



ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION



FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE!

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EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS, A RETIREMENT, AN OUTAGE SPARKED BY A RACCOON *Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Holds A Regular Meeting*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On July 28, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3pm. All board members were present in person.

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

Introductions: Attendees were comprised of board members, department heads, staff, and virtual guest/member Joseph Gill. CEO Jack Johnston gave the Board information on upcoming changes in staff personnel/titles:

As of August 13:

-Katie Yergensen will be promoted to Chief Communications Officer

-Sarah Abbott will be promoted to Chief Administrative Officer & General Counsel

-Amy Gavell will take on the added role of Operation Round-Up Executive Director

-Chad Stickler, Chief Safety Officer, will retire as of Oct. 1.

General Business

Action Item: Consent Items

-Membership & Meter Report

Continued pg 34



The regular DMEA Board of Directors Meeting was held on July 28. (L to R) CEO Jack Johnston presented to Director Enno Heuscher a Certificate of Achievement. Heuscher completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director Program. Photo by Gail Marvel.

WHEN WE TURNED FIFTY

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-As Colorado turns 150 years old as a state, there are numerous celebrations and recognitions of the, "Centennial State;" but when we turned 50, back in 1926, there was comparatively little celebration. In fact, the recognition of the telephone probably received more attention than Colorado's birthday that year.

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Bell ran a few wires from his room to his assistant's room in the same building and talked to his assistant over Bell's new invention. In 1926, that event was celebrating its 50th year along with Colorado. The Bell System, as it became known, became the most popular business in the nation. Bell's few words, "Watson, come here, I need you," have etched their way into history.

Governor Clarence Morley was only seven years old when Colorado became a state, but, as Governor, he had the opportunity to recognize the state's bicentennial. Morely proved to be a

Continued pg 25



The first telephone in the Whitehouse was installed in the telegraph room the year after Calvin Coolidge went out of office; a phone was not put in the Oval Office until many years later. Photo from the National Archives.

*Lauren Hall Ruddell:
Your Brain on Nature!*

*Montrose Teen Hopes to
Take his Game to Spain!*

*Mayor's Minute:
By Mayor Michael Badaqliacco!*

Cartoon by Tim Jones!

Saturday Closure

The Montrose Regional Library will be closed on Saturdays starting August 1, 2026.

The library will remain open

Mon-Thurs 10-7, Fri 10-6, and Sunday 1-5.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Saturday, Aug. 8, 9 - 11am - Jewels of the Air: The Hummingbird's Secret Mission. Join the experts from the Black Canyon Audubon Society (BCAS) at the Ridgway State Park Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Ponds. Perfect for families and bird lovers who want an up-close look at the world's smallest high-performance pilots. From their impossible flight patterns to their epic migrations, you'll discover the incredible "superpowers" that make hummingbirds some of the most mysterious and magical creatures in the park. FREE (Park pass required for entry). For information see <https://cpw.state.co.us/event/education/2026/08/jewels-air-hummingbirds-secret-mission>

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On July 12, 2026, Canadian pilot Nicholas Dale tragically lost his life fighting the Gold Mountain Fire near Silverjack. He leaves behind a wife and two small children. To show that our community cares, local Realtor, Debra Walker is organizing a card drive to surround the Dale family with messages of gratitude and comfort. In addition, Alpine Bank has established a dedicated fund to offer direct financial support, launching the effort with an initial \$10,000 donation.

How you can wrap your arms around the Dale family:

- Send a Card of Encouragement: Drop off sympathy cards or fill one out on site at the Artisan Market (443 East Main St.) or at the MADA Fiesta booth on August 17th
- Donate to the Family Fund: Alpine Bank is collecting community donations through August 31, with 100% of all funds going straight to the family.
- Give Online or In Person: Contributions can be made at any Alpine Bank location or online at alpinebank.com/goldmtnfire.

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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

Fresh news for busy people

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Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of more than 35,000 across the region and around the world

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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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MIJARES WAS REMOVED BY A COUP, NOT THE BALLOT

Editor:

In the July 27th Mirror edition, Aimee Tooker, claims that the Central Committee of the Montrose County Republican Party should have vetted Scott Mijares and Sean Pond. She conveniently overlooks or ignores the fact that the Central Committee was not responsible for vetting Mijares. He was in fact vetted by the registered Party members in the 2024 Primary who elected him due in part to his success as an entrepreneur or business owner, creating and managing budgets, conservative values, platform, and he invested his "own money" in the community (did not accept one penny or tax break by the City that a few other businesses accepted) over his Primary opponent who had existing Federal Tax Liens going back years, filed bankruptcy, and had no demonstrable successful business experience. The choice for County Commissioner that involves developing and implementing a multi-million dollar county budget clearly demonstrated that Mijares was the far better candidate for the Montrose County Republican Party. His opponent with the above mentioned Federal Liens, however, was supported by Commissioner Sue Hansen.

Sean Pond was the one elected by the

Central Committee to fill a vacancy under State statute and the Party's By-Laws. He had an opponent, and again Commissioner Hansen endorsed him too, yet her guy lost!

Aimee Tooker apparently overlooks too or ignores the fact that Mijares replacement, Kirstin Copeland, was not vetted. We hardly knew of her record and platform, yet she was elected with far less votes than Mijares. This was not democratic and violated the will of the people that elected Mijares. In Monty George's letter printed on July 20th in the Mirror, he stated the recall that removed Mijares was a COUP!

Tooker also states that "good people are bullied or falsely accused". She is correct on this one, because the group behind the Mijares recall aligned themselves with those that falsely accused Mijares and his supporters, during 2024 Primary violated the Party members First Amendment right to peacefully assemble with violent outbursts and verbal assaults, violated pre-Primary neutrality By-Laws (e.g. their beloved Sue Hansen) etc etc. As for Hansen, David White's July 27th article on her is just the beginning of shining the light on her real record and conduct. This is what Mijares was up against. Sue Hansen op-

posed him during the Primary as previously stated and opposed him for the General Election. The latter was far worse since Hansen was a registered Republican (at that time) who failed to support the Party's candidate.

In fact, Hansen and her colleagues rushed through hiring a new County Manager who was not qualified rather than allow the newly elected Commissioners make that decision as well as rushed to sign-off on the North Campus. This has already resulted in the financial boondoggle even before construction is completed that Mijares tried to prevent. Unfortunately for him and our community his style or abrasive manner resulted in the recall. The substance of the issues he raised for making our County a better community and being fiscally responsible were overlooked. But then his opponents never accepted his election victory and thereby his platform, so he had to be removed not by the ballot but again by a COUP.

Today some of the same players are calling for the removal of our newly elected School Board President and Town Mayor, because again they will not accept the election results.

John Brown, Montrose

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Inside, the front entry opens up to a bright, open-concept floor plan with high-end finishes and plenty of natural sunlight. The large, warm living room features a cozy gas fireplace and a convenient adjoining office. The beautiful kitchen is equipped with rich custom green cupboards, quartz counter tops, stainless steel appliances, a raised breakfast bar, and a huge pantry. There is ample storage throughout the home, including two coat closets, laundry room storage, and a large primary suite retreat with a walk-in closet featuring built-in drawers and shelves. Upstairs, there is also a large bonus room perfect for a media room, fitness space, or guest room. The outdoor space is equally impressive. Because the house faces west, the backyard gets the morning sun and is shaded in the afternoons and features a large covered concrete patio, a large lawn with a sprinkler system, trees, decorative rock landscaping, and an attractive split-rail fence. The front view feels open and looks out onto a well-maintained vacant space owned by the neighbors, while the back porch offers a beautiful view of the San Juan Mountains.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ELECTIONS ARE NOT FAR AWAY

Editor:

Pedophiles Rejoice: Some dismal statistics from the Wall Street Apes @WallStreetApes:

- Over 70% of child rapists get ONLY PROBATION in Colorado.

Under Democrats Colorado is:

- Number 1 in car theft
- Number 2 most dangerous state in the country
- Number 4 in rape
- Number 4 in property crime
- Number 8, highest violent crime rate
- Number 10 highest rate of human trafficking
- Over 70% of child rapists get only probation

"A bill initiated by GOP rep Brandy Bradley that would mandate jail time for child rapists was killed by the Democrats 3 years in a row. It was killed under current law. You can rape up to 3 children and still get probation, making Colorado the most pedophile friendly state in the country"

This is 100% true, the bills being referenced are HB25-1073 and SB26-111

But it doesn't stop there

- Colorado has one of the highest per capita rates of certain sex offenses - Colorado ranks among the least affordable states in the country, recently as low as 47th
- Tens of thousands of Coloradans become homeless annually, they now rank 10th in homelessness
- Colorado has one of the worst teacher pay gaps in the country despite Democrats narrative of wanting to pay teachers more
- Colorado has 3rd highest rate in the nation for fentanyl overdoses. Here's why Colorado gives child sex offenders probation: Under Colorado's Sex Offender Lifetime Supervision Act, judges currently have the discretion to sentence people convicted of Class 3 or Class 4 felony sexual assault on a child to supervised probation instead of prison

This even goes for offenders in "position of trust" cases. So basically everyone gets a free pass and gets probation In order to actually get a real punishment for being a child sex offender you basically have to be a repeat offender or also have violence involved.

Above quoted from Wall Street Apes. Colorado's October/November elections are not far away.

Richard Wojciechowski, Ouray County

COUNCIL WAS SURPRISED BY THE QUESTIONS AND HAD NO ANSWERS

Editor:

At the City Council meeting July 29, discussed were two of seven amendments to the City's Charter, its "Constitution," no less. Seven are being proposed to add to the November ballot by the mayor. They are strongly opposed by many citizens, and two Councilors.

In public comments concerning the first two were surfaced issues of serious "unintended consequences," issues that very obviously surprised the Councilors. Issues produced by research done by the citizens, in public comments. The Council was surprised by the questions and had no answers. The Councilors obviously had not done their homework, but the citizens had.

Also mentioned, were a number of dead-

lines to be met in the process toward the ballot, some also to the surprise of the Council. Producing clear and concise ballot language of just these two amendments timely caused the City Attorney to lose color.

Directing the drafting of the amendments is the responsibility of the Councilors, very obviously not prepared to do their job thoroughly, let alone timely. Responsibility to be completely sure that these amendments and all consequences are known and understood belongs to the Council. For the voters to thoroughly understand the changes, to support their informed choices in November, is also the job of the Council, not the staff, or the voters. If the Council fail to understand their own demanded changes, how can the voters do

so?

Many urgent requests from the public and from two of the Councilors for a commission allowing members of the public to complete a thorough review of any amendments have been ignored by the mayor and his two sycophant Councilors. The response from the mayor is to "let the people decide" by their votes in November, and to shut down discussion of a commission by Councilors and the public. The November ballot, as of last night, was just 97 days away.

Despite repeated questions about the "rush" by the mayor, despite no clearly specified benefits provided by them, no clear reason for that "rush", no clear intent for the changes, it continues.

Jan Edwards, Montrose



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TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PROPERTIES!



MLS # 837577 | 19685 Hwy 550 | GARY COOPER

Located on a beautiful and private 3 irrigated acres south of Montrose, this property boasts numerous pine, shade, and fruit trees. The property features a 42'x48' Clearly building with ample room for cars and additional toys. The home has a beautiful kitchen with stainless steel appliances, oak cabinets, and granite countertops. Approximately 1/2 of the property is fenced with elk fence, with the remaining property in irrigated pasture. Horsefly Creek runs through the northwest corner of the property.



MLS #837503 | 310 S Townsend Avenue | DAVID KIENHOLZ

Many possible uses for this high exposure location, plenty of room for off-street parking for the many uses that are allowed for this location. Building is solid and can be remodeled for allowed uses. 3 overhead doors that could become windows. This property has been released from any further environmental clean-up and the Broker will place documentation affirming that in Associated Docs. This property was priced allowing for remodeling and upgrading of the lot and the structure.



MLS #836386 | Tbd Divide/Davewood Road | JUSTIN CONVINGTON

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MLS #830946 | 3200 Ravens Crest | DEE HOLMAN

This 5 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 3 Car garage home is located in the desirable Raven's Crest Subdivision. The home was recently painted, sets on a corner lot. The home is very open, the kitchen opens up into the large living room with sliding glass doors to the private backyard. There is a lot of tile 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.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BILL BELL IS KNOWN AS A MASTER MANIPULATOR

Editor:

As it is in far too many instances, local politics is a direct reflection of what we see day-to-day on the national level. Over several decades, the once great Democrat party that put the welfare of our country first and foremost, has been hijacked by liberal progressive socialist/communist ideology. Their modus operandi involves intimidation, resistance, obfuscation, deception, and just plain lying to achieve, retaining or recapturing political power. That dark side of the Democrat party raised its ugly head here in Montrose with the Mijares recall and it used all of the Alinsky tools to convince a gullible voting public that a recall was necessary. That sad chapter was orchestrated by Sue Hansen and the local socialist/communists that live among us.

Subsequent to the recent Montrose City Council election, the balance of power in the city has suddenly shifted and those same ideologues have once again raised their ugly heads to resist and impede a much needed change of direction in our city government. The same nucleus of individuals that orchestrated the Mijares Recall have now started another liberal progressive socialist/communist nonprofit suspiciously named neighbors for good governance. However, based on what has occurred in our city government under Bill Bell's tenure as City Manager, I doubt that any of them would recognize good government if it stared them in the face.

During the first couple of years of his tenure as City Manager, Bill Bell weeded out and fired city employees that were not intimidated by him. With the Charter change approved in 2014 he took total control of our city government as his own little fiefdom during which he has managed by manipulation and intimidation. Multiple City Council members have allowed this to happen, all to the detriment of Montrose taxpayers. Where were those good "neighbors for the good governance" during all of these years?? But the real question is why did a long list of City Council members never question the direction of our city govern-

ment?

Bill Bell is known as a master manipulator and few members of the public are aware of the fact that when new council members come on board, he requires them to fill out a psychological profile for him. Why would a city employee require a psychological report on his employers who sit on City Council??? The answer is as plain as a nose on your face. For years, he used those psychological reports to manipulate council members who were easily and unknowingly swayed to adopt his bidding. Thankfully, our two newest council members have declined to participate in Bell's manipulation scheme by

refusing to fill out his psychological profile.

Finally, we have a couple of city council members with a clear understanding of the employer/employee relationship. Make no mistake, NFGG, non-profit, was formed to create dissension among Montrose citizens solely because of the power shift in our local government. Citizens should consider anything that comes from this group with a giant grain of salt. If you have questions, contact your elected representatives. And attend work sessions, either in person or by Zoom to fully understand the issues in question.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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We can't explain every blurry photo, mysterious footprint, or late-night sighting. What we can tell you is that our team works hard every day to connect homes, businesses, and communities with legendary fiber internet. Still, as our network continues to grow, so do the theories. Coincidence? Maybe. But we're starting to understand why some folks think there might be something—or someone—helping us along the way.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

NEGATIVE PATTERN EMERGING WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Dear Editor,

There is a pattern that is emerging from research into the results of what has happened to Colorado School Districts that hired the law firm of Miller, Farmer, and Carlson to represent the district. Information from school districts including Pueblo, Cortez, and Woodland Park has been included in this analysis as well as information from Colorado Revised Statutes (Sub Section 22-32-1050).

Escalating Legal Fees: Districts retaining this firm have experienced massive spikes in legal expenditures as boards appear to pivot from routine administration to aggressive, ideology driven litigation. Districts such as Woodland Park have experienced excessive judgements (almost \$150,000) when the board president has violated state law and signed contracts

without board approval.

Superintendent and Policy Shifts: The arrival of this law firm often coincides with the hiring of a new superintendent, adoption of severe right wing academic standards, and immediate conflict over meeting laws and board transparency.

Legal Battles: The firm puts districts into risky positions by advising board against state laws and standards. The firm does not protect the board or the district from questionable acts on the part of the board.

Backlash and Terminations: The introduction of the firm often bypasses standard, transparent bidding and board processes. Board meetings have resulted in censoring of complaints and inputs from employees. Districts have suffered the loss of employee morale, and employees

have quit in frustration. The net result is serious community pushback, lack of trust in the board, and eventual termination of the firm by a new board.

However, damage is already done. Schools have lost employees; boards lose the trust of the public and it takes years to recover.

If this sounds about like what is happening to our district now, I believe you are correct.

Neisha, the board president, has already signed two contracts before receiving board approval, the superintendent is on suspension, the district is paying very steep legal fees, and some staff have already left. Why not replace this firm now before more damage is done?

Yours,

Bob Nicholson, Montrose

AFFILIATION DERANGEMENT SYNDROME

“Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth,” Albert Einstein

Editor:

These are unnecessarily divisive times. We are constantly marketed to that our beliefs and actions must be wholly committed to either D or R, never straying.

Honest reflection may help us realize that we are being advertised to by egomaniacal zealots and charlatans focused on grandiose, self-serving agendas. Their true affiliation is “M” (“Me” and “Mine”).

While bloviating and constantly failing to deliver, masses suffer, and these “leaders” shirk accountability. True Leaders (purposeful Proper Noun) are not idle while masses suffer, and Leaders certainly don’t cause the suffering of masses.

As a scholar of history and a business and community leader for decades, I have seen leaders who do not care about the long-term betterment of society and only “lead” their followers, and everyone unfortunate enough to be collateral damage, to ruin. The harm and destruction left in

their wake is costly and can take decades to repair.

Let’s compare the Leadership of two Roosevelts with current local, state, and federal leadership. Both Roosevelts were instrumental in the positive, inclusive, and enduring growth of this great nation, and both recognized the benefits of bipartisanship.

Theodore Roosevelt’s Republican presidency led the federal government toward more business regulation, increased labor protections, and expanded environmental conservation. Conversely, modern Republican leadership neglects these three public benefits, eliminating or minimizing Agencies that protect consumers and the public, dismantling labor rights and occupational safety measures, and exploiting public lands for short-term profits and to appease their donors.

Democrat Franklin Roosevelt created jobs for millions of unemployed Americans

through the CCC, pressed for the Glass-Steagall Act to protect Americans’ bank deposits, and signed the Agricultural Adjustment Act to subsidize struggling farmers. Today’s Democratic leaders are too divided to be effective and are suppressed by a Democratic establishment that fears change. Their dysfunction has allowed the current Administration to remove banking safety mechanisms, present an agenda for crypto to operate in 401(k) funds, and started trade wars leaving 44% of farmers reporting they are worse than last year.

Blind loyalty is not patriotic; overt partisanship is not healthy. Don’t sacrifice your freedom and liberty by accepting partisan propaganda. True American patriotism questions the impact of decisions, confronts the morally unjust, and strives for an improved and united United States.

In the absence of accountability, there will be no responsibility.

Hayden Janssen, Montrose

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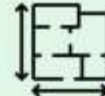
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Trooper Hunter Mathews

COLORADO – On August 12, 2026, a new law will take effect that directly affects the growing trend of e-Bikes and e-Motos for kids. Many parents are buying these devices for many different reasons - whether for ease of transportation, entertainment, low cost compared to a vehicle, etc.

While the law fluctuates on where you can ride each type of e-device depending on your local municipality, the onus of your child's safety falls on you as a parent. As a parent myself, I never want to receive a call that my child was injured in a crash or injured someone else. But the reality is that it's possible, so I need to take every precaution to protect my kids and to help teach them to ride responsibly.

If you opt to buy an e-Motorcycle, the rider must have a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement, a valid registration, and proof of insurance. The minimum age for a motorcycle license in Colorado is 16. In addition, minors are required to wear a helmet. The law is going into effect this August that impacts what you have to do so your teen can obtain that motorcycle endorsement.

Come August 12, 2026, a minor (anyone under the age of 18) must now have written permission from a parent or guardian to obtain a motorcycle endorsement. Previously, a minor just needed consent from anyone over the age of 21. It is believed that requiring a parent or guardian's permission will increase the safety and education of your child and decrease the amount of traumatic incidents our youth are involved in. As these devices become more and more popular and accessible, the number of crashes involving juveniles has increased.

To protect your children, educate yourself on your local municipality's laws regarding these devices. Parents are the number one influence on a child, so take advantage and keep your child safe.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SOME CRITICISM AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD

Editor:

Knowledgeable authorities, such as Richard T. Ingram of the National Center for Nonprofit Boards, agree that elected members of a board of education have a number of responsibilities. The first is to support and collaborate with the school district superintendent, the district's executive director. In an "Opinion/Editorial/Letter" published in a recent edition of *The Montrose Mirror*, the author opined that the Superintendent of Schools of the Montrose County RE-1J School District is "subordinate to the School Board". While such a relationship may be appropriate in a commercial business situation where the board is made up of individuals selected for their knowledge and experience in a particular industry, it does not apply to public education.

It is true that the superintendent of a Colorado public school district is selected by and hired by the district's board of education. However, since the board is likely to be made up of individuals with no credentials in education and no experience in managing a school district with a diverse student population and inadequate resources, it should be willing to work with and take advice from its superintendent, who has the appropriate education credentials and experience, when it is making governance decisions. Such a board is certainly in no position to dictate to the superintendent in matters of district management. Of course, that board should, however, establish goals for the district and the superintendent in collaboration with the superintendent.

In the case of the Montrose County RE-1J School District Board of Education, two members have credentials and extensive experience in public education. To the best of my knowledge, the other five members have neither and are qualified to serve as school board members only by virtue of their age, location of residence, and the fact that they were elected by a small majority of active voters. The current District Superintendent has undergraduate and graduate degrees and dec-

ades of experience in public education. Under these circumstances it would be wrong to consider the Superintendent "subordinate to the School Board." Rather, their relationship should be collaborative, with the Board benefiting from the Superintendent's knowledge and experience in making governance decisions and leaving the management of the District to the Superintendent. This does not constitute "the Board reporting to" the Superintendent. It does constitute wise board governance of the School District!

Among the other responsibilities of school board members are: to ensure effective organizational planning; to assure that resources are managed adequately; to enhance the organization's public image; and to ensure legal and ethical integrity and accountability. Instead of fulfilling these responsibilities, the current Montrose County RE-1J District Board of Education has chosen to undermine the Superintendent by interfering with her administrative duties and making unreasonable demands of her, her time, and her staff.

The Board devalued the Superintendent's attempt to anticipate the possible, even probable, consequences of declining student population by publicly criticizing her attempt to acquire public opinion concerning possible future school closures and by publicly questioning the validity of the results of an assessment completed by a recognized logistics consultant. Then the Board generated a survey policy designed to make conducting a public or district survey more difficult.

The Board has very inappropriately taken the responsibility for examining and dealing with a current personnel issue away from the Superintendent and equally inappropriately assumed the responsibility for itself. It has now magnified the issue and turned it into an as-yet-unresolved public spectacle. The Board has suspended the Superintendent without giving her a chance to resolve the issue.

All of this has been so publicly disruptive that it has undermined community mem-

bers' confidence in the District and the morale of the District administration and teaching staff to the extent that it is bound to negatively affect our students and the quality of their learning. The disruption has been so consistent as to appear to be intentional on the part of some Board members.

The Board has strayed from its legal governance function and responsibilities to interfere in the management and administration of the District in significant ways. The Board President has consistently overstepped her authority as President of the Board by unilaterally issuing directives, decisions, and criticism to the District administrators, apparently with direction and approval from the District legal counsel. This would suggest that the president is either ignorant of her role and responsibilities as a board president or that she is being unethically directed by legal counsel to be disruptive.

In a recent public School Board meeting, the Board Vice President declared that the current District disruptions and their negative consequences are the responsibility of the District administrators and teachers and not that of the School Board. This is either a blatant attempt to avoid Board responsibility for the current state of disrupted District affairs or a total ignorance of, and disrespect for, the functions of a public school district and the passions and dedication of career educators.

Sadly, certain other members of the Board seem to be in compliance with or, worse, disempowered by Board leaders.

The district currently employs a controversial, self-described politically conservative law firm as its legal advisor. I have personally observed excessive involvement of its counselor in what should be routine board business during Board meetings. With that counselor's participation, the Board has inappropriately involved itself in what should be administrative functions. In addition, at other times he has apparently advised the Board President to act independently in

CRITICISM AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD From previous pg

some matters which should have involved the Board as a whole. It is my opinion that at times his advice has added to the disruption in the District. That advice has appeared to support the firm's politically conservative agenda rather than the well-being of the Montrose County RE-1J School District. Involvement with this law firm seems to expose the District to unnecessary risk and expense.

I recognize that criticism is useless without suggested solutions, so the following are offered:

1. Immediately reinstate the District Superintendent, and give her appropriate freedom to administer and manage the School District without Board interference so that the District can get back on track for the upcoming academic year as soon as possible. Appropriate, reasonable, objectively measurable goals for the Superintendent and District should be developed collaboratively after normalcy has been reestablished.
2. All Board members should diligently review the Colorado State Statutes relating to public education and the responsibilities and limitations of school board members, and the Colorado Association of School Boards' guidelines concerning board and board officer functions, responsibilities, and limitations. Each Board member should study at least one publication by an authority concerning public volunteer board function and member responsibilities and limitations.
3. Discharge the current District law firm and engage a politically neutral, unbiased, reputable law firm with extensive Colorado public education school district experience, which will provide reliable, accurate, and ethical legal advice.

Louis H. Winkler, Montrose

(I have served 12 years on the Montrose County RE-1J School District Board of Education and have 20 years' experience in serving as a volunteer member of nonprofit organization boards of directors.)



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



YOUR VOTE MATTERS: UPCOMING DISCUSSION ITEMS

Wednesday's Special Council Meeting was a valuable experience, and a great deal was learned not only at the meeting itself but after during discussions with **citizens who attended as well as many who watched online or are talking to Councilors directly 1:1.**

If you cannot be at the scheduled meetings, the sessions are available online. Or say something to us as you see us in town. Be informed about the potential measures, **your vote matters.** We will discuss all items at **Monday's work session at 10 AM** this week, plus, in addition, the two asterisked items at **Tuesday's Council Meeting at 6 PM.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Fire Suppression System Project Auth and Sole Source Waiver
- North Park Avenue Reconstruction Design Contract
- Partial Vacation of Drainage Easement at 1841 South Hillcrest Dr
- Partial Vacation of Nichols Way Right of Way
- Date Change for November 3, 2026, City Council Meeting

Proposed Charter Amendment Discussion

- Changing the Municipal Judge residency requirement
- Removing the possibility of ranked choice voting
- Updating "he/she" language in the charter to be title specific
- *Returning Chief of Police's hiring and firing authority from sole City Manager authority to a joint Council-Manager (pre-2014 status)
- *Returning City Clerk's hiring and firing authority from sole -City Manager authority to a joint Council-Manager (pre-2014 status)
- Moving elections from April to November
- Term Limits: Lifetime 8-year limit for all seats

*Discussion at Tuesday's Council Meeting.

All Discussions will be limited to the specific items and three minutes per speaker. Please refrain from any personal attacks, racial, ethnic or sexual-oriented slurs, as it may be considered disorderly conduct and violate local and state law.

Thank You,
Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Mayor, Montrose



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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
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WEST NILE VIRUS DETECTED IN DELTA COUNTY MOSQUITOES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Delta County Public Health has received confirmation from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) that mosquito pools collected in Delta County have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The North Fork Mosquito Control District has also reported they have identified mosquito pools positive for West Nile Virus, indicating the virus is circulating in multiple areas of Delta County.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. While most people who become infected experience no symptoms, some can develop serious illness, making mosquito bite prevention especially important during the summer months.

"The detection of West Nile Virus in mosquito surveillance reminds us that prevention is the best way to protect ourselves," said Sam Traubel, Environmental Health Director for Delta County Public Health. "Simple actions like draining standing water, using insect repellent, dressing appropriately outdoors, and avoiding mosquito activity during dusk

and dawn can greatly reduce your risk of being bitten."

Delta County Public Health works closely with the Delta County Mosquito Control District to conduct mosquito surveillance in Delta. Additionally, Mosquito traps are placed in various locations across the county to monitor for West Nile Virus and provide an early warning of virus activity.

To help residents reduce mosquito breeding around their homes, free mosquito larvicide dunks are available at no cost at Delta County Public Health, 255 W. 6th Street, Delta. Larvicide dunks can be used in standing water that cannot be drained, such as ornamental ponds, rain barrels, livestock water troughs, and irrigation ditches. They target mosquito larvae before they become biting adults and are safe for dogs, cats, wildlife, and fish when used as directed.

Follow the Four D's to Help Prevent West Nile Virus

DRAIN standing water around your home every week. Empty buckets, flowerpot saucers, birdbaths, old tires, clogged gutters, and any other containers that collect water.

DRESS in long sleeves, long pants, and light-colored clothing when spending time outdoors.

DEFEND yourself by applying an EPA-registered insect repellent and following the product label directions.

DUSK & DAWN are when mosquitoes are most active.

Limit outdoor activities during these times whenever possible.

Most people infected with West Nile Virus will not become seriously ill. However, symptoms may include fever, headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. In rare cases, West Nile Virus can cause serious neurologic illness. Adults age 50 and older, and people with certain medical conditions or weakened immune systems, are at greater risk for severe disease.

Those experiencing symptoms after mosquito bites should contact their healthcare provider.

For more information about West Nile virus, mosquito prevention, or to pick up free mosquito larvicide dunks, contact Delta County Public Health at 970-874-2165 or visit the department's website.

WELCOME

Evan Bachman

To Delta Health Adult Primary Care!

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUTH & COURAGE OR GOOD GOSSIP?

Editor:

We heard that...everybody is saying...have YOU heard?...I hear the latest is...can you believe that..."

Whether in whispers or in real words, these are all pretty enticing beginnings of what is likely to follow in THE JUICY STUFF: but ... half truth, partial truth, and embellishments. Who wouldn't rather hear a good story than take the time to ask, and dig for the real, but hard Truth? (Well; Jeanne L. did in Nextdoor)

This is the real truth from several years ago that is worthy of repeating at this point in time. Why now? Rumors are rampant about Randy again now. But first a real truth factual account from several years ago...

Setting; the Cobble Creek Community; and this goes back to the time of The Hub project and long departed General Manager for The Club 'Eddie'. Did you hear THAT story?

Mr X (was a Board of Director) created a scene on Taco Tuesday in the Tavern. Mr X, walked up to my wife and I who were sitting enjoying our tacos and said this... (Edited for the ability to publish, but you'll get the idea) He said "I am Mr. X and you are Randy White? Yes I am Randy, and we shook hands. He then said loudly "Randy White you are an ANUS". My reply was: "yes, and well...I work hard at it" (Mr X had too many drinks which compromised his thinking and behavior). I then said to Mr X; "this is my wife YY". And he still continued to amplify his intense verbal diarrhea. Even louder. We were not alone in the tavern at that time. There were a number of observers close enough to not miss what was going on. Also, the video surveillance recorded what was going on. My wife left the scene in angst & disgust. I lingered for a little longer, then left the scene with Mr X continuing the verbal diarrhea following until the exit door.

Fast-forward the next day I requested of Eddie to see the video surveillance, and hopefully hear the recording of the dialogue. Unfortunately, according to the interpretation of the law by The Club, the video was available, but the audio was not. So I ask, what would you any of you readers have done, had you been in that situation? Would you shrink away and say 'I don't wanna get involved with a problem? I don't want to be a problem? I'll just set that aside and pretend it didn't happen? Or some version of those. Most would. Randy did not...

What I did was to get in touch with Mr X, and make an offer for a 'review/reconciliation meeting'. The offer was bolstered with the alternative of my filing a Montrose Police report for menacing. Mr X decided that rather than have a police file on record he would indeed meet to reconcile. The meeting was a few weeks later, and consisted of myself, and GM Eddie (being a silent observer third-party) My wife, was also part of that reconciliation meeting. She lead off the talk, unloaded on Mr X in the first 60 seconds of our gathering and then stormed away. Mr X and I continued to have a conversation around what had occurred at Taco Tuesday in the Tavern. We unpeeled that calmly. Respectfully talked it through and in the end, we shook hands, and I said 'ego te absolvo'. which is Latin for 'I absolve you'. Mr X pledged, sincerely to seek out my thoughts in future matters regarding the Community, and the controversy at hand.

The controversy at hand was associated with the adjacent HUB building Project, and my strenuous opposition expressed through many different mediums in the Cobble Creek community. Among those mediums was writing in the *Montrose Mirror*, Nextdoor, testimonies before City Council, posting protest signs, (all sound American freedom of Speech). Some of you will likely remember those times. Some of you even stood with me in that protest, though many stood back, cowered, and gossiped.

Back then there were a number of Taco Tuesday Tavern folks who were witness to the menacing that occurred from Mr X towards me. When I approach them the day after to request they be witnesses and make a statement regarding what they saw, they declined. Cowards? Rather than stand up for somebody who was victimized by a drunk, they stood back, afraid to speak the truth. It seems standing back endures today. Same behavior, different day, different issue. Cobble Creek Community Where is your Courage for Truth? Could be Jeanne L has it, and thankfully will use it...

Randy White, Montrose



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WHEN WE TURNED FIFTY From pg 1

very controversial person, but like so many whose ideas of 100 years ago are not well received today, he is an indelible part of Colorado history. In June of 1926, Governor Morely, by proclamation, designated the first three days of August to be state holidays for the purpose of celebrating Colorado's 50th birthday and to "observe the present and speculate on the future."

The City of Denver did organize a "semi-centennial exposition" that was promoted in the *Rocky Mountain News* and several other newspapers around the state, including the *Montrose Daily Press* and the *Montrose Enterprise*. The highlight of the exposition was the proposed airplane race from Denver to Colorado Springs. Captain Bruce Kistler, flight commander of the national guard squadron with headquarters in Denver, organized the race and the City of Denver donated \$15,000 to the celebrations, but little was printed acknowledging the event.

On the other hand, several articles appeared regarding the birthday of the telephone.

U. S. President Calvin Coolidge, who was the second president to use the radio and had previously given his inaugural address over the radio, was opposed to having a telephone in the Whitehouse. Coolidge managed to bring all the birthdays together. He did not acknowledge the upcoming radio anniversary in his historical Colorado address, but his words on the radio were sent via telephone lines to the auditorium and played over bullhorn speakers there. This short article appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News*:

The old municipal Auditorium, at Fourteenth and Curtis streets, was the scene of great mass meetings for the Semicentennial. Denver citizens were anticipating a radio address by Calvin Coolidge, then president of the United States. This address was expected to be carried over telephone wires to Denver, amplified thru horns in the Auditorium, and broadcast by radio.

Coolidge, who was obviously a big fan of Colorado, spoke of the many assets the state had contributed to the United States since its statehood in 1876. A segment of

the transcript of his speech shows his admiration:

Today our attention is fixed on Colorado, which is observing the fiftieth anniversary of her entrance into statehood The whole nation takes great pleasure in having a part in your celebration, for all your sister states are rejoicing in your remarkable accomplishments. In your story we find romance, appeal to the imagination, striking exemplification of untiring courage, the pioneer spirit, the adaptability to surroundings and of the ultimate working out of a progressive civilization. Well may the Centennial state be proud of her record.

Shortly after Governor Morley declared the holiday, the *Montrose Daily Press* published an article calling attention to the fact that Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Anderson had been residents of the state for its entire fifty years and were also going to celebrate their fifty years of marriage. Coincidentally, but not mentioned in the article, Mr. Anderson had, in January of that year, been re-elected to the board of the Montrose National Bank.

The article encouraged those who matched the 50-years mark in Colorado to contact the Press. As a result, not only did the Press get several responses, so did other newspapers in the area. Researching the above-mentioned paper, along with others, including *The Ouray Herald*, *The Montrose Enterprise*, *The Greeley Tribune* and a few others, revealed the names of several of those residents. The surnames of many are still recognized today.

William and Enoch Shepherd came to the Colorado Territory in 1863. Both boys became expert blacksmiths. William arrived in Ouray in 1877, worked at various mining jobs and eventually opened a blacksmith shop in Ridgway. He was still running the shop when he was eighty years old, and was one of those who, in 1926, had been in the state for 50 years. William became mayor of Ridgway in 1905.

J. P. Barrows was another who arrived in Ouray in 1877. He came here following short stints in Iowa and Nebraska. He was an active miner and a friend of many during his time in Ouray and moved to Mont-

rose in about 1922.

Of particular interest on this list of true pioneers is Mrs. Lydia Goodaker. Mrs. Goodaker came to the Colorado Territory in 1866. She was 84 years old when her name was added to this exclusive list. In many accounts, Mrs. Goodaker was referred to as "Grandmother Goodaker. She was the mother of Emily Hartman and is credited with assisting Emily and her husband in the founding of the Hartman Sanitarium near Riverside. Lydia's grandson, E. R. Hartman, is mentioned in many articles of various newspapers and his name is still recognized today. Lydia died in 1928, just short of her 87th birthday.

Richard Collin was a well-known rancher near Colona. He personally called the *Montrose Daily Press* to get his name on their list. Collin told the people at the paper that he was 19 years old when he came to Denver in 1873. He said he came from England to Denver after corresponding with a friend about the "New Eldorado." The article in the paper said, "He certainly knows the history of the Centennial State."

When Newton Davis was added to the roll, he told the Press that he had visited nearly every state before settling in Colorado. He first visited the state in 1861, and stayed in the Denver area for a time before entering the army and fighting in the Civil War. He returned to Colorado in 1873, and settled in Montrose in 1883. He related that the Montrose area was mostly a desert, but that he had watched it turn into a viable agricultural venue. He told his interviewer that he was concerned about the behavior of young women of the '20s, saying their behavior would not have been tolerated just a few years ago, but he also pointed out that he was especially impressed with the performance of the Montrose High School debate team that took the 1926 state championship. Mr. Davis died in 1934 and is buried in the Grandview Cemetery.

Mrs. Flora Harrison made the prestigious list and told the *Ouray Herald* that she first came to Colorado in 1862, and was the oldest resident of Ouray County.

Amos B. Snodgrass, who at the time was the manager of the Radium Springs Park

***WHEN WE TURNED FIFTY* From previous pg**

in Ouray, related that he had traveled to Colorado in a covered wagon. He claimed that some Indians had offered his father a pony for him, but thankfully, his father turned down the offer. He said the family first came to Ouray in 1875, and had established one of the first sawmills in the area.

Others mentioned in the various articles included: Dr. W. W. Rowan, who came with the U. S. Army as a surgeon in 1879; T. B. Crawford, 1881; Chas Haney, who homesteaded the Haney ranch in 1881; Mrs. W. F. Wheeler, 1880; John Donald, whose experiences would fill a magazine, 1881; E. E. Wheeler, the first white child born in Ouray; W. F. Wheeler, 1881; Cy Long and innumerable others who had called Ouray their home for 40 to 50 years.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE GRANT APPLICATION NOW OPEN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Elevate is proud to announce that grant applications are now open for its 2026 Foundations for the Future Grant Program. The grant will award \$10,000 to one nonprofit or not-for-profit organization that is making a meaningful, positive impact on the quality of life in Delta and Montrose counties. The application period closes Sept. 1, 2026.

The annual grant program supports projects that enhance local communities through programs, services, technology-related resources, or small-scale facility improvements. Eligible projects may focus on areas such as the arts, science, education, health and wellness, and basic needs.

As a locally owned internet provider, Elevate is committed to investing in organizations that use technology to strengthen communities. The 2026 grant cycle places a special emphasis on initiatives that leverage technology and internet connectivity to expand opportunities and improve access to essential services. Examples include virtual learning, telehealth, innovative software solutions, and digital tools that increase access to community resources.

-Key Details Include:

-One Grant Award of \$10,000

-Applications are due September 1, 2026.

The grant recipient will be announced in October. For more information on eligibility and to apply, please visit <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/110722-Montrose-Community-Foundation>.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT ARE THEY AFRAID OF— A REBUTTAL

Editor:

In the July 27th Edition of the Mirror, Michael Badagliacco titles his piece. What Are They Afraid Of?

Well, Michael, it's not fear that has been driving the outrage toward your rush to judgment. It's a matter of grave concern expressed by engaged citizens. What's really concerning is your disregard to the opinions expressed by your constituents. You say you knocked on a thousand doors during your campaign. Why haven't those you spoke to shown up to support **your** mandate? There has only been one person speak in favor of moving forward. His words were not really an endorsement of your proposals; he just wanted to move the process along. He seemed agitated that dozens of people were willing to state their names and voice their opposition.

It bothers me that you continue to use the Press to conduct City Business even though I've sent two emails asking you to refrain from doing so. Like I said in my emails, you're entitled to your opinion but you should clarify it's yours. You should be explicit, "the forgoing is my opinion and mine alone. I have not consulted with any other member of city council in formation of this opinion piece." You just refuse to do so. I've never seen the mayor or even a fellow councilor use opinion pieces to try and convince the residents to fall in line. It's unbecoming of a person in your position. Your narcissism is becoming tiring.

Also, in your opinion piece you say, ***"I have only one clear opportunity to place these amendments on a ballot with significant turnout before my one-year term as Mayor ends."*** That statement suggests urgency; it's evidence of a rush to judgment. It suggests you want to perhaps be remembered for something opposed to doing what is right for Montrose.

If I were to be fearful of anything, it's you will be elected mayor again next year. I do not see Wooden or Ulibarri stepping up to the plate. And, they certainly wouldn't nominate or elect Dave Frank or David Reed. To alleviate that fear, add to the Term Limit language my suggestion: ***No individual shall serve two or more consecutive terms as mayor.***

Or are you fearful of something?

Dave Stockton - Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO RUN YOUR LIFE AND OUR ECONOMY

Editor:

As I do my research each week for these letters, the things I see Democrats do and say are so absurd that I often have to ask myself if I am living in some alternate reality. Perennial race-monger and "The View" co-host Sunny Hostin had this to say about reparations: "I still believe in reparations! This is about money ... It's about this country trying to avoid paying African Americans our due." I could fill this page explaining how ridiculous that is, but I will only make two points. 1) That ignores historical truth, and 2) that has absolutely no logic or common sense. Reparation advocates want to ignore the fact that Abraham Lincoln paid reparations thru the Freedman's Bureau in 1865. It gave all freed black men 40 acres and a mule, plus food, clothing and farm tools over a seven-year period until 1872 when that was ended by Democrats. More whites were brought as slaves to North Africa than blacks brought as slaves to the U.S. or to the 13 colonies from which it was formed. White slaves were still being bought and sold in the Ottoman Empire many decades after blacks were freed in the U.S. The total lack of logic to reparations is best illustrated by a fiery response from a New Yorker to Mayor Mamdani's reparations support: "If Mamdani wants me, a white New Yorker who never owned slaves, to pay a black New Yorker who was never a slave, then I propose that every Muslim in NYC, starting with Mamdani, should pay us for 9/11."

Mamdani is almost always on my list of weekly absurdities. His wife will earn \$400,000 (some sources report \$500,000) a year in taxpayer money to serve as the official spokesperson for his new socialist grocery stores. AOC almost always qualifies for everyone's stupid list. Democrat John Fetterman called her out this week: "To sit in Germany and accuse Israel of genocide, while you're in Germany, shows a lack of awareness." "Lack of awareness" puts it mildly. Benjamin Franklin's quote that "We are all born ignorant, but one must try hard to remain stupid" is more applicable to AOC's consistent retardation. This is the same AOC who wants us to know that "Republicans are trying to rig elections by only allowing U.S. Citizens to vote!" A large percentage of Democrats also have absurd views on gender. There are two genders. Period. The fact that undeniable biology is now considered

"controversial" proves many Democrats have lost their minds. Likewise for men invading women's sports and their locker rooms. Megan Rapinoe, a far-left lesbian activist and former pro soccer player, went on "The View" and claimed that banning men from invading women's sports is actually an attack on women. Democrats fail to see the irony and absurdity of calling the protection of women's sports an attack on women after supposedly spending years fighting for women's rights.

Illinois Governor Pritzker just gave us an outrageous reminder that Democrats are in fact targeting our kids. He just signed a law letting minors get IUDs and birth control implants – with zero parental consent or knowledge. Parents are cut out of major medical decisions involving their minor children because the state has decided it knows best.

Congratulations to Minnesota Democrats, university professors, and Governor Tim Walz for the latest innovation in education, a teaching toy for kids. It's like Mr. Potato Head, except instead of interchangeable plastic arms, legs, and hats on a potato, it features realistic private parts on realistic paper dolls of children. Multiple outlets reported that transgender dolls with interchangeable genitalia would be debuting in Minnesota classrooms this fall, funded by taxpayer dollars. Franklin Graham had this to say: "You can't ask for a better example of moral depravity than this. Minnesota has developed 'MyGender Dolls' with interchangeable parts, including removable genitalia, to be used to encourage children ages 4-10 to explore their 'gender identities.' " Never mind that over 75% of parents and educators believe strongly that sex education for children under 10 should be left to parents. Not too many years ago, an educator suggesting such a thing would have correctly been labeled as a perverted predator. Nobody thinks that is a good idea but a small number of academic gender activists, but the state has again decided that they know best and to hell with the parents.

Only slightly less outrageous is an updated story of "Daniel in the lions' den," this time in a small Ohio town. In the biblical account, Daniel was a devout Jew exiled in Babylon, who was praying in his home, which violated King Darius' decree. As punishment, he was cast into a den of lions. God saved him by protecting him from the lions. Daniel Grand is

a current day devout Orthodox Jew living in a Cleveland suburb. Orthodox Jewish practice calls for prayer in a group of men a couple of times a week. On those days, driving is prohibited, so Daniel reached out to friends near his neighborhood, inviting them to walk to his house and pray together. No announcements. No signage. No noise. Just a quiet gathering of men who share their faith and live close enough to walk to each other's homes. The city's mayor sent him a cease-and-desist order. The city's actions had nothing to do with traffic, noise, or any other legitimate zoning concern. Their coordinated pattern of harassment and discrimination was clearly a blatant violation of the First Amendment. No American needs the government's permission to host a prayer meeting in his home. The city's position – that poker night with ten friends is fine, but praying requires a permit – should have been laughed out of the courts, but Daniel is having to go to the Supreme Court to get the city to stop policing private religious practices.

The Democrat freakout that ensued when DOGE started exposing and eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in our government tells you everything you need to know about who is profiting from it. We're all now familiar with the fact Democrats used their ActBlue vehicle as an illegal foreign funding conduit, flooding their machine with dirty foreign money. We also know that USAid was little more than a taxpayer funded slush fund for Democrats. Remember, it was USAid that gave Malia Obama \$2.3 million when she was still a teenager living at the White House for writing pen pal letters to a few dozen kids in Africa. So, what has been the effect of curtailing both of those outrageously corrupt entities? The DNC chair just threw a phone-hurling tantrum because the party is drowning in debt and can't finance their own midterms. They are so broke they had to put their headquarters building up as collateral for a record \$15 million loan to finance their midterms. Meanwhile, Kamala Harris just bought an \$8 million dollar mansion in an exclusive California seaside community. Think about that. These are the people who want to run your life and our economy. Thomas Sowell was again spot-on when he said "A major part of the financial expertise of government consists of devising ways to conceal how much they are stealing from the public."

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS, RETIREMENTS, AND AN OUTAGE CAUSED BY RACCOON

From pg 1

(approved unanimously)

-June 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

(approved unanimously)

Committee Chair Reports

Finance, Audit & Rates – Jacob Gray, Chair.

Gray said, “We did not meet.”

Engineering, Construction & Energy Services – Steve Metheny, Chair.

Metheny said, “We did not meet, but we have a meeting that we’ll have on Thursday.”

Member Relations – Kevin Williams, Chair.

Williams said, “We have not met, but also a meeting on Thursday at 3pm.”

Executive – Stacia Cannon, Chair.

Cannon said, “We have not met either.”

Informational Item - CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston touched briefly on training, facility inventory, and small scale projects at the Read facility. He said, “Liability is trending lower than the last two years. The Bullock Plant substation lost power for a couple of hours. It was a curious racoon. At 11:45pm. half the power was knocked out. The racoon was fried. Curiosity killed the racoon!”

Johnston continued, “System designs, pending or current, are pretty low at this time, slower than normal. Reports are of a slowing-down economy.”

Kevin Williams asked for an update on the Gold Mountain Fire and was told that it was 50 percent contained. Johnston said, “It got within a mile or so of our system. It was controlled pretty quickly thanks to the first responders. Things have calmed down this morning. So far we are very lucky from where we started the season. Our vegetation management is one of the best things we can do. We’ve reduced our liability.”

Stacia Cannon said, “What do we do with infrastructure we are no longer using?” Staff explained that unused infrastructure is deenergized when it is not in use, particularly in the wildfire climate the area is now experiencing.

Johnston said, “We did an energy efficiency assessment for the Pioneer Town Museum [Cedaredge]. Hydro is still running through October. The



After 34 years, Delta Montrose Electric Association's (DMEA) Chief Safety Officer Chad Stickler will retire on October 1, 2026. Stickler began his career with DMEA in 1992 as a Groundman. Photo by Gail Marvel.

[Uncompahgre] Water Users manage the Gunnison Tunnel. Taylor Reservoir looks good; Blue Mesa does not look good. IT congrats on phishing avoidance. We review legal here in our meetings. With HR we have 148/149 [employees] and we continue with training staff at all levels.”

Johnston described financials as trending strong, positive, and healthy. He said, “Revenue is down a little because of weather. June was weaker; July was heavier. The rain was helpful, but not for our sales. Revenue sales are lower. The cost-of-service study is underway right now. We have a new form for Unclaimed Capital Credit [requests], and a stack of thank you notes. I had a backpack stolen. Two laptops, checkbook, notebook... The important stuff I got back. There was no issue with DMEA [laptop], it locked down. No personal stuff was in there.”

Informational Item: Director Recognition The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) awarded Director Enno Heuscher a Certificate of Achievement for completing the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program.

Informational Item: Affiliated Organiza-

tions & Education Reports.

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

Johnston said, “This is the end of their fiscal year. There are pieces of the performance audit right now, but they are pre-audit numbers.”

Heuscher said, “Do they provide anything to AI?”

Johnston said, “I can’t imagine any direct aid. They have five western warehouses, but their inventory is poles, wire, and transformers. Those type of things.”

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

Lockhart said, “At the June 26 meeting I was in and out on Zoom. Wildfires are the biggest concern right now...for the legislative session. Co-ops are facing some serious questions coming up in draft legislation. Trial lawyers are against us in this legislation; [they are against] anyone who supports a cap. They are trying to go after everyone they can that has deep pockets [largest organizations]. We are starting the discussions. Wildfires and data centers are at the top of the list.”

Conferences, Webinars & Meetings

Continued next pg

EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS, RETIREMENTS, AND AN OUTAGE CAUSED BY RACCOON

From previous pg

Cannon attended a Power Supply webinar. She also met with Senator Hurd and discussed storage systems in Paonia. Montrose and Delta have a moratorium on data centers.

Having read some proposed legislation supported by CREA, Ryan Sedgeley thought there were only two paragraphs that should be supported by DMEA.

Chief Relations Officer & General Counsel Sarah Abbott said, "We don't want to eliminate liability, but to limit it."

After discussion the board directed staff to research the proposed legislation questioned by Sedgeley and bring it back for discussion.

Cannon said, "The full board would have to agree [on not supporting the recommendations from CREA]."

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

Board Policy 101: Director Responsibilities, Duties, and Standards of Conduct. Held over until the August meeting.

Discussion Items:

Board Policy 108: Board Communications: No proposed changes, no action needed.

Board Policy 302: Information Security: No proposed changes, no action needed.

Board Policy 303: Acceptable Use of Technology by Directors: Language changed. Approved as amended.

Member Comments:

There were no member comments.

Executive Session:

Privileged CEO Report

-Electric Service Regulations

-Fees

-Power Supply

Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters

Confidential Board Governance Matters

Executive Session Summary – Amy Gavell, Chief of Staff.

An email from Gavell summarized the action taken by the board after exiting the executive session:



On the night of July 26, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Bullock Plant substation lost power for a couple of hours. Chief Executive Office Jack Johnston reported the event during the board of directors during the July 28 regular board meeting. Johnston said, "It was a curious racoon. At 11:45 p.m. half the power was knocked out. The racoon was fried. Curiosity killed the racoon!" Mirror staff photo.

"At 5:08 p.m., upon motion from Director Metheny, seconded by Director Sanchez, the Board unanimously voted to enter Executive Session to receive a privileged CEO report, including a review of the electric service regulations, fees, and power supply matters, to address confidential corporate, litigation, and regulatory matters, and to discuss confidential board governance matters. At 6:16 p.m., upon motion from Director Williams, seconded by Director Sedgeley, the Board unanimously exited Executive Session."

Background:

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

through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their DMEA accounts.

DMEA Directors

Dist. 1 – Ryan Sedgeley, 370-220-6086
ryan.sedgeley@dmea.com

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

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

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

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

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

Dist. 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

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

Dist. 9 - (South Region) Ken Norris, 970-596-9892, ken.norris@dmea.com



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Monday, August 3

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6:30AM-9:30AM

Tuesday, August 4

MRH Employee Day

800 S. 3rd St., Montrose, CO 81401

6:30AM-9:00AM

Wednesday, August 5 - Friday, August 7

Montrose Pavilion

1800 Pavilion Dr, Montrose, CO 81401

6:30AM-9:30AM

August 5 & 6, No Walk-Ins
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Health Fair

Saturday, August 8

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SESQUISEMIQUINCENTENNIAL: AMERICA! 250-150

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-We Invite you to attend the weekly Montrose Forum on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 8-9 am, as we welcome representatives from Valley Food Partnership presenting: America 250-150.

Have you heard of the Sesquisequicentennial? Better known as 250-150, this unique celebration commemorates two historic milestones occurring together in 2026. Colorado is celebrating 150 years of statehood, its Sesquicentennial, while the United States marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, its Semiquicentennial.

On August 1, 1876, President Ulysses S. Grant signed Proclamation 230, admitting Colorado to the Union as the 38th state and earning it the nickname, the Centennial State. As the Centennial State, Colorado is uniquely positioned to celebrate both anniversaries simultaneously, making this a once in a generation opportunity to reflect on our shared history and envision our future together.

The Valley Food Partnership serves as the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the Central Mountains and Mesas region, helping coordinate community events and activities throughout southwestern Colorado. Their work is part of the statewide America 250-150 initiative, established through Senate Bill 22-011 and championed by then State Senator Don Coram and former Representative, now Senator, Marc Catlin.

Join us as we welcome the Valley Food Partnership and discover the exciting events planned for our region. Hear how our community can participate in this historic celebration. As Colorado and America commemorate these remarkable anniversaries, we invite you to pause, reflect on our shared heritage, and celebrate the people, places and stories that continue to shape our future. If nothing else, come hear the correct pronunciation of Sesquisequicentennial.

Hope to see you on the 5th!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SUPER CRUISERS STAY IN THE RIGHT LANE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – When navigating the Colorado mountains, drivers make some common mistakes that impact traffic flow and potentially increase motorist frustration around them. Troopers are reminding residents and visitors that traveling in the left lane while no longer passing or allowing someone to merge onto the highway, on multi-lane highways with a speed limit of 65 miles per hour or greater, is illegal in Colorado

In an effort to unclog the highways, Colorado law (Colorado Revised Statutes Title 42. Vehicles and Traffic § 42-4-1013(1) designates the farthest left lane if there are two or more adjacent lanes of traffic moving in the same direction on highways with a speed limit of 65 or more as the “passing lane.” This means that any lane that is to the right of the passing lane, moving in the same direction on one roadway, is deemed a “nonpassing lane. It is important to note that this does not include HOV or Express lanes, which are most commonly found on the left side. The passing lane is the furthest left, regular lane of traffic. Last year, Colorado State troopers pulled over 2,540 drivers traveling slower than the flow of traffic, often creating additional hazards for other motorists. The most common roadway that troopers cited drivers was I-70.

In Colorado, drivers should be in the rightmost lane possible unless they’re passing or instructed otherwise. This can become a big issue on mountain roads when designated passing spots are infrequent and brief. If you’re driving at a slower speed on a one-lane road in the mountains and notice a long line of cars forming behind you, simply pull over to the side of the road when it’s safe to do so to allow other drivers to pass.

And, for motorists caught behind a slower-moving vehicle, demonstrate patience. Mountain roads have steep turns, blind corners, and wildlife. Wait to pass until you have a clear view of the road ahead and you are in a marked area where you can pass.

Learn more about popular Colorado roadways by taking a video tour with a Colorado State Trooper on the Super Cruising in Colorado website. These short videos show the curves, steep grades, and terrain that you will encounter. Featured roads include:

- Interstate 70
- Highway 550
- Highway 34
- Highway 40
- Highway 50 – Monarch Pass
- Highway 491

If you are towing a camper or trailer, this site also provides insight into the conditions you can expect to encounter. Spend a couple of minutes, so you can safely navigate our mountains, valleys, plains, and beyond!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE 2026 PALISADE PEACH FESTIVAL

Special to the Mirror

PALISADE-Whether you're coming for the peaches, the live music, the carnival, or simply to make memories with family and friends, the 2026 Palisade Peach Festival offers a full weekend packed with experiences for every age.

Returning to Riverbend Park on August 21–22, Colorado's sweetest tradition brings together agriculture, entertainment, local businesses, and community for two unforgettable days celebrating everything that makes Palisade one of the state's favorite summer destinations.

From sunrise to sunset, festival guests can spend the weekend exploring hundreds of vendor booths, enjoying live performances from Colorado musicians, cheering on the famous Peach Eating Contest, riding carnival attractions, shopping hand-crafted goods, and tasting fresh Palisade peaches at the height of harvest.

"The Palisade Peach Festival is more than just a festival, it's a celebration of community," said Jessica Burford, President & CEO of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce. "Families return year after year because there's truly something for everyone. Whether it's your first visit or your fiftieth, we hope you leave with wonderful memories and an even greater appreciation for the people and agriculture that make Palisade so special."

Daydream Friday night's headlining performance Saturday, August 22- The music continues Saturday with another full day of Colorado artists, including: Anthony Peebles, Izzy Burns, Chuck Jay Music, Faith Eliza Band, Sean Moon Band Saturday evening's headliner

Between performances, guests can enjoy music from local radio personalities and DJs throughout the festival grounds, ensuring there's always something happening on stage.

Festival highlights include:

- The famous Peach Eating Contest
- Interactive children's activities
- Local nonprofit and community organization booths
- Artisan and handcrafted vendors
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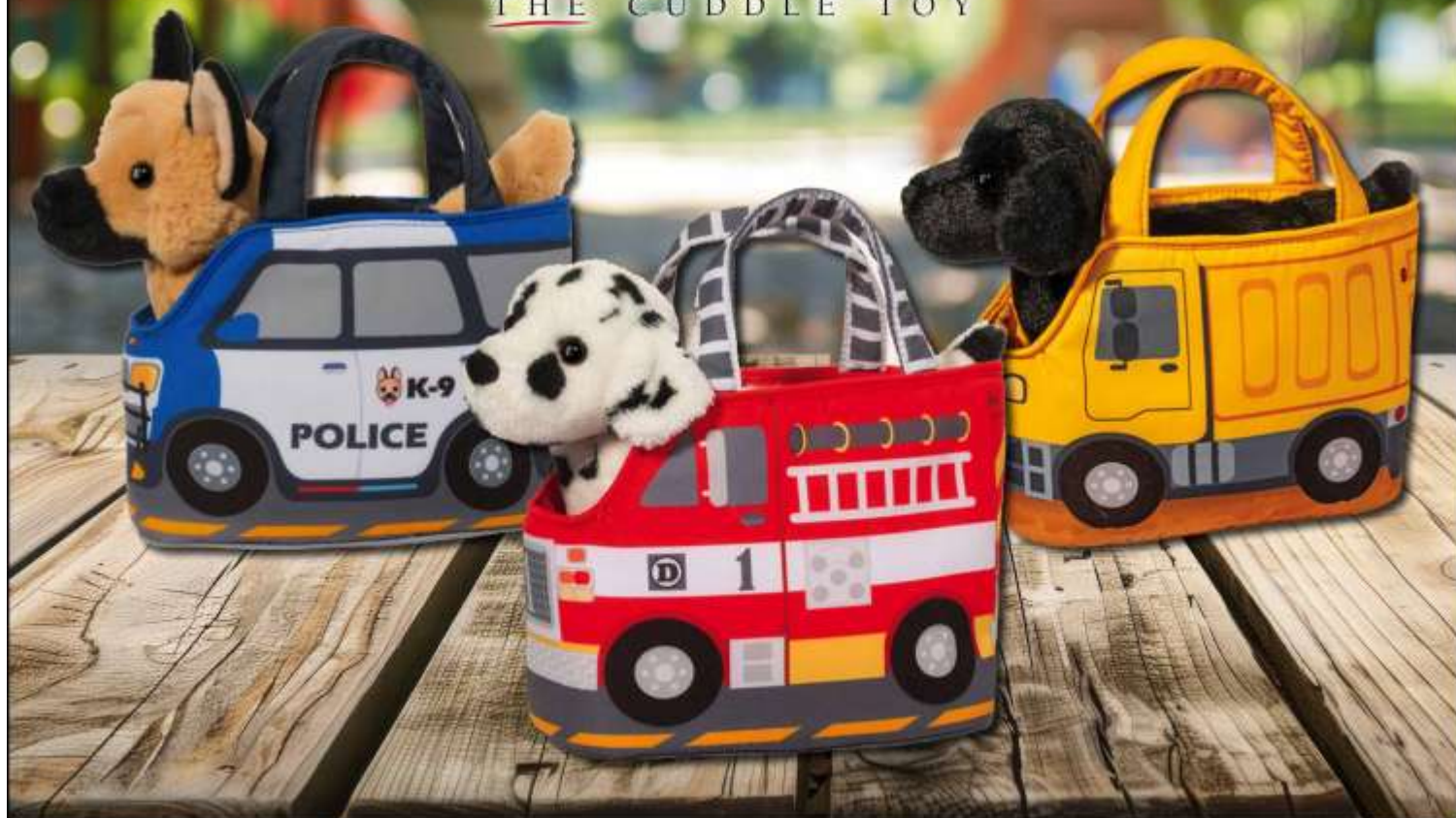
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THEN AND NOW

The Montrose real estate market has shifted from a frenzied seller's market into a more balanced, healthy market. Here's how the landscape has changed—and what it means for you.

2021–2023 THE FRENZIED MARKET



EXTREMELY LOW INVENTORY
Very few homes available.
High competition.



MULTIPLE OFFERS
Common on most listings.
Bidding wars were normal.



RAPID PRICE APPRECIATION
Double-digit increases
year over year.



HOMES SOLD FAST
Many homes sold in
days, sometimes hours.



SELLERS HAD ALL THE POWER
Few contingencies.
Cash offers prevailed.



BUYERS FACED INTENSE PRESSURE
Waived inspections,
offered over asking,
and moved quickly
to compete.

2026 THE BALANCED MARKET



MORE INVENTORY
Significantly more homes
to choose from.



FEWER BIDDING WARS
Well-priced homes get offers,
but multiple offers are less
common.



PRICES HAVE STABILIZED
Appreciation has slowed to
1–2% year over year.



LONGER DAYS ON MARKET
Buyers take more time
to decide.



NEGOTIATION IS BACK
Buyers can negotiate on
price, repairs, and closing
costs.



BUYERS HAVE MORE POWER
More choices, less pressure,
and more favorable terms.

“

Well-priced, well-presented homes are still selling.
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”



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

SLOW the PROCESS DOWN

Editor:

Let's encourage the Montrose City Council to 'slow the process down' in placing proposed amendments to the City Charter on the ballot in the November 2026 elections.

During a Montrose City Council 'Special Meeting' held on July 29th to discuss two of the proposed amendments, it became apparent that overlooking specific details during the formulation of the language in the proposed amendments can lead to unintended consequences.

To assure that the language in the proposed amendments to the City Charter is 'crafted' carefully to avoid unintended consequences will require diligence and time.

The discussion amongst the 5 members of the City Council and public comments made during the 'Special Meeting' by participants of the Montrose community is recorded.

You can watch this Special Meeting held on July 29th in the Montrose City Chamber via video streams directly on the City of Montrose YouTube Channel.

For members of the Montrose community who did not participate in the Montrose City Council 'Special Meeting' held on July 29th - viewing the recorded 'Special Council Meeting' will contribute to an understanding of why rushing to place the proposed amendments on the ballot could result in serious mistakes with negative consequences for future city governance.

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose



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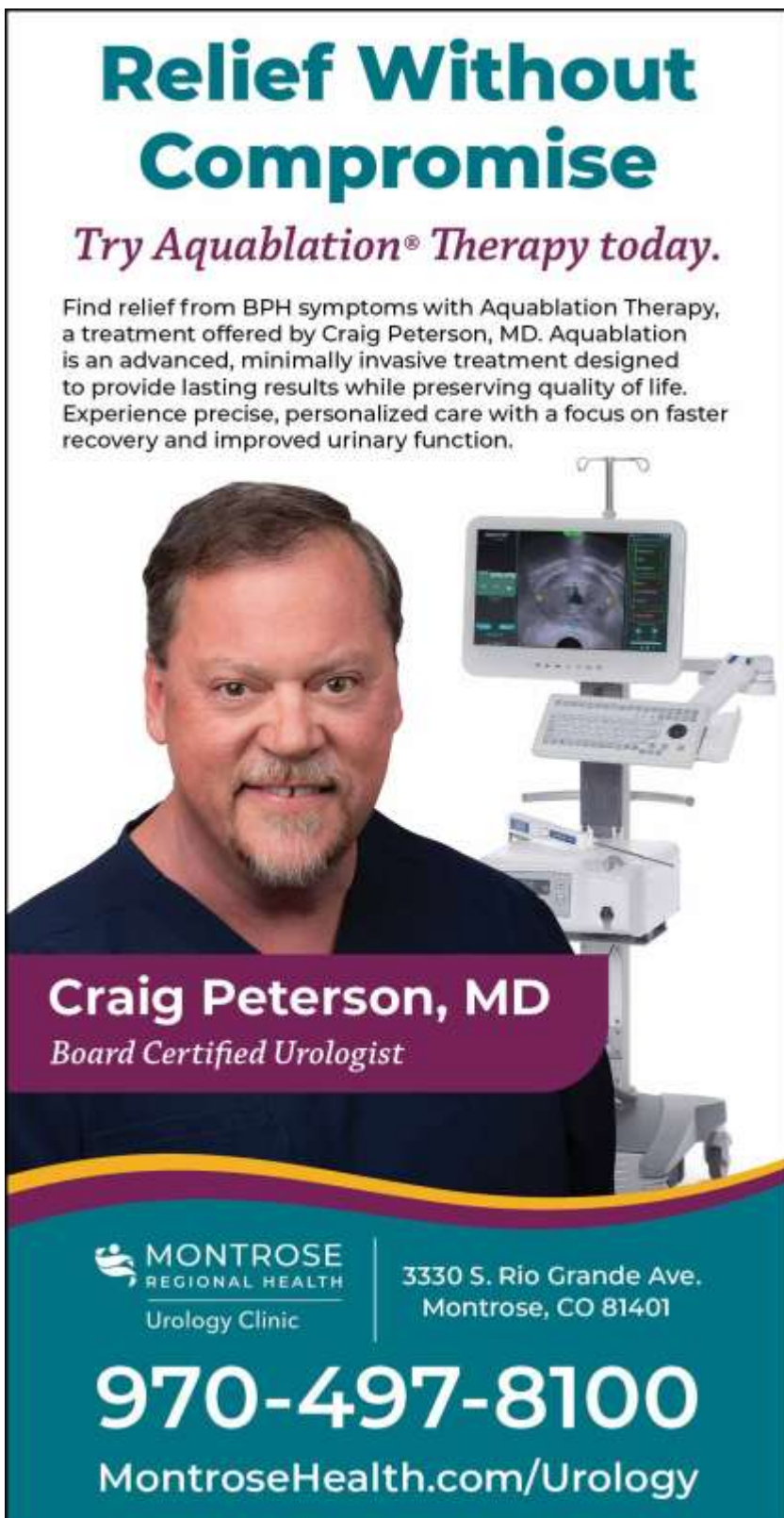
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COUNCILOR WOODDEN IS OBLIGATED TO RECUSE HIMSELF OR RESIGN HIS SEAT IF A CERTAIN MATTER COMES BEFORE COUNCIL

Dear Editor,

Clarification needs to be made regarding the summary of public comments made at the July 20th City Council meeting. Your summary says comments were made that Mrs. Woodden is a Republican. That is taking what was said out of context. What I pointed out was Mrs. Woodden serves as Second Chair on the Republican Central Committee and as such, Councilor Woodden is obligated to recuse himself or resign his seat if a certain matter comes before Council.

I ask that you clarify what was said.

Attached is the speech I gave that night.

Dave Stockton - Montrose

Atttachment:

July 21, 2026

Good evening Mr. Mayor and fellow councilors.

Article III, Section 5 of our Charter states All special and general municipal elections for elective office of the City shall be non-partisan.

The Local GOP Central Committee's mission statement includes verbiage that says

it will support and implement President Trump's America First doctrine which includes cumbersome immigration policies. Councilor Woodden's wife serves as 2nd Chair of the Montrose Republican Central Committee.

Colorado Revised Statute 31-4-404 states, *"Any member of the governing body of any city or town who has a personal or private interest in any matter proposed or pending before the governing body shall disclose such interest to the governing body, shall not vote thereon, and shall refrain from attempting to influence the decisions of the other members of the governing body in voting on the matter."* In other words, they must recuse themselves.

I'm asking that Councilor Woodden recuse himself from any future discussion or decision regarding Montrose declaring itself as a non-sanctuary city. There is a clear conflict of interest with his wife having a leadership role on a committee that is in support of restrictive immigration policies and him serving as a policy deci-

sion maker for the City of Montrose. The statute clearly states that a personal or private interest issue is a conflict. There is not much more personal than maintaining spousal harmony.

Councilor Woodden would be pressured by his wife to enact policies being driven from the GOP conference. It's unavoidable, intentional or not, spouses have influence over each other.

Even if Mrs. Woodden were to resign her position from the Central Committee the stage has been set, the conflict of interest is still present.

As I see it, Councilor Woodden has 2 choices regarding any future discussions regarding non-sanctuary city declarations: 1) simply recuse himself, or 2) tender his resignation from council.

Mr. Woodden, you have the City Attorney available to advise you on your legal obligation and perhaps ethical considerations regarding this matter. You should reach out to him.

Thank You

Dave Stockton



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY AWARDS FOUR FUTURE FARMERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Montrose County is proud to award four Future Farmers Scholarships this year to Tyler Banulis, Peyton Briggs, Madison Collin, and Miley Dessauer. The scholarship celebrates Montrose County's rich agricultural heritage while investing in the next generation of agricultural leaders. The awards were recently presented during the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Junior Livestock Sale.

This year, Montrose County expanded its commitment by increasing the scholarship program from two awards to four, recognizing even more outstanding students who have demonstrated a passion for agriculture, leadership, and community service. Scholarship recipients were selected through a competitive application process that reflects the county's ongoing commitment to supporting the next generation of agricultural professionals and ensuring the strength of Montrose County's agricultural legacy for years to come.

Scholarship awards were based on weighted GPA, personal achievement, community involvement, future goals, and an essay highlighting the importance of agriculture in Montrose County.

Tyler Banulis of Olathe plans to pursue a degree in civil engineering at Montana State University while continuing his lifelong connection to agriculture. Tyler has been actively involved in 4-H for eight years, participating in shooting sports, leathercraft, and market lamb projects while serving in multiple leadership positions. Through FFA, he has served as chapter treasurer, competed on the meats judging team, completed several supervised agricultural experience (SAE) projects, and represented FFA before local boards. Tyler also gained valuable agricultural experience through work-study with Fassett Hay and Cattle and has remained active in archery and clay target sports.

Peyton Briggs plans to pursue a degree in animal science at the University of Wyoming with a pre-veterinary medicine emphasis as she works toward becoming a veterinarian. Throughout high school, she has been actively involved in FFA, rabbit breeding, livestock exhibition, and veterinary medicine experiences. After receiving a Colorado State SAE Grant as a freshman, Peyton established her own rabbit breeding operation and developed skills in animal husbandry, business management, and entrepreneurship. She has earned multiple state-level awards, including the Colorado FFA State Gold Proficiency Award in Small Animal Production, and has served in several FFA leadership roles, including Chapter President. As a current Colorado FFA State Officer candidate, Peyton continues to advocate for agricultural education while gaining hands-on veterinary experience through assistant training and job shadowing.

Madison Collin plans to attend Montana State University to pursue a nursing degree before continuing her education to become a Physician Assistant. She has distinguished herself through exceptional leadership in FFA and livestock projects, serving as both chapter president and district president while earning her State FFA Degree. Madison's accomplishments include Champion Showman, Reserve Market Steer honors, and helping lead her family's state-winning sheep production project. She has also received the DEKALB Award, Outstanding Montrose High School Agriculture Award, and induction into the National Technical Honor Society. Her dedication to leadership, service, and agriculture has prepared her well for a future in healthcare.

Miley Dessauer plans to pursue an associate degree in agribusiness at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and West Texas A&M University, preparing for a future in the agricultural industry through coursework in agricultural economics, farm and ranch management, finance, accounting, agricultural law, marketing, livestock industry management, and meat science. Her educational goals reflect a desire to build a broad understanding of agriculture and develop the knowledge needed to support producers and agricultural businesses.

In partnership with the Montrose Community Foundation, the Future Farmers Scholarship is intended for students pursuing careers in agriculture. Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Montrose County's heritage and economy, and the scholarship helps encourage the next generation of agricultural professionals and leaders. The county extends its congratulations to this year's recipients and thanks all applicants for their dedication to agriculture and their communities. More information about the Future Farmers Scholarship is available at <https://www.montrosecounty.net/scholarship>.



Montrose County is proud to award four Future Farmers Scholarships this year to Tyler Banulis, Peyton Briggs, Madison Collin, and Miley Dessauer. Montrose County Courtesy photo.

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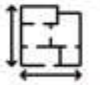
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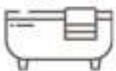
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2ND ANNUAL DELTA COUNTY NIGHT OUT IN CEDAREDDGE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Bring the whole family and join us on **Tuesday, August 4**, for an evening of fun, food, and community at the 2nd Annual Delta County Night Out in Cedaredge!

This free, family-friendly event is your opportunity to meet the dedicated first responders who proudly serve communities throughout Delta County. Representatives from local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, EMS, and other public safety partners will be on hand to visit with community members, answer questions, and showcase the equipment they use to keep our county safe.

There will be plenty of **FREE** family fun, including:

- Free hot dogs
- Free ice cream
- Games and activities
- Tug-of-war
- Face painting
- Live music by Emily Paige Reynolds
- Emergency vehicles and equipment to explore

Delta County Night Out is held in conjunction with National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign celebrated by thousands of communities across the country.

The event is designed to strengthen the partnership between first responders and the communities they serve by bringing neighbors together in a fun, welcoming environment.

Whether you're meeting your local first responders for the first time or reconnecting with familiar faces, we hope you'll join us for an evening filled with community spirit, great food, live entertainment, and fun for all ages.

WOMENS' GIVING CLUB TO MEET AUG. 13

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Women's Giving Club is set for their quarterly meeting on Thursday, August 13, at The Bridges Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.

All women are invited to participate. The premise is simple: Everyone donates \$100, then a drawing is held to determine the three presenters for the evening. Each of those non-profit local organizations is given five minutes to tell the group about their charity and its current needs. A vote is then taken to determine which of them receives the total amount available for that quarter.

For those who have never attended, the option is given to come as a guest to observe. No donation is required, but guests are not allowed to nominate an organization for funding or to vote.

An additional \$10 will be collected from all attendees for the hospitality fee which includes snacks and a drink as well as room and service charges.

The Women's Giving Club is very proud of its contributions to the Montrose Community. At our last meeting in May over \$13,000 was awarded to Valley Food Partnership. This is a unique opportunity for women to come together to learn about the needs in our community and to meaningfully, as a group, make a difference. Over \$400,000 has been distributed since 2017.

For more information, please call 970-209-9598 or email brueskejd@gmail.com.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

RED OR BLUE? MONTROSE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MONTROSE

Are we in the Crosshairs of a Political Conversion Plan?

By David White

I've watched, listened and written of late about the ongoing efforts being made in our community over the past year whereby seemingly average citizens – some old timers and some new to the area – have “randomly” appeared in what at first seemed to be citizen engagement over happenings at Montrose County. Debates over the former County Manager, the now former Public Health Director, leadership roles amongst the County Commissioners, etc. drew crowds of heretofore uninvolved local residents who, on a weekly basis, berated our elected officials on what began to appear to have been an organized effort to seek political change. Righteous indignation; cries of racism, sexism, misogyny and other buzzwords designed to incite the masses when repeated through local and regional media sources – print, electronic, social, etc. soon brought the tar and feather crowd forward with cries of correcting these now labeled moral wrongdoings through what became a recall effort of one County Commissioner who had only served six months in office. By the 11th month of his term, he was gone and another Commissioner was marginalized and so ended the moral outrage. Or so it seemed.

At the same time as out-of-state money was pouring into the recall campaign, an election was taking place to select new Montrose RE-1J School Board members. The school board races resulted in a strong mandate against perceived progressive overreach in public education. Not happy with the electors' decisions and like a swarm of wasps, hornets or any other venomous insect known to man, the same tactics employed against Montrose County leadership along with cries of discrimination, unfair practices, etc. started coming from the same crowd who, in general, opposed the conservative education policy direction the School Board was exploring along with administrative decisions regarding the legal counsel they chose to represent the District; administrative decisions regarding the District

Superintendent, the approval of a new charter school (Montrose Classical Academy) and other matters that had previously not been an issue when decided by the previous, more liberal, board.

These disputes reflect standard national school-board polarization (conservative majorities pursuing policy shifts vs. progressive/liberal-leaning residents, educators, and unions prioritizing traditional public-school governance, employee protections, and avoiding culture-war litigation). Unhappiness with the current School Board is leading some to believe that a broader effort is afoot to see some members of the Board go the way that treatment bestowed upon the County Commissioners last fall went.

And it doesn't stop there! The newly elected City Councilmembers are bucking up against this same crowd as well as the entrenched City management team. Like the tactics employed with the County Commissioners last year, threats of recall are ringing louder by the day. Why? As of this writing, a proposal to ask voters to make some needed changes to the City Charter seems to be the lightning rod for controversy that sees the City Council divided with Councilors J. David Reed and Dave Frank battling the rest of the Council over how possible ballot questions will be presented to voters in this November's mid-term election regarding Charter changes or amendments.

In the November 2025 general election, the City of Montrose City Council put forth a ballot question regarding the Charter that were largely cleanup, modernization, and clarification updates (plus an eight-year consecutive-term limit for council members and other procedural adjustments). **The City Council initiated the review and placed the package on the ballot via Ordinance 2690.** Full red-lined and clean versions of the proposed amended Charter were posted on the city's website for public review. **No hue and cry from a supposedly disenfranchised electorate was heard then.** No claims from Councilors Reed and Frank

that the process was moving too fast or that there needed to be a “Citizens Committee” to suggest Charter changes. Nothing. The City Council, City Manager and City Attorney took care of business without a whimper from the likes of today's citizen activists who have been berating Council for daring to put forth amendments without a citizen committee deciding what should be proposed to the residents of the City. How ironic that more righteous indignation is coming from this same crowd.

Mayor Michael Badagliacco campaigned on asking the voters to approve certain changes to the Charter. Last Wednesday, July 29th, in a public meeting on two possible ballot questions related to the Charter (there will be others discussed in today's City Council Work Session), a little over a dozen citizen activists came to speak their minds on the matter and demanded a stop to the proceedings until a citizen committee was in place to do the work that historically the Council has done in bringing forth updates and amendments. Not surprisingly, the majority of them identified as Unaffiliated voters. Some as Democrat Party members and just one Republican.

That piqued my interest as the City Council is a non-partisan body and yet partisanship seems to be a playing card that is used by many of the “unaffiliated” voters who have publicly called out the predominantly conservative leaning City Council. Here are some examples: **Cliff Faurer** spoke at the City Council meeting and wrote a letter that appeared in the *Montrose Daily Press* opposing Charter changes. He's unaffiliated yet research shows that he and his wife have been donors to the Biden for President and Phil Weiser for Governor campaigns. **John Broadbooks** touts his Unaffiliated voter status yet is a frequent contributor to the Montrose Democratic Party, Phil Weiser for Governor, Recall Scott Mijares, Committee to Elect Kirstin Copeland County Commissioner and many other left-of-center campaigns and organizations. **Kim**

RED OR BLUE? MONTROSE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MONTROSE

From previous pg

Townsend-Spangrude is another vocal Unaffiliated voter whose track record of contributions to the Montrose Democratic Party Central Committee spans years. Contributions to other Democratic Party candidates such as Phil Weiser and Alice Murphy (former school board member) by her are found in public records.

Beth McCorkle, another vocal Unaffiliated voter and **Neonila Martyniuk** fall in line with the rest of the "Unaffiliated" crowd on this list with contributions to the Montrose Democratic Party.

Of course, Democratic Party loyalists **Bob Nicholson** (former City Councilor) and **Ryan Sedgeley** (DMEA Board Member and former City Council candidate) aren't bashful about their beliefs and speak their minds before Council. Longtime local sycophant and registered "Republican" **Jim Haugsness** (a frequent contributor over the years to Democratic candidates such as Alice Murphy, Barbara Bynum, Kjersten Davis, Kevin Kuns, Jody Hovde and Tom West along with contributions to the Democratic Party) makes his voice known as he sides with his liberal friends on most issues.

Now let's be clear...such activity occurs on both sides of the political spectrum, however, by declaring yourself to be "unaffiliated," one seemingly is able to duck for cover when you're able to hide behind that moniker, yet public records show where your true beliefs and support for political causes lie. To that end, the Democratic Party has done a beautiful job of capitalizing on the role of the unaffiliated voter in their plans to take rural Colorado to their side of the political aisle.

In June of this year, the Democratic Party, following up on an initiative that began in 2024, unveiled their "**County Comeback 2026**" plan which is their explicit long-term plan to build lasting infrastructure

and competitiveness in traditionally Republican (red) and rural counties, with the stated goal of flipping them blue over time.

Research finds that Democratic Party messaging frames this as the "next frontier" of Colorado politics. With statewide offices and legislative majorities already held by Democrats, the strategy shifts resources downward: strengthen county parties so they can recruit and elect local candidates who "show up" on kitchen-table issues, listen to communities, and deliver tangible results. The theory is that sustained local wins, better organization, and higher Democratic vote shares will compound cycle after cycle, turning red strongholds more competitive and eventually blue. Official materials describe it as an "ambitious long-term plan to flip red counties blue" and increase competitiveness in traditional GOP areas.

According to public statements that I've found, Democrats have gone on the offense statewide in municipal, school board, and county races during this 2026 election cycle (governor, other statewide offices, legislative seats, congressional races, and more county contests). Their party leadership emphasizes year-round organizing, candidate recruitment and training (especially for local offices), data-driven outreach, meeting voters where they are, and treating county parties as true partners rather than afterthoughts. The "Colorado County Comeback 2026" launch language from the party Chairman and other party operatives' stresses showing up in every community—from cities to rural areas—and building a party that fights for everyday issues so local Democratic candidates can win. (You only have to look at the three (3) political bodies spoken of in this article to see this!)

And that my friends' is the reason why every single elective office in Montrose County is a target. Aided and abetted by so called middle of the road Republicans and Unaffiliated voters, the Democrats, to their credit, have a game plan that they think they can win. Their dutiful foot soldiers carry the torch. Local operatives such as Linda Gann (Neighbors for Good Governance), Phoebe Benziger (Colorado Rural Voters), Karen Sherman-Perez (Hispanic Affairs Project), Holly Speaks (Indivisible/No Kings), Bethany Maher (MADA) and others package the arguments and deliver the goods under the guise of having the best intentions that they're doing us all a favor with their woke political messages and more if we'll just turn things over to them and their good judgement.

To verify what I've found, go to the source (<https://www.coloradodems.org/press/colorado-democratic-party-launches2026-colorado-county-comeback>) and (<https://www.coloradodems.org/the-road-ahead>). Straight from the Party itself is a partial disclosure of what's coming to or has already arrived in rural Colorado. Don't worry Montrose. It's already here and in spades. Red or Blue? The choice is yours. Pick well.

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 with 2 more on the way & a great grandchild.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KENNETH J. LABRUM (MUTT) *July 21, 1940- July 19, 2026*



KENNETH J. LABRUM (MUTT) died on July 19, 2026, two days before his 86 birthday. Mutt was born in Grand Junction, Colorado. Spent his life in Colorado, Utah, Texas, back to Colorado and then spent the last 30 years in Lakeport, California with his second wife Shirley Patton, taking care of her mother, the homesteaded land of her parents and then he took care of Shirley until her passing in January of 2024. He came back to Colorado and lived with his son Jeff and his wife Kathy for the last two years. This is where he got to know his grandkids again, then great grandchildren and great great grandson.

Mutt was a carpenter by trade. He built many homes, businesses and even worked at the Ridgeway and Dolores dams. When he was a much younger man he coached his son and classmates in little league baseball in Olathe. Lots of great memories come from this time in his and Jeff's life.

He was the second to last of 11 children born to Rosco J. and Catherine (Hicks) Labrum the last one to leave this earth. He was also preceded in death by his oldest daughter Vicki and her husband Randy Trounce, and his youngest daughter Betty Mitchell.

No services planned. When you see an Elk or mule deer give a wave and remember Mutt

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

GARY ROY GRATTON

GARY ROY GRATTON 79, of Montrose, passed away at Valley Manor Care Center, after a long battle of Parkinson's and PSP.

Born November 22, 1946, to Raymond and Alma Gratton in Cleveland, Ohio.

After graduation in 1966, Gary joined the United States Marine Corp for a lifetime of service for his country, retiring in March 1997. Moving to Montrose, Colorado in December 1996, continuing to serve his community at Habitat for Humanity, Sharing Ministries, VFW and building little houses, sheds, different projects.

Gary is survived by his wife Suzanne of 49 years. United with five children: Denver Gratton (Ginger), Lynn Diero (Art) Chris Deter, Larry Gratton (Becca), Leigh Baker (Dan). 10 grandchildren, three great grandchildren. Also, Sisters: Karen Allen, Marcia Klingman, and Melissa McGhee, brother-in-law: Chip Wilson and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by brother, Chad Gratton.

Gary's faith was in the Lord Jesus Christ, a member of Christ Church of the Valley.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Hope West Hospice of the Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, Co. 81401



JANICE FAY ROTTINGHAUS

February 23, 1963- July 26, 2026



JANICE FAY ROTTINGHAUS of Olathe, CO, age 63, passed away on July 26, 2026.

Janice was born in Montrose, CO on February 23, 1963 to Katherine and Jesse Linsacum. She grew up in Montrose and graduated from Montrose High School in 1981. After graduating, she worked as a pharmacy technician.

Janice enjoyed counted cross stitching, gardening, cooking and crafts. She liked to travel, including trips to Rocky Mountain National Park and scenic drives in the mountains.

Janice married Robert Rottinghaus in September, 1986. They made their home on a family farm near Olathe, CO where Janice grew to love the farm life. She especially enjoyed processing and canning produce from their garden.

In 1999, Janice's life was miraculously changed when she became the recipient of a kidney/pancreas transplant.

Janice is survived by Rob, her husband of nearly forty years. She is also survived by her Mother, Katherine Linsacum and brothers Steve (Ilene), Gary (Shawn), and Ron (Jnl) Linsacum. She was preceded in death by her Father, Jesse Linsacum, her sister, Linda Fluke and nephew, Timothy Linsacum.

A celebration of Janice's life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Juvenile Diabetes or Hope West Hospice.

ISSUE 585 Aug. 3, 2026

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – LIVE VS ONLINE CONNECTIONS



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.

Greetings Mirrorites!

Some years ago, I read a great book titled "[Made for Each Other](#)". It's not about finding true romantic love, which you might assume from the title, but rather the forces of evolution upon the interactions of humans and our now domesticated animal companions, especially dogs. The role of oxytocin in creating, strengthening, and modifying our relationships with animals was highlighted.

I was reminded of this work when listening to a lecture on the role of oxytocin in online relationships.

We know that the human brain is fundamentally social, wired through millions of years of evolution to seek connection, cooperation, and community. At the heart of this social drive lies oxytocin, a neuro-peptide and hormone often dubbed the



Hugging trees has been shown to increase the levels of the hormone oxytocin
Courtesy image.

"cuddle chemical" or "bonding hormone." It plays a pivotal role in trust, empathy, social recognition, and the formation of deep emotional bonds. However, the landscape of human communication has undergone a seismic shift in the 21st century. The transition from predominantly face-to-face (FtF) interactions to digital, screen-mediated communication raises an interesting mental health question which is, can a digital interface stimulate the same oxytocin response as a physical presence? Inquiring minds would love to know. Physical contact is the primary driver of

oxytocin. Second most potent is eye contact, specifically "mutual gaze". But gazing at elements of restorative natural environments is really powerful as well. While I personally feel a sense of warmth and deep love for natural aesthetic beauty, it appears that most folks require a more hands on approach. It has reported that hugging trees has been shown to increase the levels of the hormone oxytocin, which is the hormone responsible for emotional bonding and feelings of wellbeing, calmness and trust. One of the primary ways that oxytocin production increases is

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – LIVE VS ONLINE CONNECTIONS *From previous pg*

is through touch. Dr. Stone Kraushaar, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist known as The Hug Doctor, suggests that we hug (each other or trees) for a minimum of 21 seconds on order to benefit from the increased release of oxytocin.

If you are concerned that this means of boosting oxytocin will put you at risk of being called a 'tree hugger' (a modern American insult for an environmentalist or a hippie), you can retort that you are pursuing an ancient tradition that began in India centuries ago and persists as a competition in Scotland. Scottish tree hugging competitions are serious business, with prizes awarded for Speed hugging (the most trees hugged in 60 seconds, with a minimum for 5 seconds for each tree), Dedication (the most passionate hug, lasting up to 60 seconds), and Freestyle (most creative hug, for a maximum of 60 seconds).

Seriously though, there is much love to be gained by enjoying nature in the company of familiar and friendly others. This social dimension is understudied but there is a little research emerging on this. [One Japanese study](#) found that adolescent boys increased oxytocin level in a wilderness situation where they needed others' cooperation and support for survival. Any activity that increases this hormone in teenage boys sounds awesome to me!

Oxytocin promotes different kinds of social interaction and bonding and exerts stress-reducing and healing effects. In situations characterized by low levels of fear and stress in response to release of oxytocin, the capacity for positive psychological development might also happen. Such an instorative effect of nature, i.e., the capacity of nature to promote reorientation and the creation of new coping strategies, might hence represent an additional aspect of oxytocin-linked effects, triggered in connection with certain pleasant natural phenomena. [One group of researchers found in 2021](#) that the stress-relieving, health-promoting, restorative, and instorative effects of nature may involve activation of the oxytocinergic system. In other words, time spent in lovely and safe outdoor environments can induce a bit of a love jolt.

Can we get just as much benefit from screentime interactions as from nature or face to face social interactions? In a word, no. [A June 2026 paper](#) examined Problematic Interactive Media Users and found that these folks exhibited a tendency to rely on digital platforms for unmet in person social needs. Unfortunately, this interaction is nearly devoid of oxytocin. Social media junkies are better off tree hugging, if face to face interactions are undesirable or impossible for some reason. If tree hug-

ging is not practical and there's no one to walk with in nature, then a phone call to a friend or beloved family member while strolling can help a lot. Under normal circumstances I don't recommend this, since it short circuits the brain's ability to enter the default mode network to boost cognitive resources and outside-the-box thinking. But when a person is feeling desperately lonely and the internet seems the only option, resist and engage with a human voice. This is not just my opinion.

We've known since 2012 that, unlike children interacting with their mothers in person or over the phone, girls who instant messaged them only did not release oxytocin. Instead, these lasses showed levels of salivary cortisol (i.e. stress response) as high as control subjects who did not interact with their moms at all. The researchers concluded that "the comforting sound of a familiar voice is responsible for the hormonal differences observed..."

Strolling in pleasant landscapes with a group of friends is pretty much guaranteed to boost your love hormones and create new and lasting connections with both nature and humans. When it isn't too hot, which is asking a lot these days, amble with the amiable and forge those oxytocin bonds!

Happy rambling,

The Mindful Naturalist



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MONTROSE TEEN HOPES TO TAKE HIS GAME TO SPAIN



Levi Rodriguez, above and left, has spent the summer working while continuing to train every day. Courtesy photos.



Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—It may be a long shot. But one young Montrose resident has his eyes on the ball and hopes to take his game to a higher level—and a distant land.

According to Levi Rodriguez' mother Csilla, the 16-year-old has been an enthusiastic soccer player since age two and has long dreamed of playing in Europe.

While the family has never been able to afford elite soccer camps, Levi was able to attend a soccer camp in Gunnison this summer, put on by the West Elk Soccer Association in Crested Butte and led by coaches from Spain. He spent the summer building his skills and perfecting his game. By the time the soccer camp drew to a

close Levi had greatly increased his abilities. He was selected to receive a week of free training in Spain and was also invited to train and study with an academy in Spain for a full year.

While the cost of sending Levi to Spain is presently beyond reach of the family's budget, Csilla said that Levi has spent the summer working while continuing to train every day.

The family has started a [GoFundMe](#), for friends and family to help if they choose.

"No matter what happens, we are already proud of the young man Levi has become. Soccer may be his dream, but his character is his greatest achievement," Csilla

said.

Levi himself had this to say. "Playing soccer in Spain would mean everything to me. Ever since I was little, I've dreamed of playing soccer in Europe. Soccer isn't just a sport to me. It's what I think about every day—at school, at home, on vacation. It's what I love more than anything.

"I know this opportunity is something not everyone gets and I am very grateful. I want to represent my family, everyone who believes in me, and everyone who has supported me along the way.

"I want to make them proud."

For those who would like to help, the link to Levi's [GoFundMe](#) is here.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FINDING AN OASIS: 'ROOTS & RHYTHMS' EXTENDED AT THE SPACE TO CREATE GALLERY

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY— For those looking to step away from the smoke and daily worries, there is a quiet sanctuary waiting on Clinton Street. *Roots & Rhythms*, a free exhibition featuring abstract paintings by Julia Reid and wood sculptures by Ethan Wortis, is on view at

the Space to Create Gallery, 675 Clinton St., through August 31.

The exhibition has become a local point of interest, with visitors describing the gallery as an "oasis"—a place to slow down and find rhythm through the interplay of lines, curves, and textures.

The show brings together two artists with deep roots in our community, exploring themes of movement, memory, and the natural world through distinct yet complementary mediums. Reid's abstract paintings emerge from an intuitive process of layering color, texture, and gesture to create emotional landscapes inspired by lived experience and the beauty of Southwest Colorado. Complementing these are Wortis' wood sculptures, which transform the material into graceful, flowing forms that challenge expectations, revealing balance and humor in every piece. Together, the works invite viewers to reflect on the connection between our roots and the evolving rhythms that guide us toward who we are becoming.

The gallery itself reflects that same idea. As Colorado's first Space to Create project, Ridgway Space to Create grew from a shared vision between Artspace and the Town of Ridgway and took shape through the dedication of countless community members. Today, it remains rooted in that vision, continuing to evolve as affordable housing, two commission-free galleries, and monthly exhibitions create new rhythms that bring artists and neighbors together.

The community is invited to experience *Roots & Rhythms* during regular gallery hours or at the next First Friday Art Walk on Friday, Aug. 7, from 5 to 8 pm.

Visit the Gallery

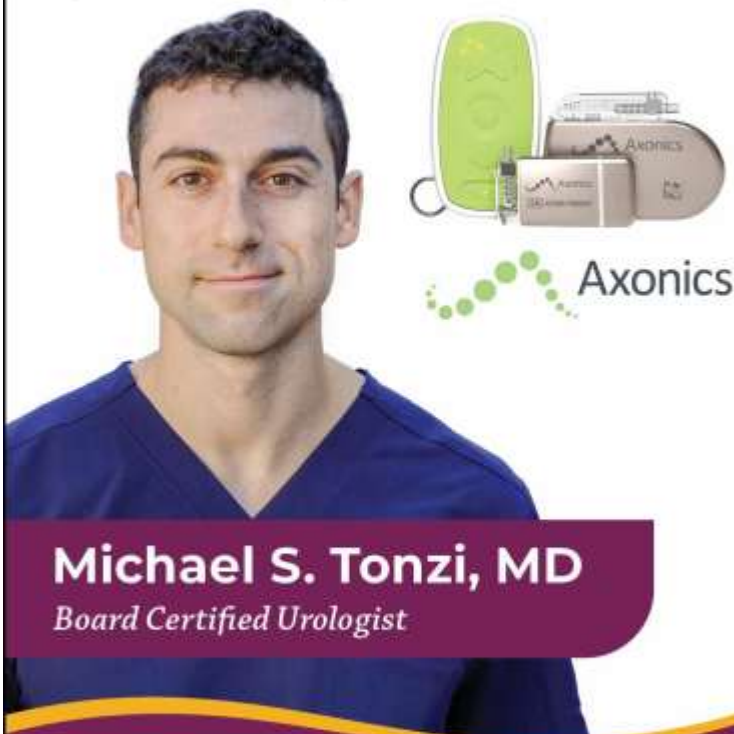
Space to Create Gallery 675 Clinton St., Ridgway, CO
Public Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

Call for Artists: The gallery is a commission-free space welcoming applications for future monthly exhibitions. Artists interested in exhibiting are encouraged to contact gallery manager Maria Schaeffer at spacetocre-ate@assetliving.com or 970-488-3887.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS PRESENTS THE POWER OF ART

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Joy, sorrow, hope, anger - what feelings does a piece of art bring to mind? What does the artist intend? Come see the upcoming Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) exhibit: *The Power of Art*. The exhibit will run from Aug. 11 – Sept. 25 at MCA, located at 205 E. Main Street in Montrose. Admission to the center is always free and the hours are 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday. Community members are invited to attend the reception and award ceremony on August 13 from 5 – 7 p.m. at MCA.

"This is one of our favorite exhibits of the year," says MCA Gallery Team Chair Jen Wolfe. "The competition among MCA artists always seems to bring out their very best work. We look forward to seeing what emotions their works evoke in us."

This is an MCA Member Only exhibit and will be a juried show — a \$200 prize will be awarded to the Best in Show and \$100 to the 2nd place. The judge for the exhibit will be Ouida Touchon. She is a visual artist from New Mexico, who now resides in Delta. She owns a charming 1910 bungalow with a carriage house in the back

where she spends most of her waking moments at the easel or the press. She holds a BFA in painting from the Kansas City Art Institute, and Master of Art from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in studio arts. In addition, she has studied with mentors and distinguished printmakers and painters in Italy, Mexico, and the United States. She is a noted artist who combines traditional forms of printmaking and mixed media, with painting, collage, and embroidery to synthesize a medium all her own. More than a printmaker or painter, she sees herself more essentially as a maker of images.

The exhibit is sponsored by ElderAdo Financial — members of MCA's Art In Motion network for businesses that showcase MCA members' artworks in their buildings at no cost to the business. Located at 1030 S. Townsend Ave., Suite A in Montrose, ElderAdo Financial offers the following services — fiduciary investment management,



Overgrown, by MCA Artist Bob Larose.

retirement planning and rollovers, tax and social security planning, estate planning and wealth transition, and comprehensive financial planning.

"Choosing the right financial advisor is one of the most important decisions you'll make," says owner Jaimee Carnes. "

At ElderAdo Financial, we provide fee-only, fiduciary guidance, ensuring our advice is always in your best interest with transparent fees and no hidden commissions."

"We are proud to help support the arts in Montrose and delighted to showcase the artists' works in our building," Carnes added.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

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Olathe, Co 81425

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www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com
 Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

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

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the Valley

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

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Montrose, CO 81401

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

find friendly people gathered in a welcoming environment being comforted and encouraged by the forgiveness and love of Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

COMMUNITY SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

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

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

future where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868

Contact: [ststephensmont-](mailto:ststephensmont-rose@yahoo.com)

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost.

Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

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Burgers & Beer
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Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FIVE MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED TO SHOWCASE ARTWORK AT MONTROSE SELF STORAGE LOCATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Five Montrose High School students have been selected as winners of the 2026 Montrose Self Storage Student Art Contest, earning the opportunity to have their original artwork permanently displayed at [Montrose Self Storage](#) locations throughout the community, along with a \$1,000 scholarship to support their future educational pursuits.

The winning artists are Paige Obuhanick, Olivia Schmidt, Kenia Romo, Payton Lico, and Angie Urbano Flores. Each student's artwork will be featured at one of the company's five locations, transforming everyday spaces into public galleries that celebrate local creativity.

Students were challenged to create an original piece that captured the feeling, character, and beauty of the Montrose area. The winning entries included a variety of artistic styles and mediums, from paintings inspired by the region's mountains, rivers, and desert landscapes to graphic design pieces that reflected the spirit of the Western Slope.

"To me, art means expressing your personality and the things you enjoy through colors, composition, and elements," said winner Olivia Schmidt. "This piece showcases my love for deserts, mountains, and sunrises and sunsets. The muted hues of pink, purple, green, and gold create a warm and inviting atmosphere, with a sense of curiosity and adventure."

Fellow winner Paige Obuhanick shared a simple philosophy about creativity.

"Art is the best way to see things from every perspective," she said.

The contest was organized in partnership with Montrose High School art teacher Lauralee MacHale, who encouraged students to participate and helped guide them through the creative process.

"We're continually impressed by the talent of these young artists," said Michael Fishman, co-owner of Montrose Self Storage. "This contest is about more than decorating our buildings. It's about investing in students, recognizing their creativity, and helping them take the next step toward their educational and career goals."

The student art program is part of Montrose Self Storage's ongoing commitment to supporting local schools and investing in the communities it serves. In addition to having their work displayed throughout the community, each winning artist received a \$1,000 scholarship that can be used toward future academic or educational expenses.

The winning artwork is now on display at Montrose Self Storage's five locations throughout Montrose at:

688 Spring Creek Rd, Montrose, CO 81403

727 Fruit Park Rd, Montrose, CO 81403

332 W Main St, Montrose, CO 81401

532 Spring Creek, Montrose, CO 81403

239 North 9th Street, Montrose, CO 81401



Artwork by Angie Urbano Flores.
Courtesy photo.



Artwork by Paige Obuhanick.
Courtesy photo.



Artwork by Olivia Schmidt.
Courtesy photo.



Artwork by Kenia Romo.
Courtesy photo.



Artwork by Payton Lico.
Courtesy photo.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Please join us on August 5 for the Montrose County Historical Society’s monthly General Meeting. Our guest for August will be Ms. Ally Gerken, from the *Friends of the Black Canyon* organization. Ms. Gerken will discuss the mission and goals of this local group, including recent fundraising and projects helping to restore the South Rim of the Black Canyon after the devastating fire of last year. Ms. Gerken’s presentation is scheduled for 7pm on August 5th in the Pioneer Room at Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Please use the smaller door to the left of the main doors. It will be open at 6:30pm. As always, this program is FREE. Light refreshments will be served.

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF MONTROSE believes in "Leading to a Better Community" and is always looking for new members. We meet in Montrose on the first three Tuesdays of each month. Our local Altrusa Club has given back over \$1,000,000 in 50 years. Our members unite their varied talents in service to others, achieving as a group what individuals cannot do alone. If you are interested in more information or to come to a meeting, please contact us at 970-765-7666 or Email: Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com or <https://www.altrusamontrose.org/>

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

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. 5-Delta County Commissioners Wendell Koontz, Mike Lane, and Craig Fuller will join FFA volunteers, and Fair royalty to cook and serve a free community BBQ dinner during the Delta County Fair. Join us on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 6-8 p.m. at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss. Dinner is free, and everyone is welcome!

Aug. 5-Attend the weekly Montrose Forum on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 8-9 am, as we welcome representatives from Valley Food Partnership presenting: America 250-150.

Aug. 8-From 9 - 11am - Jewels of the Air: The Hummingbird's Secret Mission. Join the experts from the Black Canyon Audubon Society (BCAS) at the Ridgway State Park Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Ponds. FREE (Park pass required for entry). For information see <https://cpw.state.co.us/event/education/2026/08/jewels-air-hummingbirds-secret-mission>

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

Aug. 13-On Thursday Aug. 13, 7 -8:30 pm Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Lisa Eckert presenting the History of Alaska's National Parks from the inception of the first one- Sitka National Monument in 1910 to the 1980's with the passing of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) which doubled the size of national parks and wildlife refuges in the state. Lisa's career spans 37 years as a NPS ranger and manager at 14 NP units throughout the country including five years at Denali NP & Preserve. The meeting location is the Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubon.org

KEEPING IT COOL AT THE ASSOCIATION...



Singer/Songwriter Mark Seelbinder warms up before an evening of performing at the Association (39 West Main Street) on Saturday, a cool and comfortable venue for a hot summer evening.

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