



ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION



FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE!

© Issue No. 702 Aug. 10, 2026

the Montrose Mirror

COUNCIL APPROVES UPDATED LANGUAGE ON E-BIKES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Chamber was full, and all councilors were present for the regular Montrose City Council meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 4.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri asked that a Wastewater Treatment Plant Update be removed from the Agenda.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Prior to opening the floor to comment, Mayor Michael Badagliacco said that Council had made changes and will not be pursuing three of the items that had originally been considered for the ballot in November, including he/she language, ranked choice voting, and a rule about the residence of the Municipal Court Judge. A planned session to discuss those proposed changes will not be held.

The Public Comment Period lasted for nearly an hour. Many of the comments followed a pattern that has been seen in previous meetings, expressing opposition to proposed charter



Speakers line up for their turn to comment at the regular Montrose City Council meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 4. Meeting Screenshot.

[Continued pg 56](#)

ELECTION INTEGRITY – IS THE CITY OF MONTROSE PLAYING HARD AND FAST WITH THE RULES?

CITY CLERK ADMITS TO BREACH OF CONTRACT & MORE!

By David White

WARNING: This special report is going to go deep and long into recent disclosures related to the April 7, 2026, City of Montrose municipal election which are disturbing to say the least. While a long read, it's necessary to understand what happened with this year's election. So here we go.

Breach of contract? Breaching of the continuity of counting the citizen's vote? City Manager involvement in declaring winners and losers? Questions arise after Montrose City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo calls into question the "partiality" of the Montrose County Clerk and her Elections Department.

[Continued pg 6](#)



2026 City Election Night photo by David White.

[BOCC Recognizes Team Members for Response to Fires, Flooding!](#)

[A Talk with Local Author Lance Bach: By Kathryn R. Burke!](#)

[Mirror Images: Out & About!](#)

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,

the Montrose Mirror

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CITY CLERK ADMITS TO BREACH OF CONTRACT & MORE! From pg 1

Last week, during the City Council's Monday, Aug. 3 Work Session, Council had a discussion regarding suggestions related to changes to the Montrose City Charter that might appear on this year's Nov. 3 mid-term election ballot for citizens to vote on. One question for voters that's being proposed is to move the City's bi-annual election date from April to November so as to coordinate their election with County, State & Federal elections. Doing so, as it is presently constituted, would save the City roughly \$30,000 in current election costs and simplify voting by having City matters voted on along with the other levels of government.

During that discussion, Councilor Adam Woodden asked City Clerk DelPiccolo about a discrepancy that occurred the night of the April 7, 2026 municipal election when she removed 42 uncounted ballots from the County Clerk's possession and took those ballots back to her office in City Hall without letting them be counted by the electronic voting equipment in the County Elections Department that is calibrated, inspected and certified by the Colorado Secretary of State's office and which the City was contractually obligated to use for accuracy and continuity so as to ensure an accurate vote count.

DelPiccolo, in response to the question posed by Councilor Woodden replied with an answer that was both baffling and alarming..."The reason why those last remaining ballots were not taken to the County was because there were questions about the County elections office, certain staff members there being impartial and I knew there was a very tight race...the what 26 (she may have been referring to the vote spread in the District 1 race the evening of the election but the recording is a bit garbled at this point) and to ensure the integrity of the election that I was designated election officer over, I decided to count those myself. So, I stand behind what I did 100%." (see the following YouTube video of the meeting at the 1:42:43 through to the 1:44:53-minute mark here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFxfMMzvHAM>)

Rather than submit the 42 ballots to the

County Elections Department, the City Clerk decided to "count those myself?" However, it turns out that there weren't just 42 uncounted ballots, there were 83! In an email dated April 23, 2026 to the Montrose County Deputy Clerk (16 days after the election), City Clerk DelPiccolo stated that in addition to the 42 ballots, that there were 17 "Confidential Ballots (these are ballots that are somewhat "secret" and typically are voted by those in law enforcement or elected officials seeking anonymity due to their positions); 16 ballots received from voters that needed to be "cured" due to a signature discrepancy or other issue; 7 provisional ballots received from "voters" (A provisional ballot is a special type of ballot used in elections when there are questions regarding a voter's eligibility. This allows individuals to cast their vote while their registration status is verified. The County Clerk's Office was **NEVER** given these ballots to verify as required.) and 1 UOCAVA (overseas military or civilian) ballot that arrived late but was postmarked in a timely fashion.

BREACH OF CONTRACT: On January 15, 2026, City Manager Bill Bell signed a contract with Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes titled **"AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES BETWEEN MONTROSE COUNTY and the CITY OF MONTROSE For the Mail Ballot Municipal Election on April 7, 2026."** A link to the contract is available here: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:6e8e74cc-04a6-46d9-a94a-65043aad23f5>). In that agreement, 23 separate items define the duties and responsibilities of the City and County for the election.

Section 12 of the contract is titled **MAIL BALLOT VOTING:** This section defines the process for the processing and distribution of ballots for the April 7, 2026, Municipal election. The last sentence of this section clearly states that **"All mail ballots received by 7:00 p.m. Election Day will be processed daily and then turned over to the COUNTY CLERK no later than April 7, 2026, for counting."**

Section 15 states the following: **TABULATION OF MAIL BALLOTS:** **"All mail ballots**

returned to the City by 7:00 p.m. Election Day, concerning the election of City Council members and any ballot questions, shall be counted on the electronic tabulation equipment provided by the COUNTY CLERK. All processes relating to the tabulation of ballots shall be the responsibility of the COUNTY CLERK. The Election Officer, or designee, **shall serve as the Designated Election Official for the City on Election Day and at the Tabulation Center** any time ballots are counted or tabulated. An "Unofficial" Abstract of Votes cast will be provided to the City immediately after ballot tabulation." Ms. DelPiccolo is identified as the City's "Designated Election Official" throughout this contract.

As one can readily see, the City Clerk admitted to City Councilman Woodden that she removed 42 ballots from the care and custody of the Montrose County Clerk & Records Office in violation of the contract and election protocols as well as refused to submit the other 41 ballots that were received by her office to the **COUNTY CLERK** for tabulation using the electronic tabulation equipment in the County Clerk's Office. Again, a violation of the contract for services. (**NOTE:** Ballots are tabulated electronically in groups of 50. The County Clerk was awaiting the balance of the ballots held by the City Clerk on election night in order to receive enough ballots to meet the count of 50 ballots in order to process them. The City Clerk refused to give the County Clerk the needed ballots to reach 50 that night and took them back to her office in City Hall where she later counted them by hand.)

CHAIN OF CUSTODY, CONTINUITY OF THE VOTE COUNT AND ELECTION INTEGRITY COMPROMISED: By refusing to allow the County Clerk's Office to count the final 83 ballots, the City Clerk broke the continuity established by agreement to count **ALL BALLOTS** using the County's State of Colorado certified electronic tabulation equipment. Furthermore, uncounted ballots as of 7pm on election night were removed without a written log verifying a chain of custody of these uncounted ballots.

Eight days later on April 15, the City had

CITY CLERK ADMITS TO BREACH OF CONTRACT & MORE! From previous pg

not yet provided the County Clerk's Office with the missing ballots for electronic tabulation as required under their mutual agreement which prompted Tressa Guynes, County Clerk, to email the following to Ms. DelPiccolo:

On Wed, Apr 15, 2026 at 9:17 AM Tressa Guynes <tguynes@montrosecounty.net> wrote:

**Good Morning Lisa
Checking for a schedule for tomorrow.
What time in the morning do you plan to come over to scan the final batch and tally for Final Official Results?**

Thanks, Tressa

In reply, Ms. Guynes received the following message from Ms. DelPiccolo:

On Wed, Apr 15, 2026 at 9:31 AM Lisa DelPiccolo

<ldelpiccolo@cityofmontrose.org> wrote:

Hi Tressa,

We are not planning on scanning the final batch on Thursday. We will tally and complete our canvass at City Hall. We will pick up our ballots on Monday.

LISA DELPICCOLO, MMC

City Clerk's Office

City Clerk

970.240.1422 Office

"We will tally and complete our canvass at City Hall?" The word canvass is important. The canvass of votes refers to the process of counting, computing, and tallying the votes reflected on the ballots after an election. This process ensures the accuracy and validity of all votes cast, including mail-in and provisional ballots, and is **essential for certifying election results**. The problem here is that the City Clerk chose to break with protocol and "certified" an election that was procedurally flawed and violated the election integrity she was charged with protecting.

Again, referring back to the contract with the County, **Section 17** describes the responsibilities of the parties related to the canvass. **CANVASS OF VOTES: The Canvass of votes will be the responsibility of the City and shall be completed no later than April 17, 2026. The City shall issue its certificate(s) of election of candidates.**

On April 16th, then Mayor Dave Frank, Municipal Court Judge Thomas LeClaire and City Clerk DelPiccolo certified that

they were the "canvassers" of the election and submitted for publication on April 22nd in the *Montrose Daily Press* (**Notice of Election**) of what was termed a "true and correct" abstract of the votes cast at the election. One must ask, what hand did Dave Frank and Judge LeClaire have in hand counting ballots? What hand did they play in certifying the ballots? We may never know, but the bigger problem is that **they (City officials) never stated what the total number of ballots cast was**, only the votes themselves which do not give us a total number of ballots cast. Were there 5,433 ballots cast vs. the County Clerk's count of 5,350? We need to find out.

However, it didn't stop there. 13 days after the election was "completed" (April 20, 2026), the following email exchange took place between the City Clerk and the County Clerk wherein the County Clerk was asking, again, for the missing 83 ballots to be electronically tabulated to close out the election on the County's end as agreed to by contract:

From: "Lisa DelPiccolo"

<ldelpiccolo@cityofmontrose.org>

To: "Elections"

<elections@montrosecounty.net>

Cc: cityclerk@cityofmontrose.org

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 12:48:31 PM

Subject: Ballot Box Pick-Up

Hello County Elections,

Is there a good time this afternoon or tomorrow to pick up our ballot boxes?

LISA DELPICCOLO, MMC

City Clerk's Office

City Clerk

970.240.1422 Office

This final email on April 20th between Ms. DelPiccolo and Ms. Guynes is quite interesting:

On Apr 20, 2026, at 3:25 PM, Lisa DelPiccolo <ldelpiccolo@cityofmontrose.org> wrote:

Hello Tressa,

Tomorrow at 11:30 will work.

We will not be scanning the remaining ballots. I discussed this topic with several in senior leadership positions here at the city. We have met all requirements of the municipal election statutes and our elec-

tion is completed. Any citizens with concerns over our election processes can be referred to me.

LISA DELPICCOLO, MMC

City Clerk's Office

City Clerk

970.240.1422 Office

A willing choice was made to compromise the local election of our City Councilors. For what reason? Because Ms. DelPiccolo or her "senior leadership" felt that some of the County staff were "impartial" or was there more to this than meets the eye? Everyone seemed to be fine with abiding by the contractual agreement and the integrity of the ballot counting process up until the polls closed on April 7th at approximately 10:30PM when the City Clerk walked out of the County Elections Office with 42 uncounted ballots not including those that were in her office in City Hall. Election integrity was compromised folks. "Senior Leadership" no doubt included City Manager Bill Bell, Assistant City Manager Ann Morganthaler, City Attorney Chris Dowsey and most likely Ms. DelPiccolo herself. The final number of votes published by the County of 5,350 (the abstract) cannot be substantiated with presumably adding the 83 ballots that remained in City hands. Yet the City has **REFUSED** to issue a final number of ballots cast. One would think that a final abstract count of 5,433 ballots cast would be an easy number to come up with by the City by taking the County Clerk's 5,350 ballots and adding the 83 ballots to it, however, the City **will NOT** give anyone a final number of ballots cast. As the party responsible for the actual vote count, the County's numbers should stand and show that the election was compromised by the City's refusal to complete the counting of the ballots.

On Thursday, April 23rd, Deputy County Clerk Kim Wright sent the following email to Ms. DelPiccolo after the City had published in the *Montrose Daily Press* their final canvassing results on April 22nd:

On Thu, Apr 23, 2026 at 6:54 AM Kimberly Wright <kwright@montrosecounty.net> wrote:

Hello Lisa,

CITY CLERK ADMITS TO BREACH OF CONTRACT & MORE! From previous pg

Hello Lisa,

We are putting our side of your election to bed and as I've mentioned before we feel like we lack integrity with this election (which of course we do not like) and I still cannot understand why you wouldn't take 5 minutes to finish it on our side, however can you at least give us your final CVR count and the final numbers per candidate so we can notate on our incomplete report what we are missing?**

I would appreciate it.

Thank you,

Kim

Kimberly Wright

Chief Deputy Clerk & Recorder

(970)252-4542 Direct

****NOTE: CVR stands for Cast Vote Record**

As a follow up to this line of communication with the City Clerk, County Attorney Julie Andress wrote a letter to City Attorney Christopher Dowsey asking for the 83 ballots in the City's possession to be turned over to the County Clerk's office for electronic tabulation to ensure that the continuity of the ballot counting process was preserved in keeping with their contractual agreement. Again, he and the City leadership refused the request.

ELECTION JUDGES: As if Ms. DelPiccolo and her "senior leadership" haven't cast enough doubt on the integrity of their respective offices as related to elections, let's look at who the "election judges" were for this election. One would think that the City would choose to seek out everyday citizens for such a task. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case and by all appearances, most likely hasn't been the case for quite some time.

So, where might the pool of applicants chosen for such an important role come from if it wasn't from the citizens of the City of Montrose? Where else but from government (City) employees! **16 individuals – 15 of whom are City employees and 1 who is the Town Clerk for the Town of Mt. Crested Butte, Colorado were your election judges!** How much more of a conflict of interest can you find than this?

Without going into naming names, I'll break down the City departments where these individuals were drawn from: **4** came from the Customer Service Team; **3** came from the I.T. Department; **3** came

from the Legal Department; **2** came from the City Clerk's Office; **1** came from the Finance Department (their new Director); **1** came from the Office of Business and Tourism and **1** is the Chief Marketing Officer under the City Manager. How's that for diversity?

And to have an election judge be another City/Town Clerk to serve as an election judge? This is highly unusual and generally against standard election administration protocols for a town clerk from one municipality to serve as an election judge in another distinct municipality's election unless specifically contracted or appointed as an outsider, which is not a common practice even if the reason given is for that person to see how our City conducts an election. This was very much a questionable choice to make. You're not auditing a college class but are part of a team that is judging an election in a jurisdiction where you don't reside. Unbelievable.

Fundamentally, one must ask of the City the following: Why did you pick judges who had a vested interest in the outcome of a City election? Why would you disenfranchise the citizens from participating in the election as judges? Why would you choose judges who are on the City's payroll with jobs to do that are more important than judging an election? Did these salaried employees receive additional compensation for their work as judges? The questionable decisions surrounding the selection of City employees as election judges must be addressed.

DECLARING THE RESULTS:

In an unusual twist on letting the candidates know if they had won the election, in speaking with Councilors Ulibarri, Woodden and Badagliacco it turns out that all received news of their pending election via different avenues. Traditionally, the City Clerk notifies the candidates of their win or loss in person or by phone. Not this time.

Councilor Ulibarri recalled receiving a text message and email notification of his win. Councilor Woodden received notice of his "pending" election on the night of the election in the County Clerk's office as well as via email and then again when the canvassing was completed on April 16th

when all candidates were sent the same email notification. Because of the close race between Michael Badagliacco (MJB) and Kevin Clay for the District 1 Council seat (as of election night, only 21 votes separated them), MJB was notified in the same manner as Woodden that he was ahead but until the additional ballots not in the County's possession were counted, that he would be apprised of his status later. On the afternoon of April 9th (two days after the election), MJB received a phone call telling him that the margin had widened and that he was to be declared the winner of the race. So, who called him? The "Designated Election Official" (aka, the City Clerk, Lisa DelPiccolo)? Nope. The call came from none other than City Manager Bill Bell.

Sorry folks, but since when does a City Manager involve themselves in notifying a candidate of their election win (or loss as the case may be)? Where was the Designated Election Official in all of this especially in such a close call election? One can surmise that she was doing exactly what her boss, the City Manager, was telling her to do. "Stand down. I'll take care of this may have been the spoken order." Whatever it was, it wasn't his place to call an election.

CLOSING:

The facts are the facts. The 2026 Montrose Municipal Election was compromised. City leadership was steering the proverbial ship, i.e. the election. In some respects, what Tina Peters, former Mesa County Clerk and Recorder, did and went to prison for, is child's play compared to the documented election interference foisted upon us by our City's leadership. An investigation by powers higher than them is in order. It's time for the City Council to act. Talk of a forensic audit sent shivers down the collective spines of these people and so should an investigation into this election and previous elections. How many elections have been subjected to the same violations? It's time to find out.

CLOSING NOTE: In preparing to write this article, a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request for information concerning the April 7th election was sent to both City Clerk DelPiccolo and to County Clerk

CITY CLERK ADMITS TO BREACH OF CONTRACT & MORE! From previous pg

Tressa Guynes. The City Clerk replied with the statement that my request for information *"is in the queue and will be processed according to state statute."* The County Clerk replied with requested documents within 24 hours hence the included documentation for this article is subject to amendment should contrary information be received from the City Clerk. Regardless, the structural flaws in this election are irrefutable and need to be dealt with immediately.

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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

STOP. TAKE A BREATH. GET BACK TO OUR CHILDREN.

To our Montrose Community,

I'm a parent in this district with children in Olathe schools. I also have siblings who graduated from Olathe years ago. I know this community, and I can confidently say that Olathe has long been treated like the stepchild of this district.

For years, many of us, more than a thousand parents felt completely shut out. We showed up. We raised concerns. We asked questions. And when we brought a petition of no confidence in the superintendent we were ignored, dismissed, told to leave, or simply given no answers.

Important issues were handled behind closed doors. That was the culture under the previous board and Superintendent Stephenson. Some of those same voices are still on this board today. That culture is changing. This new board majority has already made real differences, and Board President Neisha Balleck has led much of that shift.

Since becoming president, she has pushed for greater transparency. When the board searched for new legal counsel, they did not have to bring the process into the open. Neisha chose to do so anyway, interviewing multiple firms, allowing public comment, and making the process visible so the community could see the work being done.

When the superintendent brought up possible elementary school closures, the board under Neisha's leadership chose not to rush a decision. Instead of forcing a quick vote, they delayed action and created an advisory committee to gather more data, review enrollment trends, and bring recommendations back by February 2027. That is deliberate, community-focused leadership.

The board also accepted a more than \$6 million BEST grant to move forward with renovating the Field House into a new early childhood facility which is clearly investing in our youngest learners.

Balleck has repeatedly stated her priorities: parents' rights, supporting teachers so they can better serve students, and improving academic excellence. And she has kept the community informed including on sensitive personnel transitions through direct communication that goes beyond the minimum legal requirements.

Most importantly to me as an Olathe parent: Balleck did not ignore what was happening in Olathe. She was proactive. While the previous leadership looked the other way, she paid attention and took action. Those of you who are so upset that the superintendent is being investigated should be ashamed of yourselves. Your reaction flat-out confirms that we and our children in Olathe do not matter to you. You are essentially saying "screw Olathe and anything that happened over there" because you want who you want in that seat.

Yes, the superintendent went on leave but it is paid leave. She continues to collect her very high salary while being investigated. That does not happen in many places. Yet here we are, still paying her while this process plays out.

Balleck has done all of this while being bullied, harassed, and targeted with completely false AI-generated content on social media. She has kept her composure and continued putting children first.

I want to be clear: there is nothing Balleck has done wrong. She is listening to the majority of parents who elected this board. The push for her to resign is a

witch hunt. It is coming from a small group who cannot accept that the election did not go the way they expected and that parents are finally being heard.

I also need to speak about Board Member Jody Hovde. I received an email from her that basically told me my concerns did not matter and that nothing needed to be done. Those concerns involved my own child and other young girls who were violated by a teacher. The superintendent never responded and never helped us. The Parents refused to drop it. We went to court. That teacher was fired because of what he had done. Because the district failed to act when it should have, my child was put through far more trauma than she ever should have faced.

That is not leadership. That is not putting children first.

Neisha Balleck is willing to go the distance for our kids even when it costs her personally, even when it costs her safety. That is the kind of leadership this district needs.

I urge this District Accountability Committee and this community to stand with the board members who are actually listening to parents, protecting students, and operating with more transparency than we have seen in a long time. Stop. Take a breath. Get back to our children. All of this manufactured drama is taking time, energy, and focus away from them. Imagine what we could actually accomplish for our kids if people stopped creating distractions and started supporting the leaders who are finally treating every child in this district, including those in Olathe, like they matter.

Thank you.

Kena Iverson, Olathe

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS AND YOUR VOTE. SHOW UP.

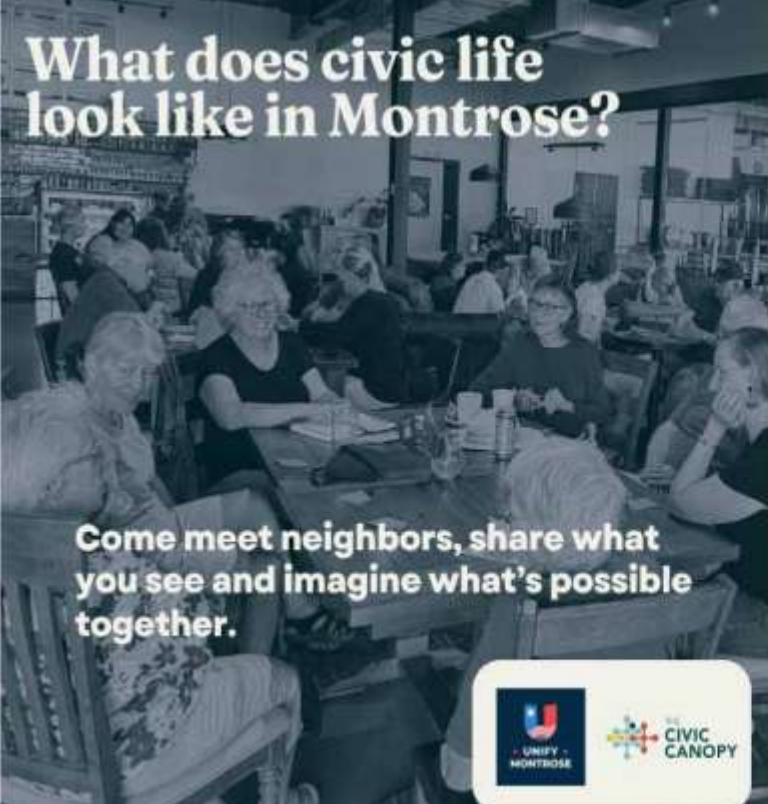
Editor:

Well, they're doing it again! Threatening to remove or recall a duly elected official... our Mayor! Why? Because they have personality conflicts and because fulfilling campaign promises is not acceptable to them. Look at the newly elected school board; same tactics there. Are you seeing a pattern for these people? The Mayor has been transparent, before and after the election, informing the public through regular communications regarding the city agenda, and his reasons for introducing & supporting particular issues on a regular basis. He has also stated his intent to place the issues on the ballot and give voters an opportunity to decide. That in itself is a big improvement.

However, we have a Cabal here in Montrose. The Cabal and their hateful, misinformed partners show up at the City Council meetings to berate, insult and now threaten recall or removal because they're not getting their way and that means and they lose power. WITH A SOME EXCEPTIONS, I was appalled at the abrasive and antagonistic manner in which they presented their views. They all followed the same pattern and same speaking points.

The Cabal consists of people who have been in city and county government for years. They have held various elected offices for years. They move from one position to another continually revolving in the system so they never really lose power. This recent election the voters wanted change; but this group of people don't like change unless it's something they promote. They refuse to accept election results. Do we want this group of people to continue to disregard our vote???? They will continue their tactics unless we fight to protect our vote and our elections. First step, recognize them and the problem. Next step: SHOW UP! Support the candidates YOU elected; attend city council meetings, county commissioner meetings and school board meetings. When people become complacent the void is filled with policies & people detrimental to our voting outcome. It's important to staying informed and PARTICIPATING: the outcomes affect each one of us. It's a small thing to do but has such important implications. Protect our elections and your vote. SHOW UP.

Carol McBride, Montrose



What does civic life look like in 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' Cleary 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

Beautiful wooded 6-acre lot that is located in the heart of Uncompahgre Plateau within unit 62. This lot has a domestic pressurized water for your future cabin. This prime location provides you with thousands of acres of National Forest to enjoy. Whether your camping, hiking, horseback riding or enjoying your ATV this is the perfect location for all your recreation needs and wants. This lot is located about 20 min from Montrose via Davewood Road.



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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David Kienholz, Broker: (970) 209-1430
Gary Cooper, Broker: (970) 209-7710
Justin Covington, Broker: (970) 275-4189
Mark Covington, Broker: (970) 209-1956
Steve Zahniser, Broker: (970) 765-1719

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY WERE REPUBLICANS SILENT?

Editor:

On Tuesday evening, August 04th, the Montrose City Chamber was filled to capacity during the City Council meeting.

On the agenda: discussion of proposed amendments to the City Charter.

The Montrose County Republican Central Committee had canceled their regularly scheduled meeting for August 04th and encouraged their members to attend the city council meeting "in a show of support for 'their' 3 council members [while Michael Badagliaccio, Adam Woodden, and Ed Ulibarri did not run under a formal party banner on the ballot, they received heavy backing and endorsement from the Montrose County Republicans].

Throughout the evening, constituents lined up to present public comments. Public comments and councilors statements were entered into the public record.

But what is missing from the public record [with a single exception] are the voices of the contingent that had been encouraged by the Montrose County Republican Central Committee to fill seats at the August 4th session.

Why were these voices, despite filling the seats at the City Chambers, silent during public comment at the August 04th city council session?

Proposing amendments to a city charter requires diligent engagement in the process and familiarization with complex municipal

rules.

The lightning speed at which Mayor Badagliaccio has pushed the process of proposing amendments to the City Charter during June and July has made it difficult for constituents to keep up. Members of the City Council have also been taken by surprise when examples of unintended consequences were brought to their attention by citizens conducting due diligence.

'Catching up' by attending one city council session proved inadequate for newcomers [purportedly urged to attend in a show of support for the proposed amendments agenda of 'their' 3 council mem-

bers] to articulate a position on the proposed amendments to the City Charter during public comments.

Many left the session early.

What does this tell us about the ongoing process of proposing amendments at the City Council?

If constituents find it overwhelming to comment at a city council session, how will constituents, having been deprived of the opportunity to participate in a Charter Review Commission [as a result of a 2-3 City Council vote] be prepared to grasp the proposed amendment wording of the ballot when voting in November?

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose

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THE MONTROSE MIRROR
Your Source for Local Business News and Information



THE LEGEND IS GROWING

TRACK THE LOCAL TALES

We've heard the stories. Across Delta and Montrose counties, people have been asking questions. How does Elevate keep bringing fiber internet to more communities? How can service be so fast, reliable, AND offer local tech support? And what's with the reports of a large blue creature appearing shortly before internet service arrives in an area?

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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AMAZING ALASKA! HOME TO OUR NATION'S VAST PUBLIC LAND GEMS!

By Anne Janik

MONTROSE-With millions of acres of diverse and vital wilderness and a human history reaching back 14,000 years, the enormity of Alaska's story is almost incomprehensible. Within this vast landscape, Alaska's many national parks, preserves, monuments, and national historical parks are home to a host of natural, cultural, and historic wonders. Alaska is unique within the National Park Service. Parks in Alaska make up over half (60 percent) of all the land within the National Park System and include the most remote parks with more than 3,095 miles of coastline, 52 million acres of designated wilderness, the nation's largest glacial system, North America's tallest peak and world-class wildlife viewing.

Beginning in 1910, the establishment of Sitka National Monument and four other units set up the foundation of what was to come. Seventy years later, in 1980 the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) was signed into law and was pivotal in expanding these protected lands. This act, considered the Louisiana Purchase of the American Conservation movement, more than doubled the size of the National Park and National Wildlife systems in the state.

Lisa Eckert has a 37- year career as a National Park Service ranger and manager that took her to 14 NP units throughout the country, including five years at Denali NP and Preserve. Additionally, she accepted an international assignment in Croatia, managed the national NPS training center located at the Grand Canyon and was superintendent at Colorado National Monument and Bryce Canyon NP. "Touch the earth and reach the sky" with Lisa as she shares her insights and the history of some of our nation's most valuable public lands.

The Black Canyon Audubon Society is sponsoring this presentation on Thursday Aug. 13, 7 -8:30 pm. 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.



A grizzly bear in Alaska's Denali National Park (photo/ Lisa Eckert)

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CENTURY 21 Elevated Real Estate

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE, THE PEOPLE OF MONTROSE, REFUSE TO RELINQUISH OUR POWER

Dear Editor:

THIS WAS PRESENTED, FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AT THE 8/4/2026 MEETING OF COUNCIL. EXERCISE YOUR POWER AND VOTE IN NOVEMBER BECAUSE THERE ARE AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER THAT ARE QUESTIONABLE AND THE INTENDED CHANGES HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED.

MR MAYOR AND COUNCIL

OVER THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS, I'VE HAD ONE ON ONE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH THE GOOD OLD BOY SYSTEM THAT HAS EXISTED HERE IN MONTROSE. BECAUSE OF THOSE EXPERIENCES, I PREDICTED THE SYSTEM WOULD EVENTUALLY FAIL.

MONTROSE HAS GROWN IMMENSELY SINCE 2015. IT IS SEEN AS A MODERATE TO SMALL TOWN AND IS ATTRACTIVE TO A DEMOGRAPHIC THAT IS WELL INFORMED, ARTICULATE AND TEND TO BE FINANCIALLY SECURE. AS SUCH, THERE IS A

HIGH EXPECTATION OF A GOVERNMENT THAT IS OPEN IN THIER FORM OF COMMUNICATION. THE POPULACE NOW PRESENT IN MONTROSE, WILL NOT ACCEPT PLATITUDES OR OPAGUENESS AS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION, WE, THE PEOPLE OF MONTROSE, YOUR CONSTITUENTS, WANT AUTHENTIC TRANSPARENCY, NOT WHAT APPEARS TO BE FALSEHOODS OR VAGUENESS.

I AM A THIRD-GENERATION COLORADAN, OVER THE DECADES, I'VE EXPERIENCED BOOMS AND BUSTS. I'VE WITNESSED GOVERNING BY CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS. MANY OF THOSE HAVE FAILED IN THEIR ENDEAVORS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND, WE THE PEOPLE, THOSE THEY WERE GOVERNING. THEY FAILED TO LISTEN TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

THE ROUTINE DISMISAL AND DISREGARD OF THE PEOPLE, NEW OR OLD-TIMERS, WILL INFURIATE THEM. THAT SENSE OF

CONTINUALLY BEING IGNORED, WILL ONLY DRIVE THE PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION. THAT ACTION WILL BE TO REPLACE YOU, EITHER THRU THE BALLOT BOX OR A RECALL ENDEAVOR.

I HAVE BROUGHT THIS ISSUE OF TRANSPARENCY UP SEVERAL TIMES. I EVEN IMPLEMENTED "AN INTERACTIVE CITIZEN FORUM", WHICH YOU ELECTED TO UNDER UTILIZE.

IT IS AS IF YOU ASSUME THERE WILL BE NO PUSH BACK.

THERE IS A QUOTE BY ALICE WALKER, "THE WAY PEOPLE GIVE AWAY THEIR POWER IS BY THINKING THEY HAVE NONE."

A VERY POWERFUL QUOTE. WE, THE PEOPLE OF MONTROSE, REFUSE TO RELINQUISH OUR POWER WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE IT VIA THE PRESS, DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH U OR THRU THE BALLOT BOX.

Lynn Stockton, 11-year resident

COLORADO DISTRICT 03 VOTERS:

PLEASE ASK US CONGRESSMAN HURD TO SUPPORT THIS CRUCIAL AND TIME-SENSITIVE INITIATIVE!

Editor:

Ukraine's current TPS (Temporary Protected Status) extension is set to expire on October 19, 2026 if no action is taken. This could be catastrophic for over 500,000 Ukrainian nationals in the United States who cannot return home, including approximately 240,000 Ukrainians who came here through the sponsored Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) parole program.

The office of U.S. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick is spearheading a letter urging the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend and redesignate Ukraine's Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

An extension of Ukraine's TPS is needed to prolong protection for over 100,000 Ukrainians with current and pending TPS, while a redesignation is needed to safeguard those who arrived here since the last TPS cutoff dates. Without this protection, Ukrainians in the United States who are currently here on an authorized period of stay are at serious risk of becoming undocumented, losing their ability to work lawfully, and even being deported.

A TPS redesignation and extension for 18 months would offer these Ukrainians a vital lifeline. Moreover, it would give them a chance to live, work, and attend school here lawfully so they can provide for themselves and their families.

Colorado District 03 voters,

Please ask US Congressman Hurd to support this crucial and time-sensitive initiative!

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose



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54230 Faith Trail, Olathe, CO • \$515,000 • MLS #837633

This newer-construction home sits on 1.29 acres with stunning mountain views, irrigation water rights, and direct BLM land access. The open-concept, split-bedroom layout features a spacious kitchen with stainless steel appliances, wood cabinetry, and a butcher block island. The primary suite offers south-facing views and a large walk-in closet, while a guest bedroom provides direct bathroom access. Additional highlights include a dedicated laundry room and an oversized 3-car garage. The expansive property is perfect for a shop, garden, or hobby farm, with nearby hiking, biking, and ATV trails. Experience the perfect blend of modern comfort and country living. Schedule your showing today!

54000 Flight Lane, Olathe, CO • \$599,000 • MLS #836240

Enjoy the best of country living at this private property, featuring valuable irrigation water, an automated sprinkler system, mature fruit trees, a dedicated garden area, and a chicken coop perfect for a farm-to-table lifestyle. An oversized detached 2-car garage provides excellent workshop space, complemented by extra parking for your RV and outdoor gear. The minimal HOA exists solely to manage irrigation water, ensuring lower fees and fewer restrictions. Embrace the Western Colorado lifestyle with the perfect blend of privacy, functionality, and rural charm. Access to the BLM.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AWAITING ANSWERS ON SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRD PARTY INVESTIGATION

Editor:

For far too many years our local school board was remiss in many of its duties. Fortunately our new school board is composed of a majority of members intent on making much better decisions for the District.

It is public knowledge that school Superintendent was suspended pending an investigation. The main question pertaining to every action and event regarding this investigation is, when did the school Superintendent become aware of the complaint or complaints regarding this investigation? And was this timeframe during the tenure of the previous school board?

Many anxiously await the answers as to who knew what when or certainly should have known, and why no action was taken in a timely manner.

Dee Laird, Montrose

FROM WHERE I SIT---A QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUE

Editor:

My experience yesterday made me suddenly recognize just such an issue here in Montrose. Everybody in Montrose to some extent endures the discomfort of it, some more than others. Here it is! TRAFFIC NOISE. Many of our residents live close to a main thoroughfare and for them this issue must be unbearable. (I live two blocks away from one and when out of doors I hear it too). First, I understand that all traffic makes noise, but modern vehicles (autos and pickups) are pretty quiet---normally these are not the problem. It's the Semi-trucks, dump trucks, pickup trucks and automobiles with muffler cutouts and loud motorcycles that are at issue here. Montrose MUST have a noise ordinance, eh? If not, why not or is it just not being enforced? Why must I as a tax paying law-abiding Montrose citizen I enjoy some semi-driver's manhood fetish, who engages his engine break in town just to show off or to be onery? Or one of my neighbors who has a loud pickup tailpipe just because he can. Are there not other ways these clowns can demonstrate their manhood? Or maybe they don't have any, eh? What does this behavior do to the quality of life for those who live near Townsend, East Main or the bypass (and other streets)?

Enough of my diatribe! The solution is simple and quite inexpensive for the peace and quiet it offers. A NOISE ORDINANCE---ENFORCED! Post signs on roads and streets entering Montrose that there is a NOISE ORDINANCE in Montrose and that it is enforced. I estimate needing 20 signs for the purpose. Then have our GREAT chief of police and GREAT police department enforce the ordinance with GREAT VIGOR and WITH POSTED FINES FOR FAILURE TO OBEY. Issue expensive tickets requiring a court appearance. I venture that one month of maximum effort will solve the problem post haste.

And I urge every citizen of our fair city who feels this way about this disruptive demonstration of "manhood" show up at the City Council meetings and voice their opinions against the unnecessary noise!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bill Bennett, citizen





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



THANK YOU MONTROSE POLICE DEPT!

I recently met with **Chief Hall** to discuss community perceptions of the Montrose Police Department and how we can better champion their successes through every available communication channel.

Readiness is a clear strength. Overall calls for service have risen with community growth, yet several key categories show positive trends. Residential and commercial burglaries, theft, criminal mischief and domestic violence cases have declined in recent years.

These results come despite state reforms that reduced local tools, including drug defelonization, bail changes, shorter misdemeanor sentences, and municipal sentencing limits.

Drug enforcement remains a priority. **Multi-agency operations continue to intercept significant quantities of methamphetamine, fentanyl, and other narcotics before they fully enter Montrose.**

A major 2025-2026 regional wiretap alone produced more than 20 arrests and large seizures. These efforts save lives and avert overdoses. Nuisance property actions have also closed chronic problem locations.

MPD leadership continues to earn state and national recognition for training, wellness, and professional standards including:

- Chief Blaine Hall and Professional Development Manager Mike Steffes host wellness-focused podcasting. Steffes is sought after to teach leadership nationally.
- Deputy Chief Tim Cox selected for the FBI National Academy in 2027.
- Deputy Chief Larry Witte graduated Northwestern University Police Staff & Command with top-in-class GPA.
- DTF Sergeant Michelle Berry selected for DEA Drug Commander School at Quantico.
- Chief Hall appointed by the Governor's Office to the Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training Board and its Law Enforcement Academy Subcommittee.

These are real, measurable wins. We will keep sharing the facts, so residents see the work being done every day to keep Montrose safe. **Thank you Chief and the entire MPD for your dedication to the community!**

**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
Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc.

800 S. 3rd Street • Montrose, CO 81401

970-249-2211

MontroseHealth.com



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AMAZON DELIVERY STATION REACHES LAST MILE

Photo by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On Monday morning, Aug. 10, Amazon will host a private ribbon-cutting event for its new Montrose Delivery Station. The 12,000-square-foot delivery station, adjacent to Montrose Regional Airport, is a last-mile facility that brings faster delivery to customers in the Montrose area and beyond. The site, a \$25 million investment, currently has more than 50 full and part-time employees. Publishing deadlines dictate the full report on the ribbon-cutting will be published in the Aug. 17 issue of the *Mirror*.



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STARTS: Wed Sept 2, 2026

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- Pinion Hills Estates
- MLS #835946



Bring your horses, your toys, and your dreams to this one-of-a-kind 36.7 acre property in Pinion Hills Estates. With incredible San Juan Mountain views, multiple garages, workshop space, and RV storage, this property offers the freedom and flexibility you've been looking for. Whether you need space for animals, equipment, guests, or your RV—this property delivers.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

EVALUATE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, OR INCONSISTENCIES WITH CURRENT COUNTY POLICIES, PROTOCOLS, AND INTERJURISDICTIONAL AGREEMENTS

Editor:

The League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley has been made aware that the Montrose City Council intends to submit proposed City Charter amendments to the County Clerk for placement on the November general election ballot. As a nonpartisan organization committed to informed civic participation and the effective functioning of local government, the League writes to request that the Board, together with the County Attorney, evaluate these proposed amendments for potential conflicts of interest, unintended consequences, or inconsistencies with current County policies, protocols, and interjurisdictional agreements.

We understand the City Council is currently considering the following amendments: (1) moving City elections from April to the November general election in even years; (2) establishing a lifetime eight-year term limit for all Council seats and removing the six-year at-large consecutive limit; (3) changing the Municipal Judge residency requirement from Montrose County to a "reasonable distance"; (4) amending the charter to preserve the current district election structure and foreclose ranked-choice voting; (5) updating gendered language in the charter to be title-specific; and (6) returning hiring, firing, and accountability authority over the Chief of Police and the City Clerk from sole City Manager authority to a joint Council-Manager process, restoring the City's pre-2014 structure.

The League has respectfully asked the Board of County Commissioners and County Attorney to consider the following questions in their review:

Election administration and timing. If City elections move to the November general election in even years, City races would appear on the same ballot as County, state, and federal contests administered by the County Clerk and Recorder as the designated election official. Would this shift require a new or amended intergovernmental agreement between the City Clerk and County Clerk? Are there ballot design, cost-allocation, timeline, or nonpartisan-versus-partisan formatting issues the County Clerk's office should flag before this amendment goes to voters?

Law enforcement continuity and coordination. Returning hiring, firing, and accountability authority over the Chief of Police to a joint Council-Manager process is a significant change to how City police leadership is selected and overseen. Given the ongoing operational coordination between the Montrose Police Department and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office — including mutual aid, joint task forces, and shared dispatch — does the County anticipate any effect on interagency stability, continuity of leadership, or existing memoranda of understanding between the City and County on law enforcement cooperation?

Municipal Court and County Court interface. Loosening the Municipal Judge residency requirement from within Montrose County to a broader "reasonable distance" standard could result in a Municipal Judge residing outside County lines. Does this raise any practical or administrative concerns for cases, personnel, or scheduling that touch both the Municipal and County Court systems?

General consistency with County protocols. More broadly, does the Board or County Attorney identify any provision among the proposed amendments that would conflict with, complicate, or require amendment of existing City-County agreements, MOUs, or established protocols for collaboration?

The League does not take a position on the merits of these proposed amendments. But recent meetings with the public regarding these proposed Charter Amendment changes have indicated that many unanswered details and possible unintended consequences have been left unanswered by Montrose City Council. Our sole interest is ensuring that voters, the City Council, and County officials have a full and accurate understanding of any interjurisdictional implications before these measures are finalized for the November ballot. We welcome the opportunity to share any findings from the Board's review with our membership and the broader community as part of our nonpartisan voter education efforts.

Sincerely,

The League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET FAILS SPECIAL-NEEDS FAMILIES

Editor:

Being the parent of an autistic and non-verbal child, who will likely require around-the-clock care for the rest of her life, can be an isolating experience. Very few people understand the unique challenges you face. So it was with some relief after we found out our daughter was autistic, that I discovered the YouTube channel Fathering Autism, which documents the life of Florida parents caring for their now-adult, nonverbal child.

One of their videos, however, in which they discussed what would happen to their daughter after they died, inspired a great deal of anxiety in me. The parents had met with a financial planner and determined that in order for their child to receive one-on-one care in a home setting — outside of a facility — for the remainder of her life, they would need six-to-nine million dollars. Of course, I had previously thought of what would happen to our daughter when we died, but to hear the amount necessary to achieve what didn't seem like an unreasonable goal was overwhelming.

I'm a bit of a champagne socialist. My wife, for instance, runs a small preschool and employs a handful of people. Still, that monetary figure seemed impossibly out of reach. It was hard for me to even think about the number for a prolonged period without mentally shutting down. Given our relative privilege, I couldn't even imagine how those less fortunate broached the subject. In my view, this shouldn't be a problem for individual parents to solve, and represents a significant failure of our social-safety net.

As a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, I hope the organization will address the situation of families like ours more specifically, and, in turn, force the

broader Democratic Party to do so as well, creating a large enough coalition to enact change. I am far from an expert on policy in this area, but, speaking from my own personal experience, I know there are a variety of laws that could help our family a great deal. I'd like to mention a couple of them.

Parents of special-needs children who require high-levels of support should be eligible for being paid by the government as caregivers. It's effectively a full-time job and should be treated as such. For instance, sleep irregularities are very common for people like our daughter. It's not unusual for one or both of us to be up all night with her.

Similarly, my daughter is frequently sent home from school early, and without warning, because she's melting down and harming herself or staff. Even with my wife working, it often takes both of us to make sure we have adequate and safe coverage for our other children.

Accessing our meager, existing social-safety net is a labyrinthine, esoteric process, so much so it's hard to avoid the conclusion the system was designed that way on purpose. In my understanding, some states allow parents of special-needs children to be paid as caregivers, but this is far from universal. For example, the Democratic-controlled state where we live, Connecticut, didn't allow this until recently, and I haven't figured out yet whether we qualify for the program. Again, it's difficult for me to envision how families in less enviable financial circumstances, in other states, can make this work.

Paying parents of special-needs children who require full-time support would, among other things, help these mothers and fathers save money for their kids'

long-term care. Ultimately, though, expecting such parents to try and cobble together a small fortune to keep their children out of an institutional setting is deeply unfair and unrealistic. Most people with different abilities, who are capable of speech, prefer living in their homes to being forced into segregated, restrictive and frequently underfunded group facilities. Why should we assume those who can't talk would want or should expect anything different?

"State investments in home- and community-based services often result in short-term spending increases, but over time lead to long-term cost savings and a reduction in institutional spending, according to research from Brandeis University's Community Living Policy Center," according to Anna Claire Vollers writing in *State-line*.

"The national shift to community-based services has been overwhelmingly popular. About 82% of people who receive community-based services prefer to live at home rather than in an institution, according to the most recent survey by the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission."

What the parents of the Fathering Autism YouTube channel want for their daughter is not unreasonable and should be freely available to everyone who needs it.

My wife and I are comparatively well off and yet how we will pay for the long-term care of our child is a constant — and at times crushing — source of anxiety for me. It's simply not something most parents are capable of planning for. A just society would care for its vulnerable members and not punish them for their inability to compete on the capitalist market.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby CT

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BACK TO SCHOOL VACCINE CLINIC

Get your family ready for the new school year!

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County Public Health is holding a Back-to-School Walk-In Vaccine Clinic on August 13th and 14th from 8 am-5 pm.

Walk-ins are welcome. You don't need to make an appointment. Vaccines are available for all ages. Most insurance plans are accepted, and programs for underinsured and uninsured individuals are available.

The clinic is open to everyone 0-100.

All school required and recommended vaccines will be available.

Event details

What: Back to School Walk-in Vaccine Clinic

Who: Delta County Public Health

When: Thursday, August 13, & Friday, August 14, 8 AM - 5 PM

Where: Delta County Public Health: 255 W. 5th Street, Delta
970-874-2165

Cost: Most insurances accepted. Programs for the uninsured and underinsured are available.



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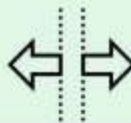
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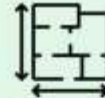
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: HISTORY

NIKOLA TESLA

By Don Stott

Nikola Tesla was born July 9, 1856, at Lika, Croatia. Son of Reverend Milutin and Djouka Tesla. Both were way above average in intelligence, which intellect was easily passed onto their four children. At the age of four, Nikola built a water wheel, and from then on, became a problem to his parents, because he was always in trouble. His childish adventures included jumping off of a roof with a raised umbrella, thinking the umbrella would make his fall easy. It didn't. At age 15, he was sent to a higher education institute in Carlstadt, where he excelled, and lived with a relative of his father. He constructed several turbines, and began to think that his future was in the field of invention. He achieved outstanding grades and achievement. Coming down with cholera, he was bedridden for many weeks. During his recovery time, his mind was wide awake, with inventions and ideas. He envisioned a submarine tube, in which letters and packages could be conveyed across the ocean. He mentally built pumping plants and all sorts of mechanical devices, which he stored away in his brain for future use. His father was insistent that Nikola follow him in the ministry, but Nikola decided that was not for him. In his second year at the Institute, he concentrated his energies on physics, mathematics, and mechanics. His physics class acquired a Gramme Dynamo, a very crude machine, but at his remaining term at the Institute, his idea of an alternating current motor never left his fertile mind.

Upon graduating, he was offered a position in Paris with the Societe Continentale Edison of France. All eyes in America were focused on Thomas Edison, who eventually had 1093 patents. Edison's inventions and patents, always involved Direct Current (D.C.) powered devices, including generators and motors, which had sparking comutators and brushes. Tesla invented and patented an Alternating Current (A.C.) electrical system,

and with it a brushless motor. None of his teachers could visualize Tesla's idea of a brushless, alternating current motor. The manager of his Institute suggested that Tesla should go to America and possibly improve Edison's D.C. motor. He arrived in New York with four cents in his pocket, plans for a flying machine, a book, and a scientific article. Walking down a sidewalk, he came across a man fruitlessly trying to make an electrical motor work. Tesla offered to help, and quickly made the machine work perfectly. The man rewarded him with a \$20 gold piece. Sometime later, he was able to reach the famous Thomas Edison, where he presented his glowing letter of introduction. Tesla was proficient in many languages, and like Edison, both were proficient readers. Edison hired him on the spot.

Edison was a hard taskmaster, and kept strict hours. Tesla worked to improve Edison's direct current motor, but kept his silence about his alternating current ideas. Edison was interested only in direct current arc lights, incandescent light bulbs, and direct current motors. Tesla, eventually explained to Edison his alternating current motor idea, but Edison would have none of it. Tesla was introduced to George Westinghouse, a brilliant inventor of air brakes on trains, plus numerous other electrical devices. Westinghouse quickly recognized Tesla's invention, which he had already patented. Westinghouse bought Tesla's several patents, which relieved Nikola of any financial worries. Alternating current was capable of transmitting electrical power long distances, with little current loss, whereas direct current could not be sent a long distance, and would require a power plant every mile.

How could Tesla's A.C. be proven? It was proved at Telluride Colorado. Lucius Nunn, a Telluride lawyer, had heard of Westinghouse and Tesla's invention, and he had the perfect place to prove where it

would work. The Gold King mine, had run out of wood to fire its steam boilers which generated needed electricity, and coal had to be hauled by ox cart for 13 miles. The mine was about to shut down, when Westinghouse and Tesla found a site at a little town called "Ames." They built a dam to harness water, and installed a six foot Pelton water wheel, which powered a 100-horsepower alternating current generator. Wire was strung 2.6 miles as the crow flies, to the mine site, so the mine to have ample electricity. It worked! The plant worked constantly for 30 days without interruption. The Ames plant, 135 years later, is still operating, as is the dam, although of course larger and more efficient generators have been installed. A.C., or alternating current, has since become the common current in electrical outlets, motors, generators, power plants, and electrical transmission, in the entire world. A year later, Tesla and Westinghouse won a bid to light the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. They were bidding against Thomas Edison, who had started his General Electric Company, and who held the patent on the incandescent light bulb. Tesla had to invent a new light bulb in 11 months, but he did it. By the time the fair or exposition opened May 1st, 1893, Tesla and Westinghouse had 2500 lamps ready to be lit. Lit they were, which gave them world-wide fame and reputation. Edison's D.C. was relegated to the junk pile. Newspapers were eloquent in their praise of Tesla, calling him "Our foremost electrician...Greater even than Edison." Their next stop was Niagara Falls, where a 164 foot wall of water went unused. They won the bid to harness parts of that water, divert it to huge A.C. generators, and they electrified Buffalo New York, which quickly became a manufacturing center, thanks to plentiful electricity. Tesla's name is on the generator's name plate as the inventor. Their successors are still in use.

NIKOLA TESLA *From previous pg*

Tesla's fame quickly went to his head, so to speak, and he spouted forth many ideas, such as transmitting electricity without wires, a powerful vibrating machine which could take down a building, and mind control of machinery. Tesla outgrew his New York laboratory, and wanted to go to the American West, which he then did. His fame attracted big time investors in his ideas, and he built a laboratory in Colorado Springs, promising wireless voice transmission around the world, as well as wireless transmitting of electricity. He built a large laboratory in the 1400 block of North Cascade, and erected a 200 foot tall pole with a brass globe on top. He kept all of his secrets to himself, and would not divulge anything to anyone, other than to say that he had successfully transmitted power without wires, discovered stationary waves in the earth, received radio waves from the stars, etc, but with no patents forthcoming. He had a vast array of coils and devices in his building, and finally it came time to test it. When the switch was thrown by an associate, (Tesla was outside to witness his huge surge of power, far greater than at Niagara Falls), "There was a crackling and snapping as the power built up. There was a crescendo of vicious

snaps from above. The noises became machine-gun staccato, then roared to artillery intensity. Ghostly sparks danced around a macabre cloud all over the laboratory. There was a smell of sulfur that might be coming from hell itself. A weird blue light spread over the area. Flames began to jump from the ball at the top of the 200 foot mast....first a few feet long... then longer and brighter...thicker... bluer. More emanations until they reached rod-like proportions, thick as an arm and with a length of over a hundred and thirty feet. The heavens reverberated with a terrific thunder that could be heard fifteen miles over the ridge in Cripple Creek." Account by a witness. Then there was dramatic silence. Tesla had blown the power plant and the entire city was in darkness. That finished his Colorado Springs experiments.

Tesla then decided to build a new laboratory in upstate New York, and conned J.P. Morgan out of \$150,000 to build it. It was called "Wardenclyffe." Tesla never learned how to control his spending or how to manage money. He proposed an industrial utopian city, and had Stanford White design it. Quickly, the \$150,000 ran out and Tesla began begging for more. He didn't get it. It took a few years, but

"Wardenclyffe" failed, and Tesla was not doing much but dreaming of new inventions and preposterous ideas, with no patents, and no money. He did design a new turbine which worked well, but he failed to attract investors for it. Tesla envisioned solar energy, refrigeration, and dozens of other future possibilities and patents, which never came into being. "Wardenclyffe," like Tesla's Colorado Springs lab, were both demolished, much to the smiles of neighbors. Tesla had a few royalties coming in, and lived in New York, first at the Waldorf, then the New Yorker, a run-down hotel which no longer exists. Tesla was a clean, fastidious man, who constantly washed his hands, and made hotel maids weary of his demands for many towels, and endless cleaning. He never drank alcohol, and never married. His collars were discarded after one wearing, and he replaced his neckties every week. He could not tolerate a fly, and if one landed upon his table, he demanded that everything be removed and the meal would start over again. Tesla died quietly on December 7, 1943 in his New Yorker hotel room. Were he alive today, I am certain that he would have invented the LED light bulb and the electric car which bears his name!



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WHEN DO YOU NEED A FINANCIAL ADVISOR?

By Connor Visser

Question: When is the right time to hire a financial advisor as a business owner?

When starting a business, your biggest concern is finding customers. As that business grows there are 3 milestones that many business owners will eventually reach that make partnering with a financial advisor worthwhile for their business and family.

The first milestone is when the business has become busy enough where there just isn't enough time to run the business and also properly handle the planning and strategy around your personal investments, estate plan and taxes.

The second is when the taxes become one the largest expenses. Proactive planning with a financial advisor and CPA to help maximize profits while also paying the least amount in taxes. The planning tools around this can become complex and having the right team can allow the business owner to continue to focus on running and growing their business.

The third is when your are within about 10 years of selling the business. Most value-building strategies that will increase the business valuation could take years to implement. Staying ahead of this can make the transition smoother and better position you for after the sale.

Overall, the best time to hire a financial advisor is when your financial life becomes more complex than you can confidently manage on your own.

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Connor Visser. Courtesy photo.

I READ ABOUT IT

in the



MONTROSE MIRROR

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN—A WOULD-BE PUPPET MASTER. NOTHING MORE.

Editor:

Mr. White, in his opinion piece published in the *Montrose Mirror* on August 3, 2026, on page 70 (“Red or Blue? Montrose County and the City of Montrose: Are We in the Crosshairs of a Political Conversion Plan?”), once again allowed his undisciplined train of consciousness to ramble aimlessly onto the pages of a respectable public news outlet for all to see. While I respect and admire Ms. Sweitzer’s unbiased commitment to publishing editorials from individuals across the community, I also feel some sympathy for her having to tolerate this kind of unfocused rambling. It will be a challenge to respond to his wandering train of thought. While he may have experience with public service—in small communities like Montrose County and perhaps to a larger extent in Colorado Springs, where his attempts to influence the masses were less tolerated but generously overlooked—it is evident that his limited education and training in logic and rational thought put him at a disadvantage.

Let’s start with his first paragraph. He writes:

“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 uninformed 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.” “Over the past year”—is he making the case that there is a “new political conversion plan” underway? Yes, average (not “seemingly average”) citizens have appeared (again, not “randomly”) in what is clearly citizen engagement. But for some reason, he believes this has only occurred over the past year. Is he experiencing difficulty with his memory? Citizen engage-

ment has been taking place in this town for well over a hundred years.

He may have forgotten that he moved here from Colorado Springs in the 1980s or 1990s, so it is concerning that he cannot recall earlier examples of community engagement in Montrose. Some of these citizens have lived here their entire lives. He may feel like an outsider. Others, including myself, have moved here more recently—within the past decade.

Michael J. Badagliacco, for example, moved here only within the past several years. He was born in Southern California, lived here briefly while growing up, then returned to Southern California, where he married, joined the military, acted in a B-movie in the Los Angeles area called *Space Girls in Beverly Hills*, and worked for various companies for short periods of time. He has claimed to be the founder and CEO of Wireless Advocates, a billion-dollar company; however, the owner of that company has publicly stated—along with legal documentation—that this claim is false and that Mr. Badagliacco was terminated after six months. He later returned to Montrose.

Is Mayor Badagliacco one of the newcomers “heretofore uninformed local residents” Mr. White refers to—those who, on a weekly basis, “berated” local officials in what he suggests was an organized effort to seek political change? I would assert that the mayor is indeed one of the previously uninformed residents Mr. White describes.

He goes on to say:

“Debates over the former County Manager, the now former Public Health Director, leadership roles amongst the County Commissioners, etc., drew crowds of heretofore uninformed local residents who, on a weekly basis, berated our elected officials... Righteous indignation; cries of racism, sexism, misogyny, and other buzzwords designed to incite the masses... soon brought the tar-and-feather crowd forward... resulting in a recall effort of one County Commissioner... By the 11th month of his term, he was gone... Or so it seemed.”

A county commissioner recall did take

place, and Montrose County citizens voted on the initiative placed on the ballot. So the question arises: is he suggesting that voters were whipped into a frenzy by these allegedly uninformed crowds? Is he implying that the citizens who voted for the recall were uninformed, unduly influenced, or incapable of making an educated decision?

Whatever his implication, it reads as though he is diminishing both the voters’ decision and their right to make it. It suggests that something other than a democratic process occurred—even though the recall itself was carried out through a formal vote. This comes across as dismissive and, frankly, insulting to the electorate. But wait—there *was* a vote. Yet, according to

Mr. White, the process was somehow unfair. That sounds like sour grapes. In the interest of maintaining the reader’s attention, I’ll move on to another point—one where I almost agree with him. He focuses on unaffiliated voters, perhaps because they are a moving target compared to Democrats:

“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... yet public records show where your true beliefs lie. To that end, the Democratic Party has done a beautiful job of capitalizing on the role of the unaffiliated voter...”

What he fails to recognize is that unaffiliated voters are not “ducking for cover.” Many are simply disillusioned with both Republican and Democratic Party leadership. No, Mr. White—that does not automatically make them socialists, even if that is the only alternative he seems to imagine. While some unaffiliated voters may align with Democratic socialism, that is not the broader point.

Unaffiliated voters are making a statement directed at organized political parties—something akin to, “Don’t tell me what to do; you’re not my mother.” Yes, unaffiliated voters may donate to candidates from either party, but those decisions are made on an issue-by-issue basis.

THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN—A WOULD-BE PUPPET MASTER. NOTHING MORE.

From previous pg

I proudly donated to the candidacy of Alice Murphy for the Montrose County School Board. She is an honorable, highly experienced, and deeply respected educator and former board member. She has more experience in her right little toe than all of the current board members have combined. She is also the daughter of Japanese American internment prisoners from World War II, giving her a unique perspective on the importance of protecting equitable, open public education.

Similarly, my support for Phil Weiser stems from his commitment to the rule of law and due process—values shaped by his family's experience in Nazi Germany. His mother was born in a German prison camp, and his family endured persecution because of their Jewish heritage. That history informs his strong stance on civil rights and due process protections today.

Did I support these candidates because they are Democrats? Absolutely not.

I will conclude with a longstanding concern I have about Mr. White's writing. He frequently relies on ideological—rather than logical—arguments and appears to lack historical awareness regarding the use of propaganda. He employs what are commonly referred to as “dog whistles”: language that appears neutral on the surface but carries coded meaning intended to provoke emotional responses.

These phrases—such as “foot soldiers,” “loyalists,” “operatives,” “woke political messages,” and “citizen activists”—are designed to stir fear, invoke past political anxieties like the Red Scare, and activate ingrained stereotypes. In other writings, he has labeled individuals as “crazed liberals,” “far left,” or “communists,” and now appears to be attempting to turn “unaffiliated” into another such term.

This kind of rhetoric is not grounded in truth but in psychological strategies that rely on repetition and emotional manipulation. It is demeaning, divisive, and ultimately corrosive to constructive public discourse.

Mr. White is no longer a commissioner, a county counselor, a county or city manager, a mayor, or any other elected official. He is, at this point, simply the man behind the curtain—a would-be puppet master. Nothing more.

Kim Spangrude, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LAKE CITY UNCORKED WINE & MUSIC FESTIVAL!

Special to the Mirror

LAKE CITY--Lake City Uncorked Wine & Music Festival - third Saturday in September. This year Sept. 19, 2026. Gates open at 10 am; music starts at 11 am; wine flows at noon. Food vendors, unique arts and handcrafted items, 7 bands, wines for tasting, beer booth. lakecitydirt.org/uncorked

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BOCC RECOGNIZES TEAM MEMBERS FOR RESPONSE TO FIRES, FLOODING



Montrose County Road and Bridge was honored for supporting the 2026 Gold Mountain Fire Response. Montrose County photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Local heroes were honored at the regular Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting of Aug. 5. All Commissioners were present for the meeting.

Commissioners took time to recognize the 2026 Gold Mountain Fire Emergency Operations Center; Montrose County Road and Bridge supporting the 2026 Gold Mountain Fire Response; and the Montrose County Road and Bridge response to the 6400 Road Flash Flood.

BOCC Chair Kirstin Copeland opened the meeting and welcomed all.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Garrett Agajanian of St. Stephens Anglican Church delivered the Invocation. "Please Join me in prayer," he said. "Heavenly Father, this morning I thank you for the freedoms we have as Americans. The blessing and privilege that we enjoy living here in Western Colorado. Especially as we are 150 years almost to the day of celebrating Colorado statehood. We just celebrated the 250th birthday of our great nation...this morning I would like to pray your hand of blessing over all those we are honoring this morning for their service and commitment to public works here in Montrose County...Lord I pray for this civil council, I am asking that you graciously grant them wisdom and sound judgment. I pray for the agenda set before them today, please give an assurance what would please you

and benefit those who live here in beautiful Western Colorado, in Montrose County. I ask all of these things in Jesus' holy name, Amen."

After the officials moved in front of the dais for the recognition ceremony, BOCC Chair Kirstin Copeland said, "This is one of the best parts of getting to be a County Commissioner for me, is recognizing the dedication and talent of the County teams..."

Members of each team were called forward by name, as Commissioners recognized them and took group photos.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Lori Armstrong spoke on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In celebration of the United States' 250th birthday, the church is donating 250 truckloads of food across the United States.

Each truck carries around 40,000 pounds of food, Armstrong said. One of those trucks will arrive at Sharing Ministries on Aug. 20. Armstrong invited Commissioners to join the celebration when the truck arrives.

Ray Langston spoke next, thanking Commissioner Sue Hansen for her dedication to the County over the past eight years.

Former Moffat County Commissioner Ray Beck thanked the commissioners for all they have done, and thanked Sue Hansen for her service. "...You've done a great job Sue, I really appreciate you and I know a lot of others do as well." Beck thanked

Hansen and the board for their support of JOLT (Joint Organizations Leading Transitions), which is now working to organize its fifth annual Energy Summit on June 10-11 at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Joe Kerby had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, with Resolution No. 29-2026 assigned to Item 7 and Resolution No. 30-2026 assigned to Item 11.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, and voted to approve the renewal of the Retail Liquor Store license for Cydney Louise Siri, doing business as Pleasant Valley, 84100 E. US Highway 50, in Cimarron Colorado.

Commissioners then returned to regular session as the BOCC.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The BOCC voted to authorize the chair's signature on a letter of support for a grant application for the West Slope Outdoors Alliance for project scoping and stakeholder engagement in the Escalante Basin.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

The BOCC voted to approve five items, including:

- The Brown Resubdivision Final Plat [MA26-004] proposal to divide eight acres into two lots at Parcel 349335101002;
- The Westwind Estates Phase 1 Final Plat [MA26-006] proposal to complete the 1st filing of the Westwind Estates Subdivision which contains 11 lots at Parcel 399316102003;
- The Polson Minor Subdivision [MI26-005] proposal to divide two lots from 12.184 acres. Parcel 371506100015;
- The Coal Creek Acres Minor Subdivision [MI26-007] proposal to divide 8.25 acres into three lots at Parcel 376509201001;
- Hensen-Herwick Amended Plat [AM26-005] proposal to create an easement. At parcels 399310207001 and 399310207002.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

KYLE CLARK, 9NEWS AND COLORADO'S OUTRAGE MACHINE

How liberal media bias manufactured a lie, unleashed a mob and put my family in danger

By Sean M. Pond | Guest Commentary

If this can be done to me, it can be done to anyone.

What happens when a broadcaster assigns a hidden meaning to your husband's words? What happens when the evening news decides your wife is hateful, your father is dangerous, your son is racist or your daughter is a bigot? Will anyone ask what they actually said, or will the mob be released before the truth has a chance?

Colorado must stand against genuine racism, genuine antisemitism and genuine hatred wherever they appear. We must also stand against media personalities who manufacture those accusations for political effect. Both poison public life. Both replace truth with fear and turn neighbors into enemies.

I know who I am. I am a fifth generation Coloradan who served my country through two Persian Gulf deployments in the United States Navy. I built businesses, created jobs and raised five children. I now have eight grandchildren watching what kind of country we leave behind. I serve as a Montrose County commissioner, and I was a candidate for the United States Senate.

For the better part of two years, I have traveled Colorado fighting for its people, its land and its liberty. I have stood for ranchers, workers, small business owners, veterans, parents and ordinary citizens ignored by those in power. I believe our rights come from God, public servants answer to the people and government must stay inside the Constitution.

That is why I stepped forward when it would have been easier to stay home. No television personality, political party or online mob gets to erase a lifetime of service with a manufactured lie.

You do not have to like my picture. You do not have to agree with my politics. But every Coloradan should be furious that one broadcaster could invent a hateful motive and leave a family dealing with death threats, harassing calls and security concerns.

Today they decided what I meant.

Tomorrow they may decide what you meant.

America does not belong to television personalities, political parties or angry mobs. It belongs to the people. We are not subjects. We are citizens of a constitutional republic, and freedom survives only when ordinary Americans defend it.

I will keep fighting for truth, individual liberty and limited constitutional government. I will not be intimidated into silence, and I will not surrender my name, my convictions or my country to a lie.

If we do not stop this culture of manufactured outrage, hate and division now, the next family caught in its path could be yours.

Sean M. Pond represents District 3 on the Montrose County Board of Commissioners. The opinions expressed here are his own and do not represent



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DRIVER DISTRACTIONS TOP THE LIST OF CAUSAL FACTORS FOR COLORADO SCHOOL BUS CRASHES

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Each day, thousands of Colorado children head to school on foot and in private vehicles or on the school bus. But which is the safest? According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), students are about 70 times more likely to reach school safely when they take a bus instead of traveling by car. That's because school buses are the most regulated

vehicles on the road, designed with stricter safety standards above and beyond those for passenger vehicles.

Even with a safe design, injuries and death still occur due to unsafe driving practices around school buses. Over the last five years (2021-2025), the Colorado State Patrol investigated 267 crashes involving school buses, with the majority caused by other motorists, not the school bus driver.

"Drivers have to share the road with all types of vehicles and pedestrians. If you're driving behind a school bus, allow for a greater distance and take it slow," stated Colonel Matthew C. Packard, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Kids aren't always predictable, and stopping is more frequent for bus drivers. We all need to do our part to create a safe environment by exercising patience around school buses."

The top three causal factors of Colorado school-bus involved crashes during this same time period were inattentive driving, lane violations, and failure to yield the right of way. Last year (2025), troopers investigated thirteen property and injury crashes involving school buses caused by distracted driving. This is up from nine the previous year (2024).

"Driving isn't passive. Your attention should be given to the task of driving, that is our responsibility when given the privilege of a license," reminds Colonel Packard. "Distractions and aggressive driving around vehicles designated to transport our kids is simply unacceptable, and this is why violations involving school buses carry strong penalties and fines."

It is unlawful to:

- Pass in any marked no-passing zones.
- Exceed the posted speed limit when passing.
- Pass a school bus with flashing red lights and stop arm extended.
- Pass within 100 feet of any intersection.
- Pass within 100 feet of any railroad crossing.
- Pass upon the crest of a grade or a curve where the driver's view is obstructed.
- Pass when the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.

The Colorado State Patrol is focused on curbing dangerous, avoidable driving behaviors during Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer by sharing data and tips to encourage all Colorado drivers to focus on one task: driving. [Colorado's Hands Free law](#) went into effect on January 1, 2025. Seconds Matter, drop the distractions.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ISLAND LAKE ROAD CLOSURE BEGINS FOR POWERLINE BURIAL PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-The west end of Island Lake Road, National Forest System Road 116, has closed to allow crews to bury a powerline beneath a section of the roadbed.

The closure extends from the road's intersection with Highway 65 on the west side of Island Lake and continues east to Island Lake Campground. Through October, the Island Lake campground will be open and accessible from the east end of Island Lake Road. However, the Island Lake Day Use Area, Little Bear Campground and surrounding trails will remain closed due to ongoing improvement projects.

The closure is in effect through Dec. 31 at 5 p.m., unless work is completed earlier and the order is rescinded.

Forest Service officials remind visitors to use caution when traveling near work zones and to adhere to all posted signs and barriers.

For more information, visit the full closure orders [here](#) and for updates, visit the [GMUG Facebook](#) or [website](#).




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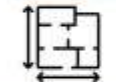


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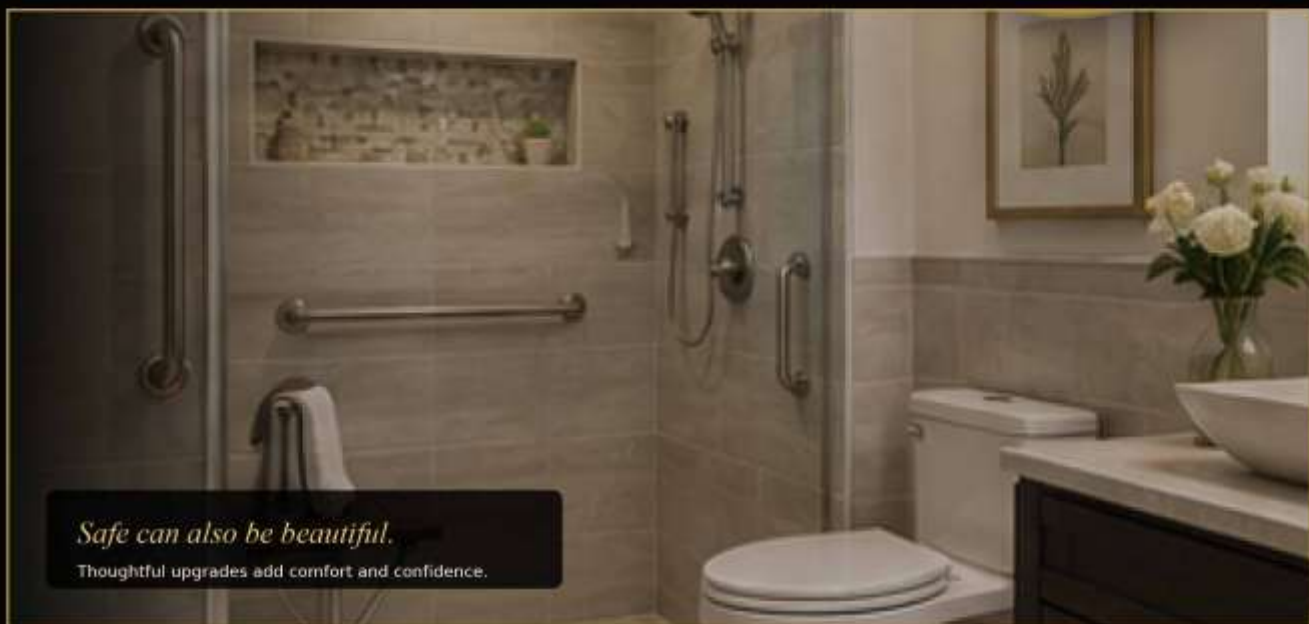


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COUNCIL APPROVES UPDATED LANGUAGE ON E-BIKES *From pg 1*

amendments and to cooperation by the police with ICE agents, as well as a perceived lack of accountability and transparency on the part of Council. Many questioned the speed at which changes are being considered.

Councilor J. David Reed reminded newly-elected councilors that they were not elected by a majority, but by a plurality; Mayor Michael Badagliacco said that the way City elections are structured makes it difficult for any candidate to win a majority of the votes.

The need for lights on bikes was mentioned, in particular those bikes used by police officers.

While a number of those present expressed opposition to the proposed charter change that would cause the Police Chief and City Clerk positions to revert to pre-2024 rules that include council consideration when it comes to hiring and firing individuals in those positions, one speaker spoke in favor of the change.

Former City Employee Shelly Robillard spoke about her six years with the city, where she began as a part-time animal technician, later becoming Director of Animal Services and then a patrol officer.

"That unique position gave me an unfiltered, behind the scenes view of how Montrose operates, from its budget priorities to its leadership culture," Robillard said. "What I witnessed convinced me that those charter amendments aren't just a good idea, they're desperately needed to enforce real transparency and real accountability.

"When absolute control over transparency and accountability sits in the hands of a single person, checks and balances cease to exist. Without oversight, how can us taxpayers be confident that decisions aren't being made to benefit personal interests, friends, family, business associates...these amendments simply return Montrose to a proven structure used by standard municipalities and previously by Montrose itself, where the Police Chief and City Clerk report directly to the Council, ensuring elected oversight on critical personnel decisions.

"If the goal is honest public service, why would anybody vote against transparency and accountability—what's there to

hide?"

Public Comment concluded just before 7pm.

MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the July 21, 2026, regular City Council meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026-10

After a presentation, discussion, and public comment, Council voted to approve Resolution 2016-10, authorizing the City of Montrose Police Department to file an application for a Victim Assistance Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant through the 7th Judicial District Victims Assistance Board for the total of \$61,104 to cover a portion of both the current Victim Advocate's Salary and a new Victim Advocate's salary. Ordinance 2026-10 ratifies the City Manager's signature on the grant application, authorizing the Chief of Police to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as required, while authorizing the City Manager, Chief of Police, and Finance Director to sign the reporting documents.

RESOLUTION 2026-11

Council voted to adopt Resolution 2026-11, setting Sept. 15, 2026, as the hearing date for the Locust Road Addition annexation.

ORDINANCE 2725 - SECOND READING

As previously considered in Work Session and upon First Reading, Ordinance 2725 (amending Title XI Chapter 7, Zoning Regulations; Title XI Chapter 11, Supplementary Uses; and Title XI Chapter 15, Definitions, to allow for Temporary Workforce Housing within the City of Montrose) was adopted in a four to one vote on Second Reading, with Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri voting to deny. Prior to approval, Council spent time in discussion and heard comments from the public.

One of the Speakers, Kim Spangrude, said that it is very important to plan what kind of services we are going to have. She recalled her experiences working in Salt Lake City as a nurse practitioner with single-room occupancy housing. "...Healthcare, Safety, all that kind of stuff. It was really valuable for the homeless population in Salt Lake City to be able to be a part of that. Even though it's a different population of people, it's a very important

thing...they need a lot of services...I really like the direction."

City Manager Bill Bell said, "I just want to make clear that this is not a homeless shelter, or a temporary housing structure whatsoever. These are very high paid construction workers. They only work for the corporation that builds Four Seasons Hotels, so they make a very good wage..."

RESOLUTION 2026-12

Council voted to approve Resolution 2026-12, authorizing assignment to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority of a private activity bond allocation of the City of Montrose pursuant to the Colorado Private Activity Bond Ceiling Allocation Act.

ORDINANCE 2726 - FIRST READING

Public Safety Attorney Matthew Magliaro presented Ordinance 2726 on first reading, adding Title 9 Chapter 10 Section 3 (9-10-3), regarding Park speed limits, off trail riding prohibited, amending Title 10, Chapter 1, Section 4 (10-1-4) additions or modifications in adopted Model Traffic Code, and adding Title 10, Chapter 1, Section 15.5 (10-1-15.5), Electrical-assisted bicycles and classless electrical-assisted vehicles.

Magliaro presented the reasons for the Ordinance and the way it is structured.

A number of citizens spoke, with a lively discussion ensuing as they shared their own experiences as cyclists and as citizens who use the streets, trails, and walkways of the city.

One of the speakers, Louanne Bennett, suggested implementing a law requiring lights on the front and backs of bikes. She recounted a recent incident involving young children weaving in and out of traffic on E-bikes. "I think there should be a law, seeing that these vehicles are electric...because you're putting a vehicle that is very limited in protection, very small, and very dangerous, in respect to a vehicle that can weigh anywhere from two to five thousand pounds--you're talking cars and trucks and what not.

"You're going to squash 'em like a little bug...I'm serious," Bennett said. "This is not to be taken lightly...these kids, they're kids, they want to have fun, but they need to learn respect and responsibility, that a 2,000-pound vehicle will kill 'em like a

COUNCIL APPROVES UPDATED LANGUAGE ON E-BIKES From previous pg

bug on your windshield."

Another speaker, who did not identify himself, said that he and his wife and dog walk regularly on the trail system. "Frankly I'm amazed that I'm still alive to be here.."

Ordinance 2726 was approved unanimously on First Reading.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES

Councilor Dave Frank said that Councilor J. David Reed has amended the language of one of the amendments which deals with hiring and firing of the Police Chief and City Clerk. Mayor Badagliacco thanked Reed for his efforts, and said that his intention with the proposed charter change was to revert to pre-2014 Charter language.

A number of constituents shared their perspectives on the amendment, with respect to both the Police Chief and City Clerk.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Frank mentioned the success of the City's Colorado Day events at the Farmers Market. "...A good time was had by all..."

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri said that the Elks Lodge would be giving out school supplies on the following day. Also, the Montrose Police Department is holding a drive for School Supplies.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CAN WE HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE?

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Last Friday, Montrose Mayor Michael Badagliacco spent time at the Montrose Summer Music Series Concert, which is a City sponsored event. He also attended the FUNC Fest this weekend.

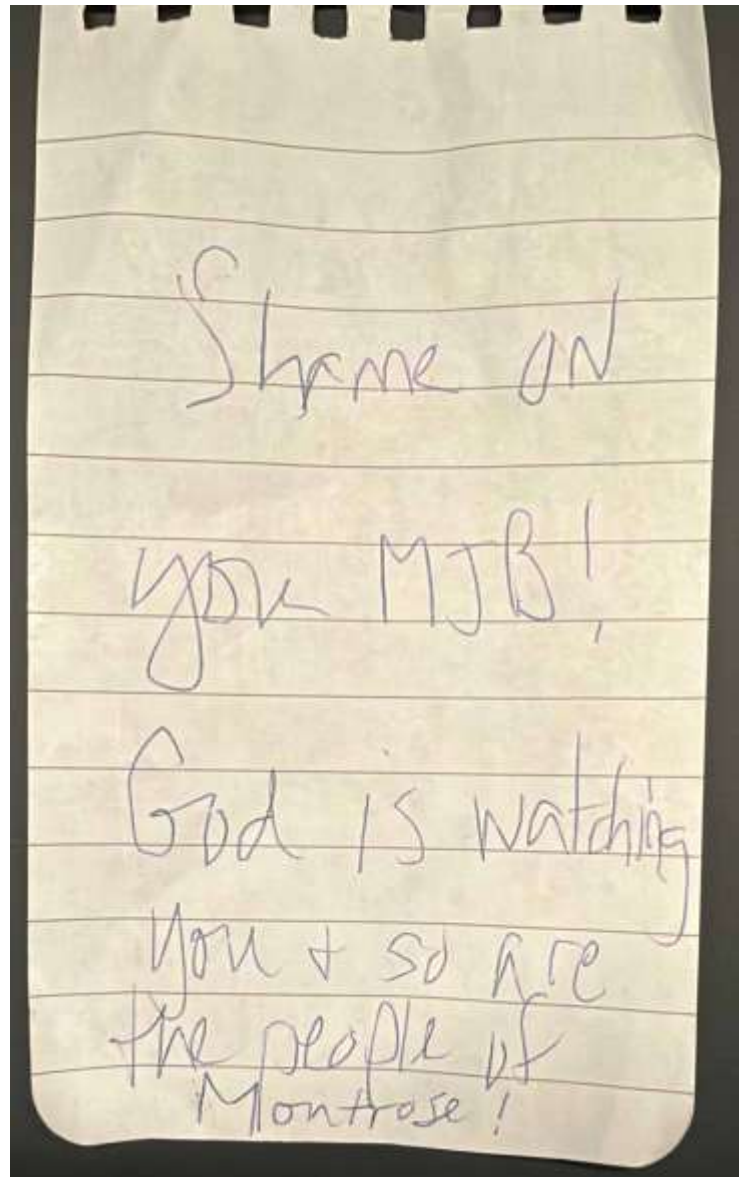
"I do it because I love Montrose and want to be out there in the community," said Badagliacco, who also works a full time job and cares for his aging mother.

"I try to go to everything I can."

When Badagliacco exited the Summer Music Series late Friday evening, he found an anonymous note attached to his motorcycle (at right).

Since becoming Mayor, Badagliacco has changed the rules to allow public comment at work sessions, and has listened with patience to an unprecedented number of comments at meetings. He has maintained an open door policy throughout.

When asked if he was disappointed to find an anonymous note attached to his motorcycle, the Mayor said, "Part of this is to be expected. But I would much rather have someone come up to me and say, "Can we have a cup of coffee?" Mayor Badagliacco can be reached at MBadagliacco@CityofMontrose.org.



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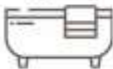
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE REALITY OF SOCIALISM, COMMUNISM AND MARXISM

Editor:

All of these “isms” have never worked in the past. I believe that many in our country embrace them because they have never studied history, especially our young people. They have not realized the cost of millions of lives as a result of these ideologies. Wikipedia states: “Communist and socialist regimes have been responsible for the deaths of **over 100 million people**, primarily due to policies such as famines, purges, and forced labor. This makes communism one of the **deadliest** ideologies in history.”(1)

We live in a free society. People, especially young people, need “to be made aware of the realities regarding the alleged ‘fuzzy and warm’ nature of Marxist (collectivism, communism, progressivism, socialism) iterations.”(2)

Marxist ideology is dangerous, especially in our democratic republic. Marxism was founded on atheistic beliefs, which opposes Judeo-Christian faith which has anchored western civilization. Marxists “oppose the traditional family, which is the building block of any culture and bolsters societal bonds.”(3)

Marxist policies encourage laziness, both physically and intellectually, and dependency on the government. People under Marxism have a sense of entitlement and avoid personal responsibility. Workers expect a high wage even if they do minimal work for their employer.

Marxists are stingy people, but generous with other people’s money. Generally, seized wealth is rarely distributed to the people, but stays with the Marxist leaders and their comrades. The hypocrisy is blatant. The problem is socialism “works” until you run out of other people’s money.

Marxist/socialist influencers deceive vulnerable people. They make grand promises like free public transportation and government-owned grocery stores with lower prices, like Mayor Mamdani has in New York City. When the masses believe them, they become easy to manipulate. Didn’t Hitler promise every German a Volkswagen? Didn’t he promise to provide jobs, food, and prosperity during hard economic times? They promise paradise that results in a nightmarish reality.

Marxism is built on a foundation of contradictions. Marxists can give people stuff, but take it back as well. They use their power to change rules and regulations bringing confusion and division. “Arbitrary laws can hinder people from advancing economically and can also create insecurity.”(4)

Marxism promises equality for all, but there is none. It divides people by their differences (gender, race, etc.) instead of what they have in common. For example, instead of all of us being Americans, Marxism categorizes us into groups: Whites, Blacks, Muslim, Jews, rich, poor, etc. Again, there is no equality for anyone.

Freedom and security are promised to their faithful followers while the Marxist has no qualms about stealing wealth from others. The leaders are the only ones who benefit, and the proletariat (that’s us) is miserable. Look at the folks in China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Russia (and New York City isn’t far behind).

Marxists speak against free enterprise and liberty, but enjoy the benefits of both, and they exploit their blessings to the max. Take Mayor Mamdani, for example, he is very wealthy, but tries to act like a typical New Yorker who is barely scraping by. Also, every socialist-run country has ended with food shortages and limited services. Who wants that?

Marxism suppresses creativity, innovation and critical thinking and pushes “groupthink” which makes for a tedious, lifeless existence. (Everyone needs to read “1984” by George Orwell or “Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley.)

Marxists blame others. They are childish and demanding. They demand other people’s wealth which is immoral. Marxists support totalitarian entities and mob rule. Most Marxists want to protect unlawful immigrants, yet punish law-abiding citizens. We’ve seen this again and again in the U.S.

Marxist dystopian policies through Mao, Lenin, Marx, Pol Pot and others have only created carnage and death. Marxists never learn from history, and that’s why it is so important to KNOW history.

Is Marxism what anyone really wants? Think again.

Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

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Montrose County HOUSING MARKET

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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HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND SERVICE ...

...words etched on every Montrose County Sheriff's Office badge

By Sieglinde Carpenter, MCSO PR Volunteer

MONTROSE-The motto of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office is to "Protect and serve with honesty, integrity and service." At the recent Sheriff's Community Night, it was evident that protecting and serving the residents and businesses of Montrose County is the sheriff's top priority. According to Dave Farley, the Public Information Officer for MCSO, "This event was a great success. It was a night for families and individuals to meet Sheriff Gene R. Lillard who was ever-present and engaged. The Montrose County Sheriff's Office is highly respected throughout western Colorado and serves beyond the borders of Montrose County in times of need.

The MCSO demonstrated their latest vehicles and drones; S.W.A.T. and uniformed deputies were engaged with children and adults. Olathe Chief of Police Travis Thompson, a former MCSO deputy, along with uniformed military service members, also made their presence known. It was an evening filled with excitement, laughter and some serious conversation. Hours of community preparation by the fairgrounds staff, the Cattle-men's Association, and numerous organizations created a family night event focused on community safety measures and ways to help reduce crime prevention.

Montrose Neighborhood Watch (NW), one of the MCSO community outreach programs, had a booth manned by volunteers Rex Swanson, NW Community Liaison, and Siggie Carpenter, PR Communication. They were excited to share the value of participating in NW, and together, they distributed 100 Children's Fingerprint Card kits and several gun guards to families who were grateful and thankful that "their community cares about their family's protection". Rex's favorite saying is "If you see something, say something. We can be an extra pair of eyes and ears that change the outcome. Our first line of defense is awareness and protection."

Residents are encouraged to attend NW meetings to stay informed and connected. The East End of Montrose meets at 6:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday at the Sheriff's Office, 1200 N Grand Ave. The West End of Montrose meets at 6:00pm on the 2nd Thursday at the Naturita Library, 107 W 1st St, Naturita. Learning how to effectively report suspicious activity often helps to quickly resolve potential disturbance. Neighborhood Watch programs were created through the National Sheriff's Association to help empower residents through neighborhood cohesion and collaboration to work with local law enforcement agencies to prevent crime and improve their quality of life.

NW Volunteers Siggie Carpenter and Rex Swanson with Sheriff Gene Lillard

If you didn't get a chance to pick up a Children's Fingerprint Identification Card kit or pick up a gun guard, please call the Montrose County Sheriff's Office at 970-252-4023. Stay Informed ~ Stay Connected. You can register on the website www.montrosecountysheriffsoffice.com



NW Volunteers Siggie Carpenter and Rex Swanson with Sheriff Gene Lillard



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH'S HOME HEALTH PROGRAM TO BE ABSORBED BY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL SERVICES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA - Delta Health announced today that its Home Health program will be absorbed by Volunteers of America National Services (VOANS), effective October 1, 2026. This expansion will ensure Home Health patients continue to receive the much-needed services they rely on.

Delta Health currently works hand in hand with VOANS with the home health needs of patients discharged from the hospital, and will continue to work diligently with them over the next few months to transition clients and resources. The goal of this transition is to make the process as seamless as possible for both employees and clients — right down to the physical location remaining the same.

Delta Health and VOANS are working closely together and have given great consideration to the continued employment of Delta Health employees who will be impacted by this transition. Affected employees will be offered continued employment with either Delta Health or Volunteers of America National Services with the intent to mitigate loss of employment and to avoid interruption of these crucial home health services.

Home health services are critically important, especially in rural western Colorado, as they allow patients to recover safely in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes, they support safe recovery in a familiar environment, and lower healthcare costs compared to inpatient hospital stays. Home health also prevents hospital readmissions by helping patients to effectively manage chronic conditions.

Delta Health and VOANS remain committed to ensuring that patients in our community continue to have uninterrupted access to these essential services throughout — and beyond — this transition.

READ ALL ABOUT IT



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW CHALLENGES IN THE WORKPLACE: SEVEN GENERATIONS, ONE WORKPLACE

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION—Seven generations are now coexisting for the first time in history, creating unprecedented opportunities—and challenges—in today's workplace. As organizations navigate economic, technological and organizational change, effective communication across generations has become essential for building strong, productive teams.

While generational diversity brings valuable perspectives, differing communication preferences can lead to misunderstandings and workplace conflict. Supervisors play a critical role in fostering collaboration, yet many lack the training needed to address these challenges effectively.

According to an Express Employment Professionals-Harris Poll survey, 39% of U.S. supervisors identify conflict resolution as their biggest workplace challenge. Despite this, only 31% of U.S. supervisors report receiving formal training in conflict resolution. Understanding communication preferences is a key first step. Research from the McCrindle Research firm shows that while each generation may favor different communication methods, face-to-face communication remains the most preferred approach across all generations.

Communication Preferences by Generation

-Gen Z: Face-to-face (59%), Email (44%), Phone (41%)

-Millennials: Face-to-face (63%), Email (45%), Online Messaging (40%)

-Gen X: Face-to-face (73%), Email (43%), Phone (30%)

-Boomers: Face-to-face (87%), Phone (28%), Email (27%)

According to Nina Anderson, Owner/CEO of Express Employment Grand Junction/Montrose, "While generational trends provide useful context, individual personalities and work styles should always take precedence over stereotypes. Understanding employees' unique preferences are essential to reducing miscommunication and strengthening team performance."

For additional resources, visit ExpressPros.com/Generations and explore *Thriving Together: Supervisor Communication for Multigenerational Teams*.

If you would like to arrange for an interview with Nina, please call 970-242-4500 or email Nina.Anderson@ExpressPros.com.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RESPONSE TO LEAH VANDERSLUIJ LETTER ON NEISHA BALLECK

Dear editor,

I must comment on Lea Vandersluis's letter concerning N. Balleck, School Board President. Having a huge concern for our School District and having attended most of this new school board's meetings and speaking with many concerned community members, Leah, you must recognize many of your "facts" are your opinions.

I agree, with some of your points. #4 She has moved public comment to the beginning of the meetings allowing for public input before discussion and decisions are made. This has been a good step although, it does not appear that most of the directors consider what concerned citizens voice. Minds seem to be made up ahead of time. #7 I agree she has certainly taken on controversial situations such as hiring our present conservative, expensive law firm, opening a new (charter) elementary school while at the same time looking to consolidate or close existing neighborhood schools, and hiring an investigator (without input from the rest of the Board) that resulted in the Superintendent's non-punitive, paid leave and dismissal of a principal. She is definitely tackling controversial agendas. #8 I do

recognize, she is a volunteer and obviously puts in hours of preparation and action. Very commendable. I recognize she is learning this challenging role and "consulting with LEGAL \$\$\$" appears to be one of her most used sources for information. I appreciate her time and dedication.

However Leah, I disagree with most of your kudeos. #1 She has not improved communication. Her communication is one way (unless you are her friend). Often other Directors are left out of the loop, given the meeting agendas or information moments before the meetings. I personally have sent her 7-8 emails and not ever heard one word from her, via e-mail or engaging with me personally, as I am present at most board meetings. I always address the Board and ask lots of questions. She has not answered one of them or "enabled more communication" to me personally. #2 "protocol and policies" have been bent and broken many times under her watch (ie hiring an investigator with only "Legal's" input, approving an early entry date for MCA (not following MCSD policy) without a state waiver. #3 I am not aware that she meets with staff

and families regularly. At regular meetings when the Director's report what they have attended in the district the previous weeks, it doesn't appear she has spent much time in schools. (She did not attend either Northside's or Pomona's parent meetings regarding school closures when parents needed information and reassurance.) #5 Leah, Ms. Balleck may respond to YOUR calls, texts and emails but, she has never once responded to any of my many emails. You must be friends. #6 Yes, The board is transparent other than not disclosing what information and decisions are reached in Executive Sessions, which seem to be happening more frequently. Again I will ask, how does that public learn what is decided in those closed meetings? What does Dr. Kalb's compensation look like?

What were the results of the investigation? What is the decision about our Superintendent Leave situation? Not too transparent. Leah, you are entitled to your opinions, Please recognize they are just that and many of us do not agree with you.

*Respectfully submitted,
Zoe Werden, Monroe*

TELL CONGRESSMAN HURD TO VOTE YES ON THE SANCTIONING RUSSIA ACT !

Editor:

The U.S. Senate just passed **S. 5025, the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act**, by a vote of 86-11.

It now heads to the U.S. House, and it needs to pass once the Congressional Representatives return from recess.

Here's why it matters.

Russia's economy runs on oil and gas — 20% of its GDP, 40% of its exports. To keep that money flowing to the war machine, the Kremlin relies on state banks, a shadow fleet of tankers, and a global network of enablers.

S. 5025 goes straight after that system:

- Sanctions the bankrollers — Russian officials, oligarchs, and entities funding the war
- Restricts major Russian banks, including the Central Bank of Russia, Gazprombank, VTB Bank, and Sberbank
- Cracks down on the shadow fleet of tankers and insurers evading oil sanctions
- Pressures Russia's top energy customers with tailored duties on countries still buying Russian oil and gas
- Raises duties on Russian imports by up to 500%
- Tightens U.S. investment restrictions on Russian sovereign debt.

This bill delivers them. But it can only work if the House acts — every day of delay is another day Russia's war economy stays funded.

Tell Congressman Hurd to Vote YES on the Sanctioning Russia Act !

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO HAVE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

Dear MCSD Directors,

First, thank you for using some of your vacation month to deal with some "pressing issues" for our District. Many of us, as educators, understand educators don't really have the summer off. Most take classes, serve on district committees, and prepare for teaching or coaching all summer long. It shows you are dedicated to get things going for our teachers and students/families when things are urgent.

As of 7/21/26 There is no real information yet from the investigator in the Olathe/Superintendent Leave incident—still waiting. Ms Balleck said, "the majority of investigation is done and when completed, four directors will schedule an Executive Session to hear results", and then what? The board decides the consequences? Will this be an open meeting? How does the public get to hear the results? Are there minutes to Executive sessions in general? Approximately 20 people waited around to hear a summary of the contract w/ Dr. Kalb of the executive session. You came back in and adjourned the meeting. Not a word ever disclosed. How much are we as taxpayers paying for two Superintendents and for how long?

The long debate concerning MCA choosing to NOT align with the district's well-researched starting date for Kindergarten

entry was decided based on (as it was explained by you), Ms. Balleck, "school is starting soon, MCA overlooked the district's date and now we're down to the wire, we need to approve without a state required waiver or (Oh no), more legal costs." Ms. Hovde stated, "We have spent over \$20,000 on legal fees so far this year."

That's out of the General Fund, away from our schools and children.

Our board made a decision quickly, under pressure. So even though most of (us) past and present teachers after doing research and years of experience have discovered "early starts" of even 2 months IS NOT THE BEST PRACTICE FOR MOST CHILDREN especially if that child is a male or was premature at birth. Also MCA will start a week later, due to the August 5 Colorado State inspections after construction finishes. I asked if this new school could possibly be ready by fall in my last letter, I'm impressed they will be able to open only a week late. I was glad Ms. Vincent explained "they will still get their 180 days in for school as the MCA staff will not be participating in any of the district's teacher in-service days." My big concern with any of these decisions is... **are we seeing the beginning of a pattern to allow MCA to do things contrary to district**

policy, guidelines and calendars?

Finally, Mr. Valerio, so now added to a building principal's responsibilities are "reassuring and calming the teachers and families for the uncertainties in Central Office Leadership" (including replacing Pavlich, an amazing Executive Director of Operations to 2 Superintendents and pending decisions on closure/consolidation of 2 existing, neighborhood elementary schools). You don't think the principals might need a bit of reassurance and calming themselves? A better idea would be for the Board of Directors to stop causing chaos, uncertainty and budget concerns.

Communication is obviously important to me. I write to you after every board meeting. No one ever responds. I feel like I'm not getting my questions answered. Ms. Hovde's idea of a public forum is a good one. Possibly a couple of you could join up and offer to chat with members of your community. We want to be able to have two-way communication. "We ARE watching you," but we would rather talk with you.

That's not a threat, that's our civil duty as people who care about public education in Montrose/Olathe.

Retired Teacher of children with special needs, Zoe Werden

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

THERE IS SOMETHING VERY EERIE AND CONCERNING WITH THEIR FORM OF ACTIVISM

Editor:

Montrose Democrats are 100% Correct
There have been multiple articles in local newspapers, dozens of social media posts, and rampant rumors going around that the Montrose Republican Party is encouraging people to come out and show support for "their" candidates at local board meetings in Montrose. I can tell you that their accusations are absolutely correct. It is not, and has not, been a secret that the Montrose Republican Party has been going after these board seats that have too long been overlooked by the conservative citizens of Montrose County. We, along with other concerned citizens, have actively pursued finding candidates to run for the seats because we understand the power that comes with control of these boards. For too long, under the cover of 'non-partisan', Democrats have amassed tremendous power by taking control of the boards that control the everyday working of our communities. One of their complaints is that the Republican Party should stay out of it because these are non-partisan seats. I don't think that there are many people that are uninformed enough to believe that any public office is actually non-partisan. Where there is control, there is guaran-

teed to be politics involved. Montrose is an overwhelmingly conservative county, and we will not apologize for fighting to keep it that way! The School Board controls what curriculums the students are taught, who the superintendent is, and how the budget for the schools are spent. The City Council controls how taxpayer dollars in the City are spent, and what causes the City will endorse. The County Commissioners determine the budget for the County, and how that taxpayer money is spent. They have a large say in what regulations will be put in place. Many of these decisions in the past have only put an extra financial burden on the hard-working taxpayers of the City and County, very few of these regulations have actually improved our quality of life. These are just a few of the many decisions that are made by these local boards. So yes, we are standing behind the people who have stood up to fight for us. There are not a lot of people who are willing to be slandered daily on social media and in the local papers. People do not want the headache that comes with taking a stand for their fellow citizens. As a party we applaud their sacrifice. These positions are very time consuming, and many are not paid positions. What many of you are

probably not aware of, is that the same people that have issues with "our" candidates, are following our candidates to places that they volunteer, where they enjoy a meal, or go out for entertainment. They are taking pictures of them and posting them on social media. They are leaving notes of warning on their vehicles at public events. They are going door to door asking people if they have interest in trying to recall the newly elected City Council members, There is something very eerie and concerning with their form of activism. The same people that are shouting to "protect our democracy" are the very ones who are, for the second time in as many years, seeking to recall officials that were elected by the members of our city and county. This is no longer a time to sit on the sidelines, there is too much at stake for our future, but more importantly for the future of our kids and grandkids that are too young to stand up and fight for themselves! We can all do something! Please become informed on local, state, and national issues, and take the time to vote this November!

Tammy Jolley

Secretary of the Montrose Republican Party



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE VALUE OF AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Editor:

I've heard it said recently that many of the citizens speaking at public meetings are part of some larger political effort to change the direction of Montrose. The implication is that if enough people ask questions, attend meetings, or challenge elected officials, there must be someone behind the curtain pulling the strings.

I see it differently.

An engaged citizen is not evidence of a conspiracy. It is evidence of a healthy community.

Whether someone is conservative, liberal, Republican, Democrat, unaffiliated, or chooses not to identify with any political party at all, every resident has the same right to stand at the podium, ask difficult questions, and expect thoughtful answers. That is not activism. **That is citizenship.**

Over the past several months, I've spoken about the proposed Charter amendments, not because of a political party, but because I believe important governing documents deserve careful review. My ques-

tions have remained the same from the beginning: What problem are we trying to solve? Why the urgency? Why not invite more citizens into the discussion before asking voters to make permanent changes? Those questions are about process, not politics.

I've also heard it suggested that people who volunteer with community organizations or participate in civic groups somehow have hidden motives. I respectfully disagree. Our community is strengthened because people volunteer with nonprofits, serve on boards and commissions, coach youth, organize neighborhood projects, help during disasters, advocate for causes they believe in, and yes, occasionally disagree with their government. None of those activities should automatically be viewed through a partisan lens.

Reasonable people can disagree. In fact, they should. Democracy was never intended to be comfortable. It was designed to encourage debate, ask hard questions, and test ideas in public before decisions

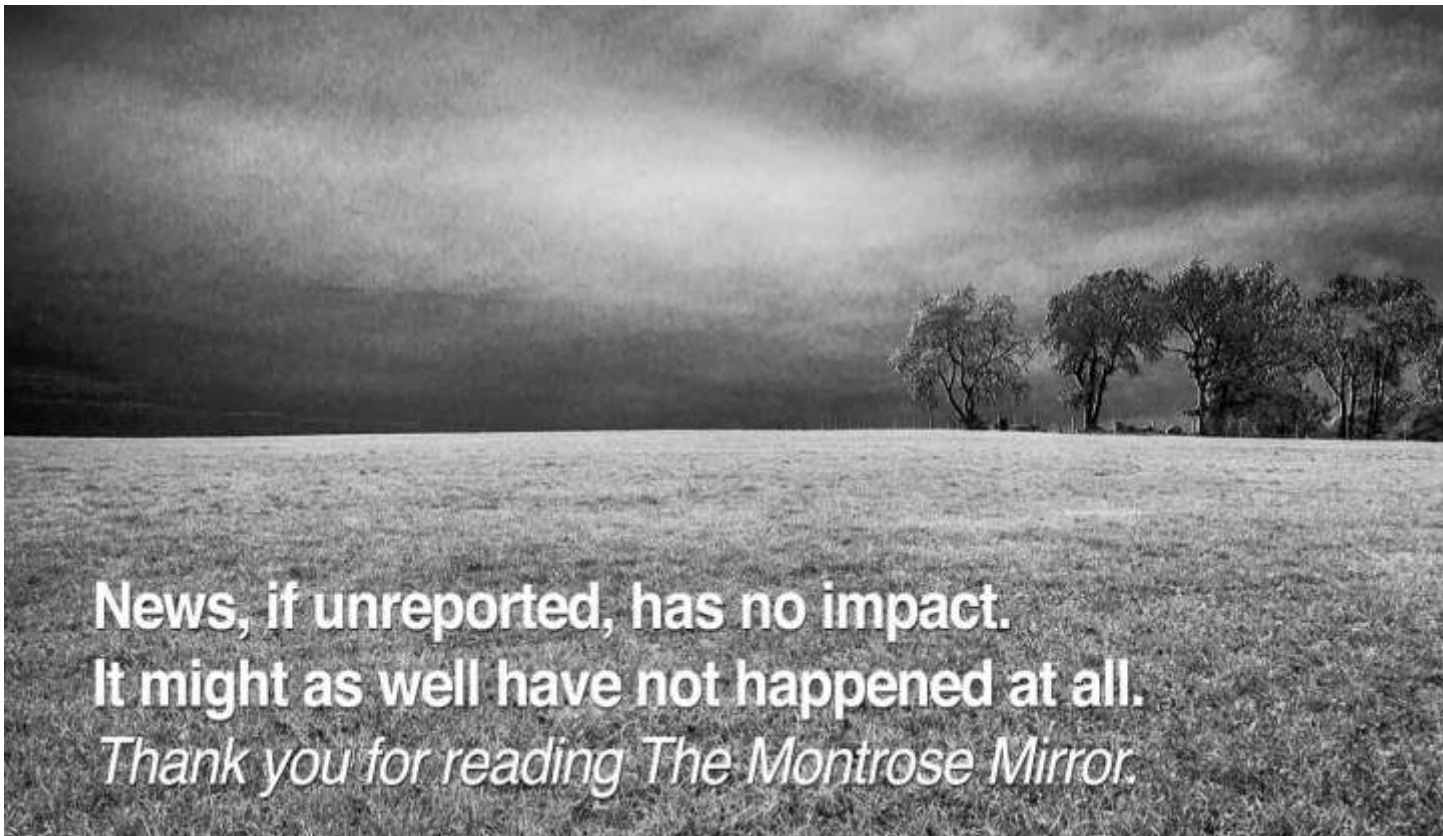
are made. We don't strengthen our community by assuming those who disagree with us are acting in bad faith. We strengthen it by listening, **responding with facts**, and respecting one another enough to have the conversation.

I have supported elected officials from different backgrounds over the years. I have disagreed with elected officials from different backgrounds over the years. Neither makes me anyone's operative. It makes me a citizen who cares deeply about the community I call home.

At the end of the day, I don't want Montrose to become known as a place where people hesitate to speak because they'll be labeled or dismissed based on assumptions about their motives. I want it to remain a place where citizens feel welcome to participate, even when they disagree.

Government belongs to all of us. Asking questions is not an attack on democracy. It is one of democracy's greatest strengths.

Beth McCorkle, Citizen



News, if unreported, has no impact.
It might as well have not happened at all.
Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

"WE THE PEOPLE" DECIDE - FOUR CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN MONTROSE

by Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

I have been asked to reiterate my position concerning the potential Charter Amendments. My intent is to ensure the people have an opportunity to decide in November, on the final four measures still under consideration for the November 3, 2026 ballot from the remainder of what began as seven.

The four proposed charter amendments strengthen democratic accountability, voter participation, institutional checks, and long-term governance stability in Montrose. ***They address low-turnout spring elections that favor organized interests, indefinite tenure that can entrench incumbents, and excessive concentration of personnel power in a single unelected administrator.*** In a Constitutional Republic the people elect representatives who remain accountable to them. These changes reinforce that principle while preserving efficient professional management.

1. Moving Municipal Elections from April to November (Even Years)

April elections historically produce significantly lower turnout than November general elections. In many municipalities spring turnout falls between 25-35%, while even-year November elections routinely reach 60-87%. ***Higher participation means the elected Council more accurately reflects the full electorate rather than a narrow slice of highly motivated voters or organized groups.***

This increases the legitimacy of the Council. Decisions on budgets, taxes, infrastructure, and land use carry greater weight when more residents have voted. It reduces the influence of small factions that dominate low-turnout contests, aligns local elections with the civic calendar when voters are already engaged, and can lower costs by as much as \$20,000 through state coordination and cost-sharing. Candidates must appeal to a broader cross-section of Montrose. Broader participation maximizes the principle:

"government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed".

2. Lifetime Term Limits of Eight Years Across All Seats

Unlimited tenure can reduce innovation and shift the Council from citizen-legislators toward career local politicians. An eight-year lifetime cap, consecutive or cumulative, forces regular turnover while still allowing time to learn the job and complete multi-year work.

It guarantees new perspectives and community voices, reduces long-term personal networks, and encourages focus on durable policy rather than personal longevity. It makes the Council more accessible to qualified residents and aligns with Colorado's tradition of term limits and the principle that public office is a temporary trust, not a career. Eight years is long enough to be meaningful

3. City Council Approval Required for Hiring and Firing the Police Chief

Currently there is a concentration of power over public safety in one unelected official. Requiring Council confirmation for hiring and removal adds a democratic check without eliminating professional management.

This ensures the person responsible for public safety ultimately answers to the elected representatives of the people. It adds scrutiny on qualifications, temperament, and community fit, and protects against abrupt removals that can damage morale or appear retaliatory. The amendment requires approval of the manager's recommendation rather than independent Council hiring. Day-to-day operations remains intact. Shared responsibility strengthens checks without micromanagement.

4. City Council Approval Required for Hiring and Firing the City Clerk

The city clerk is custodian of official records, elections administration, and transparency functions. ***Sole hiring and firing authority with the manager can limit the clerk's independence when duties involve***

oversight of the administration or Council.

Shared approval strengthens institutional independence for the office that maintains the official record and electoral processes. It provides a democratic safeguard, reduces the risk of removal for inconvenient transparency work, and reinforces public confidence that records and elections are not under unilateral control. ***The amendment is structured as Council confirmation of the manager's recommendation.*** Day-to-day supervision stays with the manager. This arrangement fits the clerk's quasi-independent role and the republican idea that key accountability functions should not rest in one unelected pair of hands.

Taken together, these amendments improve participation, ensure regular turnover, and add checks on two critical positions. They reduce single-point-of-failure risk and strengthen accountability while preserving professional management. They are structural, not partisan, and consistent with the principle that ultimate authority in a Constitutional Republic rests with the people through their elected representatives.

All of these are being presented as separate ballot measures for you, the voters of Montrose, to decide. ***Would I personally like to see them pass? Of course.***

However, I am but one vote on the Council and one vote of nearly 17,000 registered voters in November.

Ultimately the decision belongs to:
"We the People," all of us in Montrose.

If you find the proposals acceptable, Vote Yes. If you do not, Vote No. Not sure how all of these became "Controversial".... The Council is not doing anything more than proposing we put these items on the ballot for YOU to decide.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REPUBLICANS LOVE AMERICA AND WILL FIGHT

Editor:

The fact that there are no moderate Muslims in the world is perfectly illustrated by a meme I saw this week. It has a radical Muslim next to a “moderate” Muslim. The radical Muslim declares “follow Islam or I will kill you.” The “moderate” Muslim is saying “follow Islam or he will kill you,” as he points to the radical. Some Muslims don't want to kill infidels. They just want other Muslims to do it for them. Unlike establishment Democrats, Muslims don't try to hide their agenda. Islam divides the world into “Dar al-Islam” (House of Islam) and “Dar al-Harb” (House of War). Their Quran commands fighting and slaying non-Muslims. A Muslim's allegiance is to Mecca and Sharia – not the Constitution or any American law. Islam is a complete political, legal, and military system incompatible with American freedom, and Muslims cannot be loyal citizens of a constitutional republic. Islam has a long and sordid history of destroying anyone not bowing to their dictates. Just one historical example: Once upon a time, a nation called Persia gave shelter to 4,000 Muslims. 100 years later, the Persians were wiped out from their own home. Today Persia is Muslim Iran. (The same Iran that Obama sent \$1.7 billion in pallets of cash flown secretly at night.) The mayhem continues to this day. Muslims are systematically killing Christians in Nigeria. They've killed over 100,000 people and burned 18,000 churches. They are literally attempting to wipe out the Christian population of an entire country. 31 Christians, including 11 children and one priest were murdered for their faith in attacks just last week. The priest was hacked to death with machetes.

Throughout America, Muslims are attempting to establish insular Muslim enclaves, no-go zones for non-Muslims, including the police, where the medieval brutality of Sharia law rules. Dearborn, Michigan, the hometown of Henry Ford and his Ford Motor Company, has been conquered. It now has a majority Muslim population, a Muslim police force, Muslim city officials, official Muslim holidays, and a Muslim mayor who recently told a Christian that “he's not welcome in the city.”

Muslims are now marching for full Sharia law to take place in Dearborn. Hamtramck, Michigan, is an enclave of about 30,000 people in Detroit that was historically 90% Polish. It is now majority Muslim with a Muslim mayor and all-Muslim city council. They just made it legal to sacrifice animals on private residential properties. What's next, child marriage? I could write a book about what's happening in NYC with Muslim mayor Mamdani. I'll just give you this quote from the mayor's father Mahmood Mamdani: “We need to recognize the suicide bomber, first and foremost, as a category of soldier. Suicide bombing needs to be understood as a feature of modern political violence rather than stigmatized as a mark of barbarism.” It's appropriate to point out that predominantly Muslim countries refused these Muslim migrants the United States and Western European countries welcomed with open arms. Again, Muslims do not hide their agenda. When they repeatedly tell you they plan to kill you or enslave you, believe them. Muslim imams and other leaders in the U.S. continue to teach jihadist ideology and Islamic supremacy, promote anti-Western sentiments and antisemitism, and incite violence against non-Muslims. A few examples out of many: The Muslim Brotherhood openly declared they will impose Sharia law in America “through the ballot box or bullet.” American mullah Ragab Abdelmoneim of Alabama called for Muslims to expand Sharia law by any means necessary, including through bloodshed. An Islamic scholar in California: “Nobody can stop Islam in America. This is NOT your country. This is the land of Allah. If you want to live in a place with no Muslims, go to hell.”

Some of what I read this week, including articles by Allen West and Derek Hunter, make a pretty good case for the idea that there are also no Democrat moderates. “Mainstream” Democrats are upset with the Democrat Socialists of America (DSA) because they are not hiding the fact they are Marxists. These “moderates” prefer to use deception to attain their goal of complete power, but they are not that much different from the DSA members who

overtly profess their allegiance to their gospel of envy. Democrats have fallen in with people who view the 9/11 attacks as deserved and the attackers as righteous. You will not hear a single Democrat candidate for office this election cycle praise the United States or even say anything remotely positive about it. DSA members want to eliminate our representative democracy by wiping out the presidency, eliminating the Supreme Court, abolishing the Senate – and replacing them with a board and a “leader” appointed by the House.

Dems are OK with that because they are too stupid to recognize that this is the same structure of the Soviet Union and China's governments, or, more likely, they are assuming everyone else is. The DSA wants open borders, like we had under Kamala and Biden. Both the DSA and establishment Dems want illegals to vote. They both want to “reinvent” law enforcement, meaning defund the police, and abolish prisons. And of course, both want to disarm law-abiding American people. The DSA wants to nationalize our economic production, which is exactly what Obama did with our healthcare system. Bottom line, there is no such thing as “moderate” Democrats or a Democrat party establishment – they are all Marxists, whether overtly or covertly. The DSA are just more honest about it.

Mainstream Democrats know these people are no good and their agenda will destroy America, but they are unwilling to put the interests of the country ahead of their own quest for total power. They would rather expose themselves as total frauds than diminish their chances of controlling the Senate or House after the next election. House Speaker Mike Johnson's comments sum it all up pretty well: “It's no longer Republican vs. Democrats. It's not even common sense vs. crazy. It's America-loving vs. America-hating COMMUNISTS, and today's Democrat Party has shown us who they really are. Democrats want to destroy America. Republicans LOVE America and will FIGHT to keep the United States the greatest country in the history of the world.”

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

"THE BURR THAT IS UNDER MY SADDLE"

Good morning all,

I want you all to understand the "burr that is under my saddle" that I spoke about a week ago on Monday, July 20, 2026 and I will include other burrs in my saddle, as well. I will show you a pattern. Water, land and elections; how compromises happen. I also need to clarify my address. I had picked up fruit on 5800 Rd. and somehow said 5800 Rd instead of 5900 Rd. when I gave my address. I knew it didn't feel right when I said it.

Attached hereto you will find invoices paid to Dr. Andragna. Some little tidbits to put under your belt. Knowledge will set you free or make your blood boil? In my opinion, this is why some doctors do NOT want to admit the truth around COVID-19. They made bank on taxpayer dollars even in Montrose County. I am not denying there was a virus but the facts around this and what the vaccines are truly doing to all of us, vaccinated and unvaccinated are still hidden. There are big bucks that were made. Did not matter that the taxpayers had to foot the bill for this exorbitant amount. Heck fire, Montrose could have taken the Fed CARES Act dollars, which I am sure they did that, too, also taxpayer funded.

Sue wants to pay attention to taxpayer dollars, forgetting that any budget item, including but not limited to commissioner's and all employees at Montrose County's paychecks are taxpayer funded. I wonder what is up, especially knowing her last day as a commissioner is August 31, 2026. It is a buzz line she uses when she is wanting something or maybe wanting to leave a legacy behind. A food bank and clinic on the West End aren't important? Dr. Andragna's clinic was given the contract for a drive through during COVID aside from all the big bucks he was being paid by Montrose County. Businesses in Montrose weren't protected from the state health department like they were in Montezuma County because we didn't have commissioners like Larry Don and the other two commissioners in Montezuma County watching over them.

I have been thinking, because Sue mentioned the east end and their needs, too. Olathe has River Valley clinic but needs help paving more roads in town, of which in the past Sue has encouraged help with and the Town of Olathe was able to pave some roads, which I am grateful that Sue was in-

strumental in that service using our tax dollars. The little town of Maher, population maybe at 50, is close to Paonia, 45 minutes from Delta, which has a hospital and River Valley Family Health Center.

Still, I am very curious why the big push on changing the budget and looking at cutting expenditure of \$\$ on the West End with multiple communities which are very far from health care and food banks. Why any conversations about not funding the Basin Clinic is beyond my comprehension. Some of those conversations are one way in front of cameras and another when the curtain closes. Thank you, Sean, and the lady who spoke about the food bank. Thank you Sean for quietly putting hours in at the food bank and not using your sweat and Danielle's, too, as a photo op. (Dennis Anderson probably wouldn't want it anyway because all he can do is use false narratives and lies in his publications. I even got an award of mention in his rag.)

WSMA meeting and the agenda that I brought up, thank you Sue for the copy I requested. On the back I noticed item #10. Old business, 10.1, 10.2. Was 10.2 talked about? I found it interesting that WSMA was in favor of the Delores NCA. <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/wsma-support-letter.pdf> You know it isn't hard to find topics when you know where and how to look. Rather than take a hard stand against Bennett, Hickenlooper and environmentalists; even small miners think they can play pat-a-cake and come out on top. Republican commissioners, legislators, congressmen/women or senators that put their names on with Democrat bills, initiatives, land and water grabs come out on the losing end and lose the People's voice with their compromise. Here are all the groups Sue, Don Corum, the Reams and Amee Tooker think they can play with.

<https://www.bennet.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/bha-dolores-nca-support-letter-11.29.22.pdf>
<https://www.bennet.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/conservation-groups-support-letter-to-bennet-7-11-2022.pdf>

Sue, you asked me what my problem is. Environmentalism, Democrats, Republicans and Independents that push agendas to favor some and destroy others, is my prob-

lem. Read all of the above. That is a huge problem and you all are playing with those Democrats and environmental groups who do not give an inch until we can no longer log, mine, ranch, extract energy products or use anything that the Lord gave us through the ground that created good paying industries that could be passed from generation to generation. Those industries that are gone that would have afforded our children and grandchildren good jobs to raise their families under and build a house to call their own, are all gone.

Sue, you brought up Shoshone when it was just you and I talking and how they need \$\$ and something about other tributaries? I had to come home and ask Tom about Shoshone and found out where it is and made a couple of calls. I looked into it. They are a million short and Montrose and its tributaries have nothing to do with Shoshone. Shoshone will get its million, Montrose County doesn't have to worry nor do you.

I am also very familiar with Water Asset Management but had forgotten how and when I found out about WAM. Looking over past emails I figured it out, but I had also not held onto the name James Eklund, only hanging onto WAM because they had moved into the Grand Valley not realizing that James Eklund was tied to WAM at that time. Very important to read below of which I will post part of that email to me from Andy Mueller that was sent to me on January 15, 2021. Bingo!!!! However I had been communicating with Andy ever since he was coming to the counties wanting to raise the milllevy which could have been in late 2019. Mesa County was left out of his visits until I brought it up to them. They contacted Andy and he then came to Mesa County, as well. I was there that day, too. My friends in Mesa County that I have included, please pay attention to Water Asset Management and the name James Eklund. You will read about him below.

HD58 Larry Don Suckla has helped me understand more about water, as well. It has been a rub to me that Montrose County has put on two different water conferences and Larry Don wasn't invited as a speaker to either one. Larry Don has a water management plan that he could have spoken about, I will paste it. Please pay attention to it. He was a speaker at Western Water Congress in front of 850 people

Continued next pg

"THE BURR THAT IS UNDER MY SADDLE"

From previous pg

but not good enough for Montrose?

Would he not have been a good candidate as speaker? Who is in control of the Montrose County water conferences? Did you, Sue, Kirstin and Nancy Fishering plan those and leave Larry Don out? I have been to a couple and it looks like the commissioners help put those on.

https://www.varuna.io/LOTR/Colorado_River_EIS_Millard_Suckla.pdf

Tying topics and patterns together, the WSMA, land, water and elections. Larry Don and Sean Pond vehemently oppose the Delores NCA and any monuments by the federal government as they stand hard for the People. They are our only hope and protection. Thank Heaven! I was shocked to see the above letter from WSMA being in favor of the Delores NCA, but it helps everything make sense about some not having knowledge of the WSMA meeting on the West End last Thursday, until they did. One can't be watching and staying on top of everything, that is for sure, but not even a whisper was heard until it was.

I also saw that Jeff Hunt shared your photo, Sue, with Phil Weiser when Weiser was in Montrose, which happened to be when the recall was hot and heavy. I had seen the picture before, but it is definitely curious why Jeff Hunt would be sharing it. Weiser has picked his Lt. Governor, however, I am still wondering about your intent, Sue, when you resigned "pursuing new opportunities"? It will be interesting to watch that play out. Lastly, absolutely NO on data centers! End of discussion.

Farmers do not need to worry about competing with our paid for water shares when we are having drought conditions with a data center. We pay full price and get allotted 50% this year because there is no water. Can you imagine who would come in first if farmers were competing with a data center for water??? The writing on that

wall is very obvious and all we need is an environmentalist as president of UVWUA, like what we have now!!!!

<https://uvwua.com/board-of-directors>

https://uvwua.com/fbclid=IwY2xjawTVdAJwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjEWAGJyaWQRMURiZHpUaXE5UEY2YnRaMXhzcniRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeVgnUB6X1AtgpmWy8sOa0zchDDbCWfV52ZLusC33rse5URfhLCoYtMWVObx0_aem_RpROUKgGU37V453P2BZWrghttps://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/52409a9d-b544-4e8f-877b-68fab44e41b2/downloads/Ob14feee-00a2-4d51-9a2e-2a9ad2a80fa9/AgSecDroughtDisasterDesignations_April%206.pdf?ver=1785175252435

Have any of you stayed up with Box Elder County in Utah???? This conversation about data centers is coming out of NGOs like CCI, Club 20, Region 10, League of Cities, National Association of Counties and others. Not to mention that Nancy Fishering is on the board of directors, a besty of Sue's. No wonder Larry Don didn't speak at either of the water conferences in Montrose.

<https://www.brockovichdatacenter.com>
National League of Cities (NLC): The largest and oldest national organization, representing over 19,000 cities, towns, and villages. It advocates for federal policy, provides training, and hosts major events like the [NLC Conferences & Meetings](#). [1, 2, 3]

United States Conference of Mayors (USCM): The official non-partisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. [1, 2, 3]

International City/County Management Association (ICMA): Focuses on advancing professional local government management by providing resources and credentialing for city managers and staff. [1, 2, 3, 4]

National Association of Counties (NACo): Represents county governments across the country. [1] Nancy Fisher in TT

Barbara Sharrow, director of Montrose County Recreation District???? Is that a paid position?

Sue, did you have something to do with that one? Barbara Sharrow worked for the BLM in Kanab, Utah during the Grand Staircase designation by the man we called president, Bill Clinton, as he sat at the Grand Canyon at a desk set up for him to destroy Kane County, Utah.

Barbara Sharrow was run out of town due to the fact she, working for the BLM, also worked hand in hand with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance who sued the Kane County Commissioners who stood against the Grand Staircase. I know this because Tom's brother was one of the commissioners. Tom was raised in Kanab, Utah, by the way. I might mention the SUWA lost that case. It is sickening as I see these screaming environmentalists holding these positions in Montrose County who help destroy our economy. <https://www.montroserec.com/barbara-sharrow>

Janet Rowland, one of many who helped put Tina Peters away now employed at Montrose County, last time I checked. Sue, did you have something to do with that one, too? https://www.gisentinel.com/news/western-colorado/janet-rowland-takes-new-position-in-montrose-county/article_c3de2a66-ddc6-11ef-989f-8393db21cbcd.html

Thank you Father in Heaven for Your Hand in the release of Tina Peters. Thank you Father that she weathered that storm and is healthy and strong and uses her voice for good.

There are no fair elections. With that said, I am so grateful Larry Don Suckla made it in by 3 votes. Even that has not given me any assurance that elections are fair. It is about algorithms.

Respectfully,
Barbara Hulet, Montrose



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE OF WILLIAM SHERMAN KENNEDY *December 16, 1961- December 8, 2025*



WILLIAM (BILL) SHERMAN KENNEDY passed away in his home in Carson City, Nevada on December 8, 2025, eight days short of his 64th birthday. Bill was born December 16, 1961 in Upland, California to his parents, William C. Kennedy and Kathleen E. Kennedy.

Celebration of Life Memorial Services will be held for Bill at Grace Community Church of Montrose at 11am, Saturday, August 15, 2026, 16731 Woodgate Road, Montrose CO 81401.

After Bill's father completed his Master's Degree in Mathematics, Psychology and Education at CSU-Los Angeles, the family moved from Chino, California to Bishop, CA in 1968 to be in life in a clean environment, until all five sons' high school educations were complete. Bill graduated from Bishop Union High School, then completed his Engineering Management BS Degree at LeTourneau University in Tyler, Texas. After spending a year with White Associates in Dallas, Texas, he read a book by Loren Cunningham titled, "Is That Really You, God" and decided to go back to school to work on his teaching credential at CSU, Northridge, California. He completed his student teaching in England. After receiving his teaching credential and with the consultation and help from his second Cousin Randy Meaker of Montrose, Bill received his first teaching assignment at Colorado West Christian School in Montrose, Colorado.

After one year, Bill decided to move to Mojave School District in Lancaster, California to teach while pursuing a Master's Degree in California school administration at Point Loma University. After receiving his Master's Degree, he applied for the



Vice Principal position at Home Street Middle School in Bishop, California where he had attended school in grades 6-8. He quickly moved into the position of Principal when the current principal left his position. Home Street School happened to be where his father was serving as a 7th/8th grade math teacher for 32 of his final 36 years of teaching.

Even though Bill enjoyed his ventures in teaching and principal career, he was satisfied with the direction that secular education was taking children, so he chose a new direction as he watched the success of his brothers in the coffee businesses they had developed. Bill was also desiring to use his Engineering Management Degree by creating an Artisan Coffee Roaster.

Hence, when the opportunity presented itself, Bill made a decision to purchase from an elderly retiree an old coffee roaster manufacturing company in Fallon, Nevada, renamed it to SanFran-CoffeeRoaster Manufacturing Company, and launched the World Class business in Carson City, Nevada.

Bill married Pasha Gabriel July 6, 1996. In the 30 years they were married, they had six wonderful children: Grant graduated Magna Cum Laude in Electrical and Computer Engineering from LeTourneau University and is currently working at Lockheed Martin in Lufkin, Texas. Sadie gradu-

ated Summa Cum Laude in Accounting and Finance from LeTourneau, received her CPA this year and works for Price, Waterhouse and Cooper in Houston, Texas. Loren graduated Summa Cum Laude in English Language and Literature from LeTourneau and is currently rearing two wonderful young children—Milli and John Adams—with her husband Sam Adams. Myles is currently taking online courses at LeTourneau, and Claire is currently being home schooled as a Junior in high school while at the same time taking online classes at LeTourneau.

Bill and Pasha home schooled all six of their children K-12. Bill was very lovingly and caringly proud of his wife and family. During Bill's formative years, his interests included football and wrestling in high school. Ham radio enabled him to speak to people all over the world. Obtaining his pilot's license dominated his attention so much that he chose to stay at home to complete his solo flight as a senior in high school rather than fly to Alaska to enjoy a full week of fishing for salmon with the family!

Joining the Bishop Civil Air Patrol in high school enabled Bill to fly to many Air Force Bases with his companions around the country in old World War II planes.

Bill was preceded in death by his grandparents Verner and Virginia Gray formerly of Montrose, Colorado; Sherman and Oma Kennedy formerly of Chino, California, and great grandparents Colorado State Assemblyman Frank Meaker and his wife Lois, and Sherman Maxwell and Evelyn Kennedy of Conneaut, Ohio, Uncle Ben and Aunt Irish Meaker of Montrose, Colorado, and Sister in Law Khristian Joy Kennedy (also former creator of Kennedy Coffee Roasting Company of Northwestern Arkansas).

Bill is survived by his parents, William C. Kennedy and Kathleen E. Kennedy of Montrose. He is also survived by his precious wife Pasha, and family mentioned above; his brothers Randy and wife (Wendy) (who started the successful Looney Bean Coffee Roasting Company in

CELEBRATION OF LIFE OF WILLIAM SHERMAN KENNEDY

From previous pg

Montrose); Brent and wife (Bonnie) (who purchased the First Looney Bean in Mammoth Lakes, California, created Looney Bean Coffee Roasting Companies in Bend, Oregon, Mexico, and Bishop, California; Tom and wife (Wendy) (who created Kennedy Coffee Roasting Company in Bentonville, Arkansas; and Maury and wife (Carma) (current owners and operators of the successful Looney Bean Coffee Roasting Company in Montrose.

Bill is also survived by Uncles Sherman Martel and James Kennedy of Boise, Idaho, Captain Stephen Gray of Montrose; Aunt Cheryl and (Greg) Watson of Brighton, Colorado; his Cousins John, Ben, Joe and Jeff of Boise, Idaho and Niko Kennedy of Osaka, Japan; Cousins Michael, Chris, Robert, and Stephan Watson of Denver; Second Cousin Michele Hindelang of Las Vegas Nevada; and Aunt Joyce Ellen Kennedy of Zagreb, Croatia; Second Cousin Randy and (Deb) Meaker of Montrose; Second Nephews Erin and (Ross) Porteous and Cory and (Sherry) Meaker of Montrose; and Aunt Cindy Middleton Raymond of Mandeville, Louisiana.

A deeply faithful man, Bill's life was deeply anchored in his devotion to Christ. He loved spending time in his Bible and living out his Christian values and work ethic.

Bill also enjoyed long drives throughout the country on business trips, individually taking his sons and daughters for that one-on-one relationship providing time rarely given when the whole family was together.

When on trips with the family or individually, he enjoyed stopping at historical landmarks and places, also pointing out America's farms, ranches, sand dunes, oceans, and mountain ranges, and special places of interest.

Bill always had an enlightened quick wit and ready answers to any situation that presented itself, and sense of humor, fierce independence, endless curiosity, and his patriotic love for America. Bill impacted people ("The Bill Effect") profoundly, both students during his academic years and as a Teacher and Principal, and in his later years as a CEO/Chairman of SanFranciscanRoasters, Inc, manufacturing Artisan San Francisco Coffee Roasting Machines for the coffee industry throughout the world.

Two of his roasters can be found at the Looney Bean Coffee Roasters and Cimarcon Coffee Roasters in Montrose. His personality as an encourager, and desire to help people be a success in life propelled him to develop schools for "tasting/sipping coffee for discretionary tasting for

flavors," "Learning how to properly roast coffee," "the basics for producing the best coffee."

Bill believed in centering on experiential education, his program recognized that students often do best by doing, exploring and discovering.

For a season Bill also had a YouTube video site titled "Coffee Roasting Legends" for learners wanting to start coffee houses, and "Experienced Legends" wanting to help others discover their potential.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate team at Grace Community Church and their devotion and commitment to provide our family a time to say "Goodbye" for now...but we will see you soon.

We also give thanks to Bill's former Pastor Dave White from Buena Vista, for delivering the message, and close schoolmate and friend Jon Hartman from Brighton, Colorado for delivering the Eulogy, and the host of friends and families who came to attend this service and provide things needed.

In lieu of flowers, in memory of Bill, the family recommends funds be made out to Pasha Kennedy for college for Bill and Pasha's children who have not yet completed their university education.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CHRISTOBELL SUMMERLIN "BELL"

September 3, 1943 — July 21, 2026

On the morning of July 21, 2026 our beloved Mother and Nana, Christobell Summerlin, passed away peacefully at her Montrose, Colorado home at the age of 82.

"Bell" was born on September 3, 1943 to Nettie Bell Horrell in Spring Hope, North Carolina. She lived most of her life in North Carolina until moving to Colorado in 2009 to be closer to her daughters and grandchildren. While her primary role was homemaker and mother, she also took great pride in the work she did as a supervisor for an adult group home. She was wise and beautiful and genuinely cared for others. She most enjoyed time with family and friends. The beach was her favorite but she did love the mountains in the fall. She was the best Nana to her grandchildren. She is survived by her 2 daughters, Michelle and Christol; 2 step-daughters Lee and Sherry; Son in law Richard; Grandchildren Collin, Emma, Lilly, Amanda, Faron and Britney.

While we know she is in Heaven, she will forever be missed by those who were fortunate enough to know her.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

VICTORIA ROSE TRUJILLO *August 8, 1964 — August 4, 2026*

VICTORIA ROSE TRUJILLO, 61, passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 4, 2026, following a courageous and painful battle with Parkinson's Disease and Dystonia.

Affectionately known as "Vicky" or "Peanut," she was born on August 8, 1964, in Montrose, Colorado.

She grew up as the cherished baby sister of the large Trujillo family in Ouray, Colorado. As a teenager, Vicky worked typical local jobs, cashiering at the Ouray Hot Springs and cleaning rooms for local hotels.

While attending Ouray High School, she was well-known for cheering on the school's basketball team. This passion for cheerleading stayed with her throughout life, as she always cheered the loudest for her children and grandchildren.

Though she hoped to study geology in college, God had a different path for Vicky.

After marrying and moving to Denver, Vicky welcomed her first child, Vale Michelle, on Halloween night in 1983. Her son, Matthew Tyler, completed the family a couple of years later, born on St. Patrick's Day in 1986. The family lived in Englewood, Colorado, before relocating to Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Vicky dedicated years of service to the University of Denver in the admissions department before transitioning to a meaningful career in the non-profit sector. She brought her talents and care to

organizations including the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, and the Society for Range Management.

Following her divorce in 2007, Vicky found great comfort and joy in a wonderful circle of friends who shared her favorite pastime: country western dancing. She loved the music and the movement, and Vicky could be found nearly every weekend boot-scootin' in a country western bar somewhere around the state of Colorado.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Vicky returned to her roots in Ouray to care for her mother, Rebecca, and to be closer to her beloved grandchildren. While living back home, she worked at the Ouray School to maximize her time with them. Vicky was a fixture at nearly every one of her grandchildren's academic and sporting events.

Even when her health meant she could no longer drive, she never missed a game or milestone, thanks to the dedicated and loving support of her brother, Rick Trujillo. Though her health struggles brought immense challenges in her final years, she faced them with the same fierce love and resilience she gave to her family.

Vicky is reunited in heaven with her parents, Seferino "Sam" Trujillo and Maria Rebecca "Becky" Trujillo, as well as her brother, Jody Trujillo, and her sister, Georgia Pesicka.

Her legacy of loud cheers, devotion, and love lives on through her children, Vale

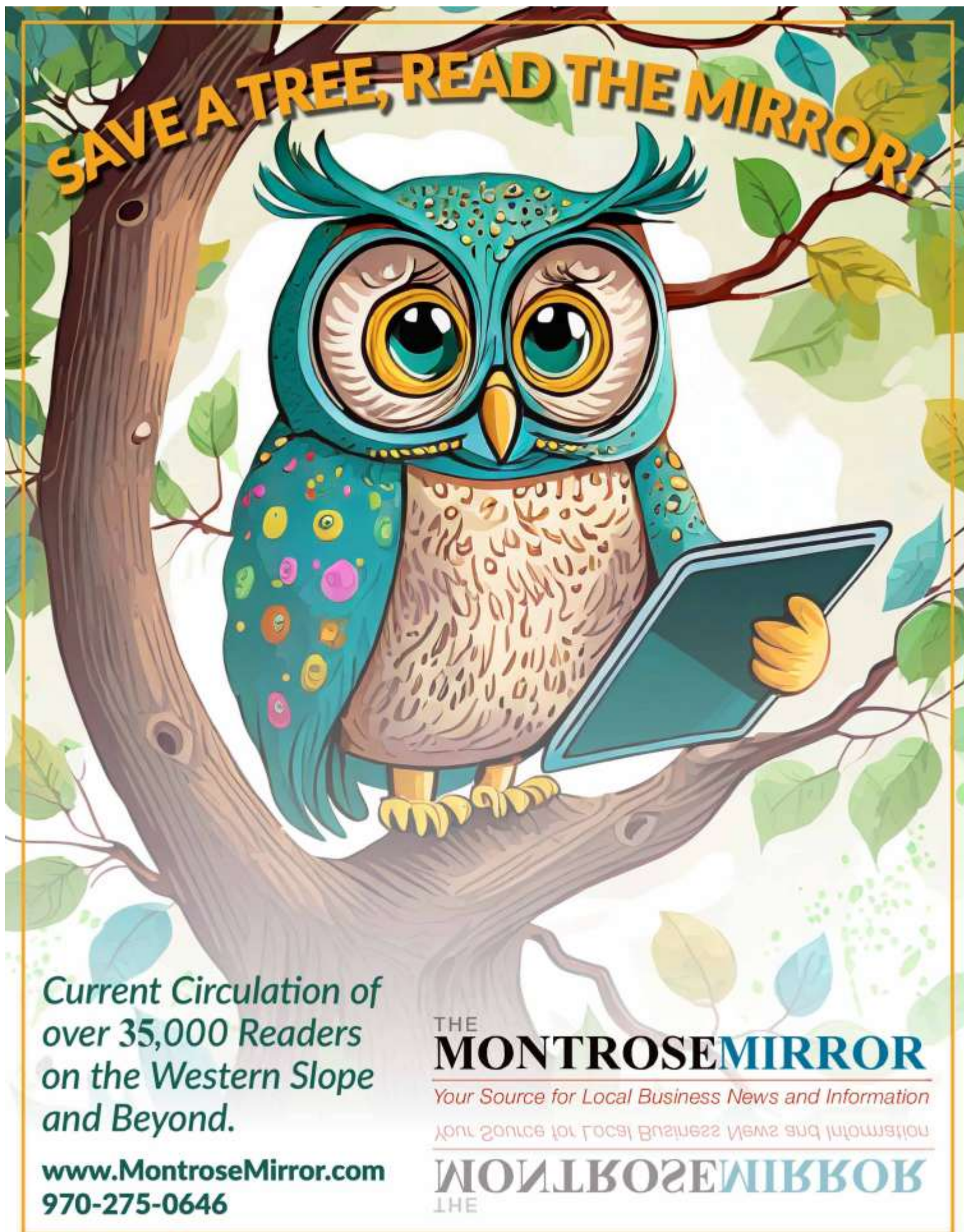


Michelle (Justin Hirt) and Matthew Tyler; her cherished grandchildren, Mikayla Grace (2011) and Cashton James (2013); and her surviving siblings: Richard Trujillo, John Trujillo, Sandra Kropuenske, Daniel Trujillo, Ronald Trujillo, Mark Trujillo, Mary Bosch, and Clifford Trujillo. She also leaves behind an extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will miss her deeply.

A celebration of life will be held in Ouray at a later date this summer. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you please consider making a memorial donation in Vicky's honor to the Colorow Care Center in Olathe or the HopeWest Care Center in Grand Junction.

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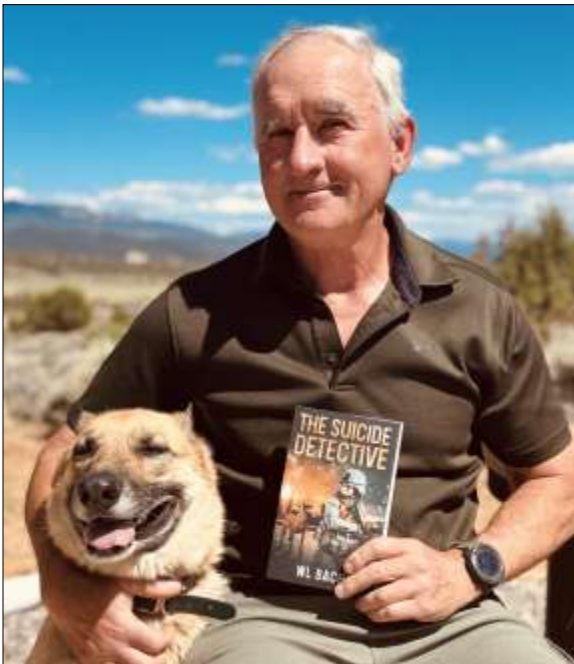
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THE

ISSUE 586 Aug. 10, 2026

ART & SOL

A TALK WITH LOCAL AUTHOR LANCE BACH



Retired Navy Seal and working Author Lance Bach. Courtesy photo.

By Kathryn R. Burke | *Montrose Mirror* | MONTROSE-Lance Bach writes military thriller mysteries, a familiar theme since he was a Navy SEAL for 27 years, serving in multiple operations across Asia and the Middle East. During that time, he also earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Bach will be at the Montrose Book Fair, Sept. 19 at the Ute Museum, where we will also celebrate the launch of his latest book, *Betrayal's Cost*.

KRB Kathryn Burke]: You grew up in San Diego, near the Navy fighter base

"Fightertown USA". Did that influence you to join the Navy?

WLB (W.L.Bach): San Diego is home to the headquarters and training command for the US Navy SEALs. I wanted to challenge myself as well as have a career where I could make a difference and be around the ocean. I grew up surfing and diving.

KRB: Can you tell us a little about your career?

WLB: I served on a destroyer out of San Diego then received an appointment to the US Naval Academy. Following Basic Underwater Demolition training, I was assigned to SEAL Team 3, eventually deploying to Desert Storm. After 9/11 I was mostly in Iraq or Afghanistan, and wound up as Commodore of two teams.

KRB: What does SEAL stand for?

WLB: The name stands for Sea, Air, and Land, reflecting their ability to operate in diverse and extreme environments.

KRB: That explains how you could be operating in the desert!

What did you do after you retired from the Navy?

WLB: I retired in 2016 then taught NJROTC at Montrose High School. We taught a hands-on leadership and technical course to over 100 cadets.

KRB: How did you wind up in Montrose?

WLB: I planned to return to San Diego

after I retired, but my wife, Sergina, wanted to live near the mountains. We had visited Montrose while I was stationed in San Diego. We love the small-town atmosphere and all the outdoor activities. I ride dirt bikes and it's heaven for that. My wife likes to hike, backpack, and ski so Montrose is perfect for us.

KRB: What made you transition into writing?

WLB: I kept a log of my experiences in the SEAL teams, hoping to turn them into stories. After I stopped teaching, I began writing full time. I enjoy the creative process and seeing a story unfold. I try to tell a compelling story while shining a light on veterans and the sacrifices made by our military personnel.

My first book was *Black Dog Escape*. I wrote it when I was struggling with issues related to my own service. Writing the book helped me through some of that while telling an exciting story.

KRB: Which book is your favorite?

WLB: That's a hard question, because I like them all for different reasons. I think my first one is my favorite because it was my first novel. The act of writing it spurred me on to continue writing.

KRB: Do you have another book in the works?

WLB: Just today I received permission from the Department of Defense to publish my 4th book, *Betrayal's Cost*.

KRB: Why did you need their permission?

WLB: If you had a security clearance in the military and write anything about the

Continued next pg

A TALK WITH LOCAL AUTHOR LANCE BACH From previous pg

military, you have to submit your manuscript for review to make sure nothing is classified. It's a bit of a process; this one took six months.

KRB: What is *Betrayal's Cost* about?

WLB: The main character is a Navy SEAL who gets assigned to assist NCIS (Naval Investigation Services) to investigate several murders which may include another SEAL.

KRB: How do you characterize your books? Thrillers, mysteries?

WLB: I call them military thrillers, although *Suicide Detective* won "Best amateur sleuth novel" from the Colorado Au-

thor League. I like to read books with a who-done-it-aspect. I also like action. So, my books are military thrillers with a lot of action.

KRB: Where can we find your books?

WLB: They are available at wlbachauthor.com, Good Reads, Amazon, or Audible for audio books.

KRB: What do you find the most enjoyable about writing?

WLB: The creative process. Time just kinda stops when you get into it. When it's flowing, plot, words, characters just come.

Something deep inside gets energized. When I go back and read it, I think, 'Wow!

I can't believe I wrote this.'

KRB: But you have experience to draw on.

WLB: That's what makes the writing so real. Writing fiction has a different aspect for a guy who spent time in the military immersed in technical and logical thinking, in mission planning, sometimes making life and death decisions. So, it's fun to be loose, create novels from scratch and build characters—and situations—out of my imagination.

Meet W.L. Bach at the Montrose Book Fair, September 19th at the Ute Museum.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVESTED IN NEXT GENERATION AT THE JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION



Montrose County Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — One of the most anticipated traditions of the Montrose County Fair & Rodeo took place last weekend as local 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members showcased months of hard work during the Junior Livestock Auction.

The Junior Livestock Auction serves as the

final marketplace for market animals exhibited during the Montrose County Fair. Youth participants are eligible to sell one animal through the auction, unless they have earned multiple champion titles. To qualify, exhibitors must meet rigorous standards that ensure every animal represents the high-quality livestock raised in Montrose County.

This year's auction generated \$727,526 for local youth, providing exhibitors with financial support to continue their agricultural projects, invest in their education, and pursue future career opportunities.

"The Junior Livestock Auction is much more than a livestock sale. It's actually an investment in the future of agriculture and the young people who will carry that tradition forward," said Kirstin Copeland, Chair of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners.

"Every purchase represents confidence in these outstanding young men and women who have dedicated countless hours to raising quality livestock while developing leadership, responsibility, and business skills."

Preparing an animal for the fair requires months of dedication, discipline, and daily care. Throughout the process, exhibitors gain valuable experience in animal husbandry, recordkeeping, financial management, marketing, communication, and public speaking. These skills prepare participants not only for careers in agriculture but for success in virtually any profession they choose.

The primary objective of the Junior Livestock Auction is to encourage young people

to pursue careers in agriculture while supporting their educational goals.

Proceeds from the auction help participants reinvest in future livestock projects, purchase feed and equipment, save for college, and continue developing the skills that have made agriculture one of Montrose County's most important industries. The success of the auction is made possible through the generosity of local businesses, organizations, families, and individuals who participate through the Stockmen's Buyers Club and individual purchases.

Their continued support provides meaningful opportunities for local youth while helping preserve the county's strong agricultural heritage.

"Every buyer at the auction is making an investment that extends far beyond the purchase of an animal," said Molli Yorchak, Fair Board President. "They're investing in hardworking young people who have demonstrated commitment, integrity, and a passion for agriculture. The support shown by our community each year is what makes this program so successful."

Montrose County extends its sincere appreciation to every buyer, bidder, volunteer, family member, sponsor, Fair Board member, County staff member, and community partner who helped make this year's Junior Livestock Auction a success. Their generosity and continued commitment ensure that the traditions of agriculture, youth development, and community support remain strong for generations to come.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SIGN UP NOW FOR NEW HORIZONS BAND OF MONTROSE!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-REGISTRATION starts AUGUST 10 for the NEXT SESSION of the New Horizons BAND of MONTROSE

The Fall session of the New Horizons Band of Montrose will be September 2 to November 18, 2026.

The Montrose Recreation District 50+ Activities will again offer this 12-week band instrument class. This concert band is for adults once active in a school music program, as well as an entry point for adults with no prior music experience.

Did you play an instrument during your school days? That music knowledge is still there, just needing some "review and remember" instruction. Also no previous musical experience is required, and beginners are encouraged to join us in a beginning group.

Classes are taught by retired band director/music educator Kim Lundgren, a National Board Certified Teacher with over 45 yrs in music education. Organized in February 2022, the New Horizons Band of Montrose has 25 band members playing a variety of instruments, and looks forward to adding even more new band members.

There will be an optional Informational Meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 9:30 am at the current Field House in Montrose, 25 Colorado Avenue, 81401. Information shared will include how to obtain a quality and affordable band instrument, rehearsal information, supplies needed, and more.

Classes for the Fall session be on Wednesday mornings Sept 2 - Nov 18, 2026 at the Field House in Montrose, 25 Colorado Avenue, 81401. The fee for 12 classes is \$40 for registration and payment is made through the Montrose Recreation District. Information about registration is in the Fall Recreation District activity booklet and at the MRD website. Or you may call the Montrose Main Recreation Center at 970-249-7705. Participants will also pay \$15 to the instructor for music and other supplies.

Participants will need to provide their own band instrument and supplies, and can learn to play flute, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, or baritone/euphonium. Information is provided to help new members find an appropriate quality and affordable instrument.

Email director Kim Lundgren with your questions about joining, for the specific rehearsal schedule on Wednesdays, and also for help in finding an appropriate quality and affordable instrument and the other supplies needed (2 music books and a music stand).

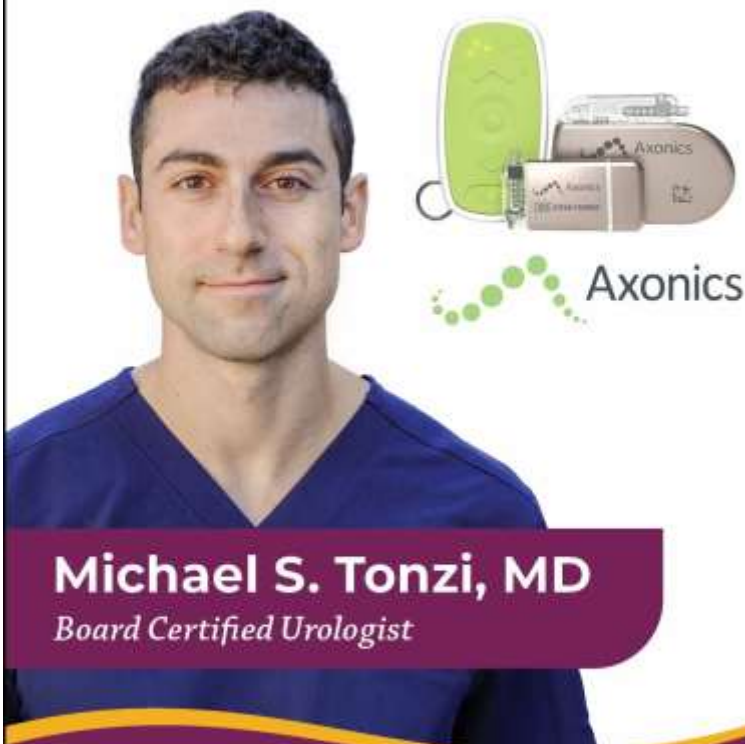
This concert band program is organized in partnership with the New Horizons International Music Association, founded in 1991 to encourage music making for those 50+. According to NHIMA founder Roy Ernst, "Playing music in groups supports good mental and physical health, besides being an unending source of joy." "Your best is good enough."

Contact:
Ms. Kim Lundgren
New Horizons Band of Montrose
nhbandmontrose@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE MEMORIAL CURRENT AND FUTURE SUPPORTERS—WE'RE SO CLOSE!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Big changes are underway at the Montrose Veterans Memorial site, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colorado!

As you can see in our latest videos <https://share.descript.com/view/kFaeq2mI9bn> and <https://share.descript.com/view/VhPsz54fmRj>, this project has plenty of concrete flatwork underway. Employees from Stryker Co., along with crews from Double AA Landscaping and Valley Concrete Pumping, are building forms, pouring concrete, and putting the finishing touches on the memorial.

Their highly skilled finishing crews have been working hard—even in 95-degree heat—to bring this Memorial to life. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication and the tremendous amount of work they are putting into this Memorial.

Help Us Finish Strong

Although we have secured in-kind donations covering a portion of this phase, there is still a lot of concrete to pour, and the costs add up quickly.

If you can chip in a few more dollars to help us complete this important phase of construction, we would greatly appreciate it. Every donation helps bring the Montrose Veterans Memorial closer to completion, and we are a 501 c3 organization so your donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be made by clicking <https://www.montrosevmc.org>

Or by mail or in person: Warrior Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, CO 81401 Please note that your donation is for the Montrose Veterans Memorial.

Watching the Memorial Come to Life

As the Memorial takes shape, members of the MVMC Board continue to spend time at the site and follow the construction progress closely.

J. Bob Brueske serves as the board's representative on the construction team, while engineers Troy Meyer and Dave Powers keep a watchful eye on the work.

Meyer, US Army veteran and MVMC BOD member, has generously shared his drone videos with us, giving everyone an incredi-

ble view of the progress from above.

We are grateful for the opportunity to see the Memorial come together from a perspective most of us would never otherwise have.

Here's what Meyer reported last Monday: "Two loads of concrete were poured around the Huey pad and walkway.

"The plan is to pour colored concrete on Wednesday, Aug. 5 in the center of the Huey helicopter pad and the future display areas then continue progressing northward.

"The project is starting to accelerate, and the flatwork should be complete in the next few weeks!"

It is truly emotional to watch the Memorial come to life.

Bricks, T-Shirts & Memorial Hats Available

We have Montrose Veterans Memorial T-shirts and our Huey and Eagle Memorial hats available. And with the brutal summer sun we've been experiencing, those hats are more than just a keepsake—they'll help keep the sun out of your eyes!

You can order your "merch" through www.montrosevmc.org and pick up or buy directly at the Warrior Center, see the address above. Amy Eifling, US Marine veteran, and MVMC BOD member can answer any questions about the Memorial and merchandise at 970-765-2510.

Although the cutoff for the first brick-laying ceremony has passed, you may still purchase bricks for the second ceremony which will be announced later this fall.

Amy wears a lot of hats and, as Montrose Welcome Home Alliance For Veterans volunteer coordinator and Memorial secretary, she can answer questions on how to fill out brick applications.

There are innumerable ways to fit a lot of information on the three available lines on the bricks.

Stop by on a weekend

If you would like to see the construction progress in person, please plan your visit



A 30-foot flagpole will be placed at the center of the star. The area will host a myriad of veteran-focused and educational events. Courtesy photo.

for a weekend. During the week, the site is a busy construction zone, with concrete trucks, packers, water trucks, and other equipment moving throughout the area.

We want to make sure everyone stays safe and that the construction crews can work without interruption.

If you stop by the site, there is a new banner depicting where the elements of the Memorial will be located.

Ribbon-Cutting and Brick-Laying Ceremony

We are tentatively planning our ribbon-cutting and brick-laying ceremonies for September.

We will share more details as the date gets closer, so stay tuned!

Thank you for your ongoing support, generosity and belief in this project.

This could not happen without you!

Sincerely,

Les Williams

President, MVMC BOD

J. Bob Brueske

Chairman, MVMC BOD

Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

worship Service: September-May at 10:15am

Discipleship Hour at 9am

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the Valley

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

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Montrose, CO 81401

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

COMMUNITY SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

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

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

future where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

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

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

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

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

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

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Premier Sponsor:

Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

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

Fiesta Guadalajara
Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442





Longer Tables

MONTROSE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

FREE
COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST

SATURDAY • AUGUST 29, 2026

10:00–11:30 AM

LOCAL FOOD • BREAKFAST

CENTENNIAL PLAZA

Montrose Farmers
Market



GLUTEN-, DAIRY- • EGG-FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

RSVP
RECOMMENDED



FREE TO ATTEND. DONATIONS ARE
WELCOME AND HELP SUPPORT THE
NEXT COMMUNITY TABLE.



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- ADA COMPLIANT
- BACK PRIVACY FENCED
- LOVINGLY CARED FOR MAINTAINED AND UPDATED.
- MAIN FLOOR HAS BEEN A STYLING SALON
- 2ND FLOOR IS AN APARTMENT
-



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

AWARD-WINNING WESTERN SLOPE CIDERY BRINGS SPECIALTY COFFEE, CEREMONIAL MATCHA AND HOUSEMADE CREATIONS TO TAPROOM & WINE BAR



Snow Boy Coffee. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

CEDAREDDGE— Snow Capped Cider, the award-winning cidery helmed by Kari Williams, is bringing its commitment to quality ingredients and creative craftsmanship to a new category with the launch of **Snow Boy Coffee**. **Now open inside Snow Capped Cider's Taproom & Wine Bar**, the new coffee bar introduces specialty coffee, ceremonial matcha and handcrafted espresso beverages to Cedaredge, creating a new all-day destination for locals and visitors exploring Colo-

rado's Western Slope.

Since opening its Cedaredge taproom, Snow Capped Cider has become a destination for guests seeking Colorado-made beverages, locally inspired flavors and a welcoming gathering place. With the addition of Snow Boy Coffee, the cidery is expanding its craft beverage experience now available from morning through evening.

"Coffee has always been something I wanted to do, but only if we could do it the Snow Capped way," said Kari Williams, Owner and Head Cidermaker at Snow Capped Cider. "We spent months trying coffees, sourcing ingredients, and perfecting recipes because, if we're going to do it, it has to be with the highest quality products available. Flavor has always been at the heart of what we make, and we wanted to bring that same level of care and creativity to Snow Boy Coffee. This will be a place in Cedaredge where people can slow down and enjoy something made with care."

Snow Boy Coffee sources from two of Colorado's premier roasters, **Sweet Bloom Coffee and Bonfire Coffee**, delivered within days of roasting to ensure exceptional flavor and quality. The menu features organic espresso, ceremonial-grade matcha, and a rotating lineup of signature beverages made with housemade syrups and fruit purées crafted from natural ingredients.

Guests can enjoy signature drinks including the **Mont Blanc**, a French-inspired

espresso beverage; **Espresso Tonic**, or **organic iced matcha lattes** with house-made cold foams; **Earl Grey Matcha**, **Hibiscus Matcha**, **non-alcoholic Espresso Martinis**, and more seasonal creations.

Rather than relying on artificial flavors or overly sweet syrups, Snow Boy focuses on balanced beverages made from scratch. Each syrup and fruit purée is crafted in-house using natural ingredients, avoiding unnecessary additives and artificial flavorings in favor of simple, high-quality ingredients.

The addition of Snow Boy Coffee complements the taproom's existing beverage program, which includes award-winning cider, Colorado wine, and new handcrafted cocktails and premium mocktails made with nonalcoholic spirits, bitters and organic ingredients.

From morning coffee enjoyed on the scenic outdoor patio to evening cider with friends, the offerings create a full-day destination centered around craft beverages and community.

As Snow Capped Cider continues to grow, the addition of Snow Boy Coffee reflects the cidery's ongoing mission to showcase exceptional ingredients, celebrate Colorado makers, and create memorable experiences on the Western Slope.

From award-winning cider to specialty coffee, every beverage is crafted with the same commitment to quality that has become the hallmark of the Snow Capped name.



Style to boot.
Coverage to last.
The Mirror

FULL MOON SOUND JOURNEY

Sunday, August 23rd. 2-3 pm

WITH GIA PIRELLI

GROUND. RESTORE. RELEASE.



Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Rd., Montrose
<https://giapiirelli.com/product/082326ute/>

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



At left, Montrose Summer Music Series photo of local band Gotta Be is by B. Switzer. Above, Violet Pines at the FUNC Fest. Photo by Michael Badagliacco.

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Above, Flock Camera dominates the landscape at the Montrose Skate Park. Mirror Staff Photo.



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



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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

ALTRUSA 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. 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

Aug. 20-There will be a Retirement Reception for Commissioner Sue Hansen on Thursday, Aug. 20 from 5-7 pm at the Historic Montrose County Courthouse BOCC Room 320 South 1st Street in Montrose. All are welcome! Stop by to share your congratulations and help us thank Sue for her eight years of public service.

Aug. 23-Fortuna Tierra Club is hosting the 11th Annual Log Hill Hustle starting at 8 AM at the Divide Ranch and Club Clubhouse. You can register for the 5K and 10K races at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/Ridgway/LogHillHustle>. More information about the race can be found at Fortuna Tierra Club's website at <https://www.fortunatierra.com/>.

Sept. 19-Lake City Uncorked Wine & Music Festival - third Saturday in September. This year Sept. 19, 2026. Gates open at 10 am; music starts at 11 am; wine flows at noon. Food vendors, unique arts and handcrafted items, 7 bands, wines for tasting, beer booth. lakecitydirt.org/uncorked

FUN ON THE UNCOMPAHGRE FESTIVAL



The crowd enjoying the day at the City of Montrose's 2026 Fun on the Uncompahgre Festival (FUNC Fest). Photo by Montrose Mayor Michael Badagliacco (MJB).

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