), crafted proposed Charter changes and then voted by resolution to put the suggested changes on the ballot for the citizens to vote on? There was no gnashing of teeth by them then. But now? The sky is falling.

It appears that they don't like what's being served up...namely moving the Municipal Elections from April to November to allow for a coordinated election with local City elections combined on a single ballot that would address the traditional Fall Election where County, State and Federal questions are voted on. The dollars that would be saved by doing this are significant. They also don't like the idea of going back to the pre-2014 days when the Police Chief and the City Clerk were ***JOINTLY*** appointed by the City Manager and the City Council.

They also don't seem to like any talk of clipping the City Manager's wings to stem his spending habits as well as his propensity to put "lipstick on the pig" (as I keep saying) while the Police Department (under his total control) hires a full staff of officers and yet can't seem to stem the drug trade and other criminal elements that operate in the shadows with seeming impunity while millions get poured into downtown to make it look pretty while

CITY OF MONTROSE COMMUNITY From previous pg

the decay below the surface continues unabated. Go figure.

Montrose Urban Renewal Authority:

As discussed last week in this space, the City Manager and his friends are planning to increase the number of Urban Renewal Districts in the near future. Coordinating "historic designations" with flimsy at best reasons for some designations is being done to enable grant money to flow into the City to spiff up some old buildings as well as provide clients for entities such as the Colorado Historic Foundation (a glorified mortgage company) as well as some locally "favored son" contractors and business owners and real estate investors. City Council (which sits as the Board of Commissioners for MURA) needs to have a forensic audit done on this Ponzi scheme based, money losing entity.

City Finance Director:

The City's Finance Director (Shani Wittenberg) resigned/retired last month (mid-June) leaving the position vacant. Since then, City Manager Bell has been running the show. Once again, as the job posting for this position makes very clear, the Fi-

nance Director operates under the "General Direction of the City Manager's Office." With the many, many examples this writer has given the public about the misuse of taxpayer money by this City Manager, we now see that the fox is firmly ensconced in the proverbial hen house as he is the defacto Finance Director until one is hired. Not a good look folks if you ask me. The position has been open since May 27, 2026, when it was first advertised with a starting salary of \$133,767.68 annually plus full medical and retirement benefits. After almost 2 months, you'd think it would have attracted a suitable candidate. Who knows, maybe it has, but they haven't told us yet if it has, so I guess we'll find out when it gets filled.

Rio Grande and Oak Grove Roundabout:

Seems as though the contractor originally awarded the contract to build this latest roundabout adjacent to the City's new \$100,000,000 Public Works Complex had a problem getting bonded for the job, so they falsified documents to create a fictitious bond. That's called fraud and the City's legal beagles, or Public Works folks

didn't check it out until the project was about 45% complete. Oops!

The project came to a grinding halt as you might imagine. The contractor took off to Texas last I heard. Thank goodness Ridgeway Valley Enterprises stepped in and are now completing the project. Unfortunately, that critical intersection will be closed on July 27th and will not reopen until the project is completed sometime in September. Hopefully things go better than the disaster over on East Miami and 6700 Road!

That's all for now folks!

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.

DON'T FORGET THE WEST END

Editor:

I believe the people of District 3 deserve better than that.

As the District 3 Commissioner, it is my responsibility to represent the people of the West End, and I take that responsibility seriously. Decisions that directly affect my district should never be made without including the commissioner who represents it. Government works best when those conversations happen openly and transparently.

I will continue fighting for the West End because these aren't just numbers on a spreadsheet.

They're the organizations helping families through difficult times.

They're young people raising livestock and learning responsibility.

They're seniors who deserve the peace of mind of knowing a life saving medical facility is there when every minute counts, especially in one of the most rural and isolated parts of Montrose County.

They're families relying on West End Family Link to put food on the table.

They're volunteers caring for lost and abandoned animals because there is no county animal shelter on the West End.

They're our neighbors.

And they're worth fighting for.

The West End has never asked for special treatment.

We've simply asked not to be forgotten.

Sean M. Pond

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ELEVATE IMPACT MAKES HIGH-SPEED INTERNET MORE AFFORDABLE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Access to reliable, high-speed internet has become essential for work, education, healthcare, and staying connected. To help ensure more local families can access the service they need, Elevate offers Elevate IMPACT, a discount program that provides eligible households with up to \$20 off their monthly internet service.

As a locally owned and operated internet provider, Elevate is committed to expanding digital access throughout Delta and Montrose counties.

"We believe every family deserves access to reliable internet," said Jack Johnston, President of Elevate. "Elevate IMPACT is one of the ways that we support the communities we serve by making internet service more affordable for households that qualify. We are committed to serving our neighbors and helping connect our communities."

Eligible customers may receive a monthly discount of up to \$20 by providing documentation that an individual in their household participates in one of the following assistance programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Federal Pell Grant
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program
- Federal Housing Assistance Programs
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)Lifeline
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

For households already enrolled in the federal Lifeline program, Elevate IMPACT can offer an additional opportunity to reduce the cost of staying connected. Lifeline is a federal benefit that helps eligible low-income consumers pay for communications services. Customers who qualify for Lifeline automatically qualify for Elevate IMPACT.

To learn more about Elevate IMPACT and Lifeline, please visit <https://www.elevateinternet.com/assistance-programs>.

Households that believe they may qualify are encouraged to apply. To learn more about Elevate IMPACT or begin the application process, visit [elevateinternet.com](https://www.elevateinternet.com) or call 844-386-8744.



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**STARTING
JULY 18, 2026**

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SHARON MARIE LOVE GOOD *February 15, 1947 – July 15, 2026*

SHARON MARIE LOVE GOOD'S spirit departed from her body on July 15, 2026, after a recurrence of cancer. Though she is gone to be with her Lord, her positive light will continue to shine through our world.

Sharon Marie Love was born on February 15, 1947, to Samuel Eckert Love and Vesta Marie (Wagner) Love in Axial Basin, Colorado. Her mother died when she was a baby. Sharon attended a one-room country school in Axial Basin. When it was time to move to the town school, her teacher, Eleanor Service, and her husband, Jim, became foster parents to Sharon and her brother, Sam. Sharon attended grades 7–12 in Meeker, Colorado, graduating in 1965.

Sharon attended Bob Jones University in South Carolina to study music. She was there for one year before transferring to Greeley, where she worked on a business degree.

Sharon married Stewart Good on May 5, 1979, and soon after moved to Montrose, Colorado. Together they owned and ran Mountain Valley Book Sellers. In 1980, their son, Charles Samual, was born and died on the same day.

Sharon and Stewart battled cancer together for much of their marriage. Stewart died of lymphoma in 1993. Sharon went into remission for many years.

Growing up in the small town of Meeker, Sharon was acquainted with Roger

Almgren. They reconnected in 2002 in Montrose and spent many wonderful years together. They were members of the Saddle Club and later the 4 Wheeler's Club and the Elks Lodge. Sharon and Roger loved spending time at their farm with their horses, cats, and dogs. They hosted many memorable gatherings of family and friends for barbecues, picnics, and holidays.

Sharon was a lifelong lover of music, especially the piano. She taught keyboarding in the Delta School District for a few years and had many piano and voice students throughout her life. Sharon shared her musical gifts by playing piano at assorted events and venues, including Montrose Christian Church. She enjoyed serving as a 4-H judge at many fairs, combining her joy in mentoring young people with her love of sewing.

Sharon cherished her nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. She always wanted to know what was happening in their lives and loved to visit and be part of major milestones and small moments. Later in life, she loved to see pictures on her phone and send texts with lots of emojis! Sharon had many friends and never met a stranger. She was always ready for a chat, lunch, or a glass of wine on a backyard patio. Her strong, positive spirit lives on in the many family and friends she leaves behind.

Sharon is survived by her love, Roger



Almgren; brother Sam (Ginny) Love of Meeker; sister Lois Roe of Mesquite, Nevada; brother Pat of Grants Pass, Oregon; sister Jane Bennight of Cloverdale, California; and assorted nieces and nephews. She loved Roger's children as her own, as well as their children, whom she considered her grandchildren. To those grandchildren, she was their beloved Granny.

Services will be held at Montrose Christian Church (dress church casual). Burial will be at Cedar Creek Cemetery immediately following service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Montrose Christian Church.



ISSUE 583 July 20, 2026

ART & SOL

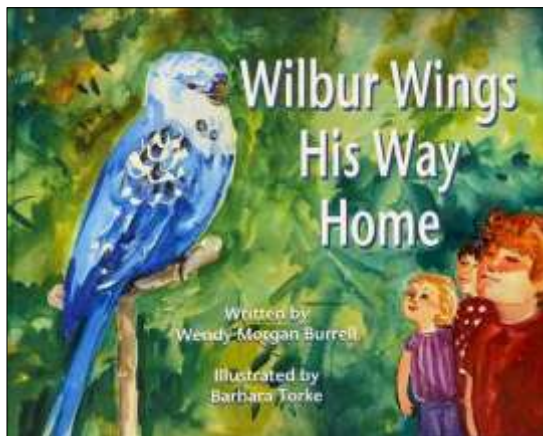


BOOK FAIR

September 19th - UTE MUSEUM - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Meet the Authors, Artists, & Publishers

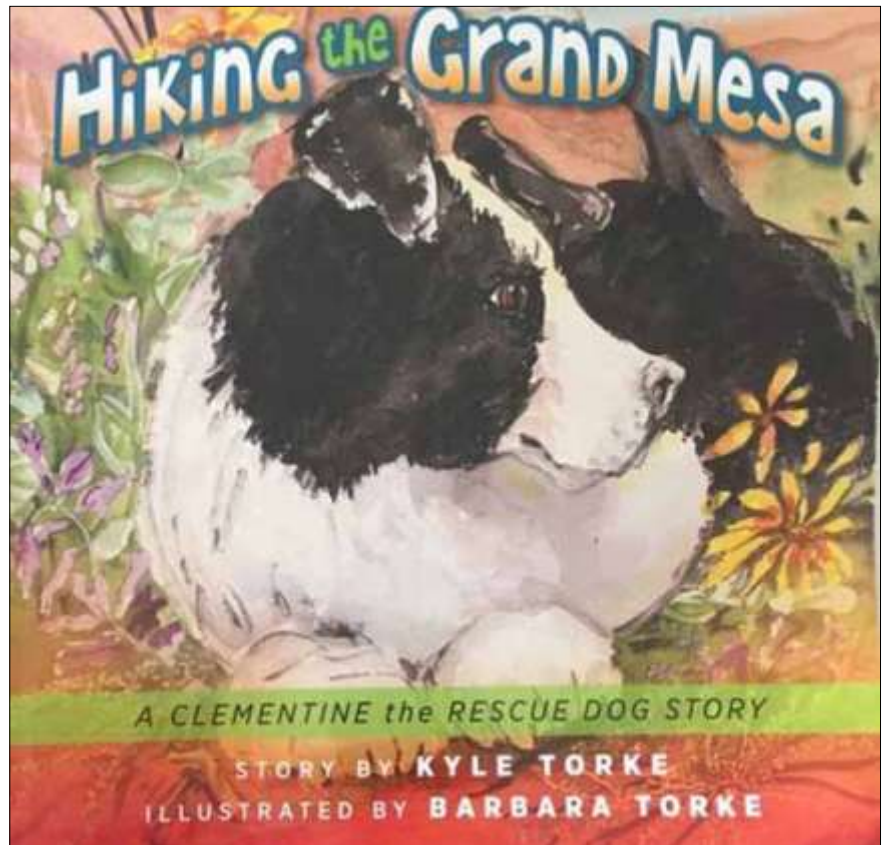


BARBARA TORKE, ARTIST, AUTHOR, EDUCATOR



By Kathryn R. Burke

REGIONAL—Her first thought in the morning is usually: “Let’s see what I can come up with next!” Barbara Torke’s imagination is infinite. She is one of the most creative people I know. She paints. She draws. She plays the guitar. She writes books, poems, and short stories and illustrates them—along with books written by others—with her clever, humorous caricatures. She also teaches adult art and hosts a weekly Friday ‘salon’ for fellow artists. “They give me lots of ideas, too.” Barb is a mom, a grandmother, and a pet owner (all inspirations for her artwork, some of which is done on commission). She’s a retired public-school teacher (with a master’s degree in art), and a recovering hiker/camper who used to lead art expeditions into the region’s scenic areas. “Not so much, anymore,” she says. “I’m slowing down a little.” But I



Continued next pg

BARBARA TORKE, ARTIST, AUTHOR, EDUCATOR

From pg 1

don't believe her. She's too busy!

As an artist, Barb also participates in local shows at the AppleShed and the Grand Mesa Art & Entertainment Center in her hometown, Cedaredge, as well as the Creamery in Hotchkiss, and the Confluence Gallery in Grand Junction. Even from across the room, it's easy to spot Barb's work—clever, compelling, and fun! Mostly kids and animals, her favorite subjects. "I did a bunch of frog drawings, once," she notes. "They have so much personality."

When we visited on the phone, I asked her what she plans to do next. "I don't know. Whatever I feel like doing, When something gives me an idea, I go ahead and take a look at it. Maybe get something started, see what I can do. I love to illustrate, and I love to write."

Barb has been doing both since she was a little kid when, to keep her busy, her teacher had her (and some other kids) write stories. "We got a candy bar for every story. I've been writing ever sense." (Snickers and PayDay were her favorites.)

Where does she get her ideas? Whatever tickles her fancy. For example, to entertain her grandsons, who love dinosaurs, she started writing and illustrating stories about them. "We'd go out hiking on the Grand Mesa, out into the adobes, where the kids could climb and play. There were dinosaurs in this area, so I added a little history, and gave them fun things to do. I created these little stories where the dinos were roller skating, playing soccer, walking on a beach where there are lots of different fish and creatures. I'd write about these two boys, Coover and Conrad, having adventures. The sources for fun drawings are limitless." (Like her imagination!)

Barb has also illustrated some books for San Juan Publishing, most recently one for Dr. Mary Vader, a hilarious memoir of the crazy things kids do say. Before that she illustrated a book for us that was written by Wendy Burrell about a parrot who gets lost and finds his way home. We'll have copies of both at the 1st Annual Montrose Book Fair, & Festival, Sept. 19 at the Ute Museum.

Barb Torke will be a participant and have her artwork and copies of her books (written by her son Kyle, illustrated by her) at the event. Stop by for a visit. Bet she can get your creative juices flowing!

View Barb's art and various collections on her website, <https://barbara-torke.pixels.com>
<https://barbaratorkeart.com/>



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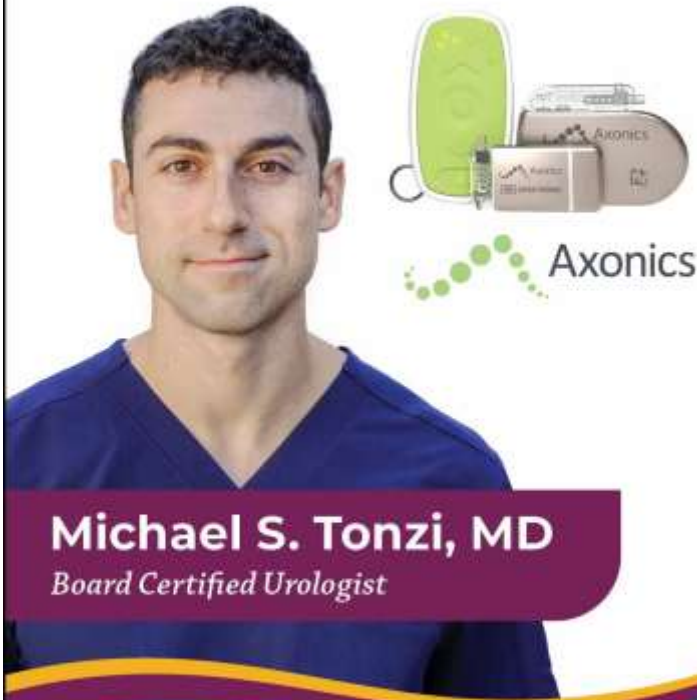


COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

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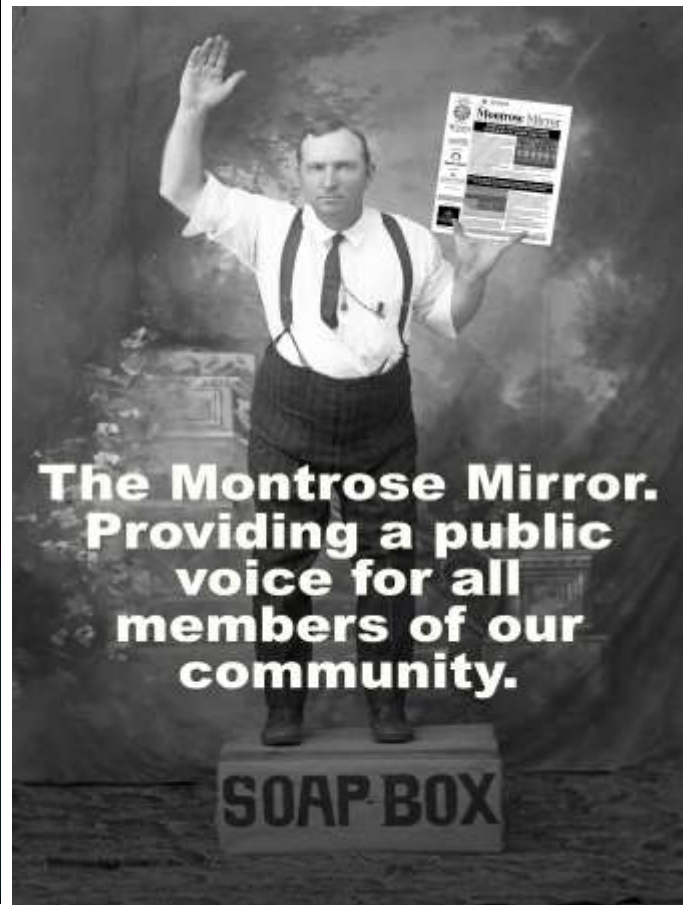
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MontroseHealth.com/Urology

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS OF WESTERN COLORADO TO MEET

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, July 23, for their annual picnic at Rotary Park, corner of S. 12th and Park Street in Montrose. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and share. Members who participated in the Black Canyon Quilt Show challenge, My Colorado, will bring their quilts and talk about their Colorado experience. Questions? 360.448.0153.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO DAY — AUGUST 1: FUN WITH HISTORY AND ART

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Join Montrose Center for Arts (MCA), the Montrose County Historical Museum, the Museum of the Mountain West, the Ute Indian Museum, and the Montrose Children's Museum, for a day of fun with art and history, and help us celebrate Colorado Day, Aug. 1. Colorado Day commemorates the date in 1876 when President Ulysses S. Grant signed the proclamation admitting Colorado to the Union as the 38th state. Since we are celebrating 150 years of statehood this year, join the arts and historical community on August 1 to mark the occasion and make the event memorable.

Montrose Center for Arts

MCA is always free to the public, but to celebrate our heritage, we will be offering special demonstrations of traditional artwork.

-11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Linda Beach demonstrating rag rug twining

-1 – 3 p.m. Verna Mullet demonstrating machine quilting

-3 – 5 p.m. Sandy Martin demonstrating basket making

Hours: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: 205 E. Main Street, Montrose

The MCA will be showcasing *Material Matters 2: Colorado Fiber Art* in the main gallery, where Colorado fiber artists share their love of fabrics, textiles, fibers, yarn, and threads and revel in their magical creations. In addition, the Cottonwood and Ponderosa Rooms will have a celebration of America's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th anniversary with the *250/150 Exhibit*, as well as the MCA Marketplace with all kinds of unique gifts, cards, jewelry, and more.

Museum of the Mountain West

The Museum of the Mountain West will offer two tickets for the price of one, for both guided tours and self-guided tours. Visitors will be free to photograph exhibits and buildings on the premises and take a premier tour of the newest acquisition, the restored Second Empire House which used to sit at the corner of 5th Street and Selig, across the street from Montrose High School. In addition, children may be interested in touring the Jutten School House, where a guide will talk about the history of the school and the various period artifacts that are displayed.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: 68169 Miami Rd, Montrose

Ute Indian Museum

The Ute Indian Museum is offering free admission all day, self-guided tours, adult and children's cultural classes in the morning, films all day, and special sales in the gift shop.

Hours: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: 17253 Chipeta Rd, Montrose

The Montrose County Historical Museum

Along with free museum admission and self-guided tours, the Montrose Country Historical Museum will be offering a free hands-on braided rag rug activity — no sewing and so easy!

Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: 21 N. Rio Grande Ave, Montrose

The Montrose Children's Museum

The Children's Museum is offering discounted admission and self-guided tours, as well as special art classes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. provided by MCA artist and Montrose High School art teacher Katie Jenkins.

Hours: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: 221 Colorado Ave., Suite A., Montrose



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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?

Premier Sponsor:

Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

**Jimmer's BBQ,
Burgers & Beer**
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442





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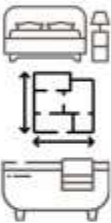


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Delightful sunny, new home, completion expected by Aug. 15, 2026. 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage, tile, laminate, quartz, large back yard, covered porch faces East, morning coffee anyone?



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

CENTURY 21 ELEVATE 500 E MAIN
970-249-5673 THE-RES.COM

LUXURY HOME IN BROWN RANCH



Offered at \$739,900

3625 Mocha Ct. MLS # 836972

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?



Peg Evanoika

970-209-3934 Realtor@PegEvanoika.com

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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 17-25-Montrose County Fair & Rodeo-Montrose County Fairgrounds. For more information visit <https://montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com/>

JULY 22-On Wednesday, July 22, 8 - 9 AM, The Forum will host Montrose Police Department Sergeant Courtney Jones, Western Colorado Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA) Director and Professional Standards Sergeant.

JULY 23-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, July 23, for their annual picnic at Rotary Park, corner of S. 12th and Park Street in Montrose. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and share. Members who participated in the Black Canyon Quilt Show challenge, My Colorado, will bring their quilts and talk about their Colorado experience. Questions? 360.448.0153.

Aug. 4-Tuesday Aug. 4 at 5pm at Hispanic Project 504 N st Montrose, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to promote Local solutions to pollution, environmental, Nonpartisan All Welcome info 970-765-9095.

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

SET UP DAY AT THE MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR!



Saturday was a set up day at Friendship Hall, As 4-Hers across the County get ready to display their hard work to Fair goers. Above, Zoe and Eldon at their booth. Mirror staff photo.

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