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ASSOCIATION



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LAZY JB RANCH TO BE HONORED AT COLORADO STATE FAIR

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-This year at the Colorado State Fair (Aug. 28-Sept. 7), Centennial Farm & Ranch honorees will include Montrose County ranchers. Even if you don't know them personally, you probably enjoy the beautiful, open views of their property here - - the Lazy JB Ranch, which is owned by the Biella-Creamer Family and which has roots that go back for more than a century. Along with ranching, the family shows cattle.

The Mirror spoke with Kathi Creamer about what it means to own a Centennial Ranch today.

"It's very challenging to ranch amongst development," Creamer said. "We really try to make an effort—that's important because the general public is so removed; they have no understanding of what we do.

"To put food on your table is not easy," she said. "We're a minority. There are very few people in the United States who do what we do.



Above from left, Brandon, Kathi, Jeff and Britney Creamer of the Lazy JB Ranch in Montrose County. Photo courtesy of Kathi Creamer.

Continued pg 19

MONTROSE NATIVE DREAMS OF LIFE IN THE FAST LANE



Lorena "Nena" Enrique is a race car driver at age 21. Courtesy photos Lorena Enrique.



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Some people like to take things slow. For others, the best things in life are fast--very fast.

21-year-old Lorena "Nena" Enrique is competing with Lead Foot Racing in Spec Miata, where she recently made her competitive racing debut. Earlier this month, Enrique drove at the High Plains Motor Raceway for the first time.

Becoming a race car driver has been a lifelong dream for the Montrose native; one of four siblings, she picked up a love for car racing

Continued pg 17

[City approves proposed ballot ordinances!](#)

[1st Annual Montrose County Book Fair!](#)
By Kate Burke!

[LDS Food Truck Arrives in Montrose!](#)

[Cartoon by Tim Jones!](#)



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GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,
 Montrose Mirror Editor

the Montrose Mirror

Fresh news for busy people

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

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





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TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PROPERTIES!



MLS #835742 | 62908 LaSalle Road | GARY COOPER

What wonderful property and home located in the country! This sprawling ranch home with a basement has so much to offer, totaling 3320 square feet and located on 1.2 acres. As you enter the circular driveway onto the property you cannot help but notice the mature and extensive landscape featuring blue spruce, aspen, fruit trees, along with many other trees, flowers and shrubs. The irrigation water is supplied by a permitted well located on the property and distributed by the underground sprinkler system.



MLS #836393 | TBD 5725 RD | JUSTIN COVINGTON

22 acres of irrigated farmland that includes river bottom. Come fish in your own piece of river! Large mature trees line the river banks. Property includes underground irrigation systems that provide water to the whole property. Good views of the San Juans, Grand Mesa and the West Elks.



MLS #834668 | 74 Colorado Avenue | MARK CONVINGTON

This charming 1384 sq. ft. home features 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, and an attached garage in a convenient central Montrose location! Whether you're looking for a primary residence or an investment property, this home offers great potential. The spacious primary bedroom includes a versatile bonus area perfect for a home office, workout space, or reading nook, along with direct backyard access through sliding glass doors. Outside, you'll find storage sheds and plenty of space to create your dream backyard.



MLS #827376 | Lot 23 Eagle Heights | STEVE ZAHNISER

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THE FORUM PRESENTS TALLMADGE RICHMOND *Planning and Development Director for Montrose County*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join The Forum

on **Wednesday, August 26, 8-9 AM, Colorado Mesa University Cascade Hall** as we hear from Montrose Planning and Development Director Tallmadge Richmond.

Director Richmond leads countywide efforts related to growth, land use, development, building regulation, and community development. In this role, he oversees the County's planning, zoning, development, building, and other code administration programs, working to balance responsible growth with community needs, property rights, long-term land use goals, and agricultural preservation.

He also leads efforts to address development in areas affected by natural hazards including wildfire risk. Tallmadge played a key role in Montrose County's adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Regulations, the Wildfire Resiliency Code, and OWTS Regulations and oversees the County's ongoing administration and enforcement of these codes.

Tallmadge will share code updates that Montrose County has undertaken this year and get into what code updates Montrose County will have in the near future.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IF THE MONTROSE MIRROR HAS RULES, EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM

Editor:

I believe strongly in free speech. David White has every right to express his opinions about Montrose, its elected officials, and our election system. But the Montrose Mirror also has a responsibility to apply its own published standards consistently.

The Mirror's guidelines specifically address writers attempting to discredit public officials or candidates and ask them to provide sources for their allegations. The guidelines go on to make an important point: "Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths."

Yet week after week, the Mirror has provided David White space to question the integrity of Montrose city elections and make serious allegations about our election system without providing meaningful evidence to substantiate those claims.

Disagree with our election system? Absolutely. Advocate for changing it? Absolutely. Present data showing there is a problem? Please do. But repeatedly suggesting that our election system lacks integrity is a serious allegation. It deserves more than opinion and speculation.

This is also a question for the businesses that advertise in the Montrose Mirror. Advertising dollars help make publications possible. I would encourage every business advertising in the Mirror to ask a very simple question:

Does the Montrose Mirror apply the same editorial standards to everyone? If the answer is no, I hope advertisers will ask the Mirror to do better and reconsider their advertising support if it refuses.

This isn't about silencing David White. Let him write. Let people disagree with him. Let the debate happen.

It is about something much simpler:

If the Montrose Mirror has rules, everyone should have to follow them.

Beth McCorkle, Montrose

Editor's Response

The article by Mr. White that is referred to in Ms. McCorkle's letter was thoroughly researched with primary sources. It included relevant correspondence and links as well. —*Caitlin Switzer, Montrose Mirror Editor*

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

NO TAX ON TIPS?

By Don Stott

How nice of President Trump to not allow any tax on tips! Or for that matter, how many candidates for president have promised to cut taxes? Most. Why not? It's merely a way of purchasing votes. Nothing wrong with that, is there? Sounds great, doesn't it? Cutting taxes merely makes inflation greater, because the money is denied government the money to pay its bills. Cutting taxes makes the dollar presses go a bit longer, and candidates get elected, but that's what has happened throughout history.

How about Medicaid, unsustainable Social Security, Medicare, and handouts for seemingly everyone and everything imaginable, and subsidies for everything else? Candidates as well as office holders, have decided that some voters need help, and help is always at hand by issuing handouts, known as welfare. How about the current war on Iran, which seems to have no end? Those ships and hundreds if not thousands of bombs and missiles, emitted from them? Imagine their costs! Maybe there is one simple reason not to do all of the above? Yes! And it is: \$40 Trillion

40 trillion? What's that, you may ask? When government pays for all of the above, it has the money to spend, doesn't it? Isn't government supposed to help those who have needs? A succinct question is, "Where does government get it?"

A succinct answer is, "They borrow it." "From whom?" (From the Federal Reserve, going on the books as 'borrow'). "From everyone."

You might say that you never loaned government any money. All you do is pay your taxes. "Who gave them permission to borrow it?"

"President, Congress, and Senate, that's who".

"Is there any proof?"

"Yes, and it's called one simple word, and that's 'Inflation,' shown by hundreds and thousands of prices on everything going up in dollars, such as \$4.75 for a gallon of

gasoline."

"How can a \$40 trillion debt ever be paid off?"

In all of history, regardless of which nation, or whatever they used as money, at least after they stopped using gold and silver, and substituted pieces of paper with fancy ink imprimaturs on it, "None of these loans were ever paid off. Those nations went bankrupt, and took all of their citizens and their money with it." Look at any nation which no longer exists for proof, and I mean all of them. Greece, Rome, France, Russia, China? They all collapsed economically, and arose from the ashes eventually. America? Not quite yet in America, but Trump's flirting with it. Just look at what the U.S. dollar buys now, and what it bought a hundred years ago, or even 50 years ago, for proof:

Consumer prices in 1976 (50 years ago)

Milk - \$1.65 a gallon

Eggs - 69 cents a dozen

New car - \$5,400

New Home - \$45,000

Gasoline 59 cents a gallon

Gold - \$250

Consumer prices in 1926 (100 years ago)

Gasoline 12 cents a gallon

New Car - \$300

New home - \$7,000

Milk - 56 cents a gallon

Gold - \$20.67

All consumer prices were paid by you and me, 50 or 100 years ago, if we were alive then, and paid with U.S. dollars, which have constantly lost value. In 1926, coins were made of 90% silver, and a silver quarter was worth a quarter. Silver was considered far too valuable in 1964, at a dollar an ounce, so coins began to be made with cheap metals, as they still are today. Just imagine! 62 years ago, dimes, quarters, and halves were made of 90% silver, at a dollar an ounce, which as I write this, is over \$70 an ounce, and a silver quarter is now worth \$12.59. As silver was no longer used to make U.S. coinage, all of the silver coins instantly disappeared into smart peoples' hands. Silver and gold

today, should go into everyone's hands or safes.

As I have said in previous columns, at age 92, I still remember nickel Cokes, Hershey bars, my Dad buying a new 1940 Plymouth for \$650, and a 40 acre retirement farm, with large house and two barns for \$9,500. As a teen, I thought a thirty year old was ancient, as I am sure you remember!

I'm glad I began dealing on gold and silver in the fall of 1975, because until I began that, I never thought of anything but operating a few businesses with which I did very well, but never thought of retirement, since I always worked for myself, and never saved in anything but dollars, briefly, to get into another business. I've had a great life working for myself! Now? I have no life-insurance policy, and pay no premiums for it, since my life insurance is in my safe, and I have an alarm system with cameras, plus lots of guns, which I am good enough to shoot to kill, and not injure.

I have tried several times with a couple of sites, which give answers to questions, and when I ask the question, "How many federal agencies are there and what are their budgets?" I can get no answer, but if I could, and had the power, I could balance the budget instantly, and inflation would be over quickly. You try it, and if you can get an answer send it to me and I'll gladly post it!

What is happening now, I am sure as it happened in all of history's national bankruptcies, is that prices go up, and wages also, with interest being paid on all the debts. Sound familiar? The obvious then happens, and the debts are so huge than the interest is larger than it is possible to pay, so the presses go into overtime, till the currency becomes worthless. I have in my hand a Zimbabwe \$20 trillion dollar piece of paper. As a kid, I had never seen a hundred dollar bill, but now I have a couple in my wallet. Had you told me when I was a youngster buying gasoline at 20 cents a gallon, that gas would be \$4.75

NO TAX ON TIPS? From previous pg

a gallon a few decades later, I would have laughed.

When I started doing precious metals in the fall of 1975, with silver at \$1.25 and gold at \$250, I knew there would be no limit on how 'high' everything would go eventually, but that was 50 years ago, and I guess beyond my capability to realize what would happen, and maybe when; even though I knew history would repeat itself many times over, as it seems to do.

Is a collapse near? I don't think so, but I don't know what will happen ten minutes

from now. I think there is still plenty of time to protect yourself with gold and silver.

Last Wednesday, a client called me when gold was down a hundred dollars, and he decided to buy three Gold Eagles. I asked him if he wanted to wait till Thursday to see what would happen, and he said 'no', so he bought three at \$4495.20, and Thursday they went to \$4805. No one knows what will happen in the future! But for sure, everything denominated in dollars, will go up slowly, quickly, by leaps

and bounds, or any measuring device, but the sure answer is UP. Protect yourself with us at 1% over spot price, including delivery.

Want a prediction? I think that Ai is a fraud, and all the hoopla will prove to be nothing more than a million computers in huge buildings, which maybe will not be built, I hope.

From where will the money come? What will Ai invent, and be nothing more than endless searches over what has already been invented?

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BEACONFEST: COLORADO'S FUNNEST SENIOR EXPO RETURNS TO MONTROSE ON SEPT. 17, 2026

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Montrose and Delta's biggest and funnest celebration for seniors, baby boomers and their families is back! BeaconFest, Colorado's largest senior expo, takes over the Montrose Pavilion on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is FREE for a full day of entertainment and education all focused on living your best life after 50.

Montrose-Delta BeaconFest is the best opportunity to visit directly with more than 65 local businesses and national agencies devoted to helping seniors age well in Western Colorado. Attendees can connect face-to-face with representatives offering information on health care, housing, financial services, recreation, senior resources and more.

The day features live music from Garrett Agajanian, Peggy Malone, Robin Freed & Harps in Motion Ensemble and Donny Morales, along with food from area restaurants, expert-led seminars and prize drawings every half-hour.

At 1 p.m., the Volunteer of the Year ceremony will honor some of our community's most giving and passionate senior volunteers. Learn about this year's honorees in the August issue of **BEACON Senior News** and vote for your favorite at **BeaconSeniorNews.com/vote-montrose-voy** through Sept. 3.

For more information about BeaconFest or to reserve a booth, visit BeaconFest.com or call 970-243-8829.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RANCHERS AND FARMERS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS POLITICAL PAWNS

Editor:

I am not an economist and certainly do not fully understand the complete interworking of imports and exports; yet, I am informed enough to know that the American farmer and rancher need promoting, not undermining. Farmer bankruptcies are up by approximately 46% in 2026. "Farmers have been hit from every direction: seesawing tariffs, damaging trade policies, inflation and drastic cuts to federal farm programs " (Farm Policy, July 22, 2026).

Montrose County has had the designation of an agricultural/ ranching district. As for many rural areas, the ramifications of eliminating the tariff to import beef for 90 days is an infuriating insult. "You don't put America first by putting U.S. cattle producers last," said Justin Tupper, president of the United States Cattlemen's Association, in a statement after Trump's announcement. Australia and Canada are the leading countries that export beef to the U.S. It seems ironic to me that the negative relations extended to Canada all year is the same country suddenly given an exemption of tariffs that may accelerate its own ranching economy. "If we want to keep family ranches in business and rebuild American's cattle herd, we need policies that support domestic production and give consumers clear information where their beef comes from" (Giles Stockman, Montana – Farm Action).

"U.S. ranchers are already facing historically high input costs, the same inflationary pressures affecting all of agriculture, as well as prolonged drought and extreme wildfires that have reduced access to grazing land in many states" (Farm Progress). Getting a vote for a certain political party should not rest on how cheap someone can buy beef. As a consumer, I have and would pay more for a product that I know supports American families. Ranchers and farmers should not be used as political pawns for any upcoming election.

AJ Smith, Montrose

grandchild of an American farmer/rancher

LOW INFORMATION VOTERS CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO MAKE SOUND DECISIONS WHEN CASTING THEIR VOTES

Editor:

Public comments made by one attendee during the Montrose City Council meeting held August 18th on the first reading of the proposed amendments (4) to the Montrose City Charter raise an alarm.

View quotes below:

- there has been information to the public explaining these amendments
- proposals seem very clear, very succinct
- the public has had the opportunity to think about them, to read about them
- it's not complicated, it's all very straightforward

These public comments made by one attendee do not reflect the current status in the community.

There is an extremely low awareness in the Montrose community as to the significance of proposing changes to the City Charter. Information on the proposed amendments is available to regular attendees of City Council meetings; however, information outside the City Council meetings is limited to members of the public who have the initiative to view documents in the City of Montrose portal on the website.

Members of the Montrose community who have been attending discussions on the proposed amendments to the City Charter since June 01, 2026 are aware of the intricacies inherent in making changes to a City Charter. And the potential for 'unintended consequences' since a thorough review through the establishment of a Citizens Review Commission has not been included in the City Council's preparations of the proposed amendments.

Voters who will be reading the wording in the ballot in November for the first time are unlikely to grasp the 'underlying intricacies' in adopting changes to the City Charter.

Low information voters cannot be expected to make sound decisions when casting their votes.

Members of the Montrose community are encouraged to attend the September 01st second reading of the proposed amendments to the City Charter to familiarize themselves with proposed changes.

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HICKENLOOPER HAS FAILED US

Editor:

In the realm of politics you can tell as much about an elected official by what is not said as opposed to what is actually voiced. One of the most important decisions facing Colorado in November involves the election for US Senate. John Hickenlooper has held one of Colorado's two US Senate seats since 2021. For all of those years he has been what is commonly referred to as a "weak, sister" or a "back bencher", derogatory terms for elected officials who have proven to be incompetent in representing their constituents.

Hickenlooper has made it plain for all to see that he cares more for illegal aliens than he does for American citizens. He firmly supported the influx of millions of illegals into this country as well as the expenditure of tax dollars to support those here illegally. Additionally, he has voted repeatedly to support non-citizens being able to vote in our elections. And he supported illegal aliens in Colorado being able to receive in-state tuition. Additionally, he voted against lower taxes, no tax on tips no tax or Social Security and no tax on overtime.

For his entire term to date, he has failed to speak out against the Democrat leadership that is intent on destroying this country. He has supported defunding the police and laws assailing the Second Amendment. He has had no problem with the influx of fentanyl and child trafficking into our country or males in girls' sports. After the start of the Iran conflict, he failed on multiple occasions to fund the Department of Homeland Security, thereby placing this entire country at risk. And he joined the Democrats routing for Iran over American forces.

You could write a book about his five years of failing to represent the interest of Colorado or the welfare of the United States. Considering the fact that the Democrat party has been completely taken over by the socialist/communist wing of that party, and in view of Hickenlooper's failure to speak out against that, it certainly seems that the time has come for Colorado to see stronger representation in the US Senate.

State Senator Marc Beasley, with seven years of legislative experience in the Colorado legislature, represents the best opportunity for Colorado to have at least one member of the US Senate with an abundance of common sense, who will put the welfare of Colorado and the entire country at the fore front of his decisions.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 7 PM
DURANGO VS. MONTROSE
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 7 PM
PAGOSA SPRINGS VS. DELTA
DELTA HIGH SCHOOL



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 7 PM
NORTH FORK VS. CEDAREDDGE
CEDAREDDGE HIGH SCHOOL



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 7 PM
CEDAREDDGE VS. OLATHE
OLATHE HIGH SCHOOL

MONTROSE NATIVE DREAMS OF LIFE IN THE FAST LANE From pg 1



Courtesy photos Lorena Enrique.

from watching *Fast and Furious* as a young teen.

"My favorite character was Brian O'Connor," she said. "I thought, if he can do it, I can do it."

Also, "My dad's automotive knowledge helped me along the way."

After going to school in California, Enrique began to make her own way in the racing world. She was considering buying a car of her own, but discovered Lead-foot Racing and joined their team, competing in the National Auto Sport Association (NASA) Rocky Mountain Round 4 on Aug. 15-16.

"At first it was nerve wracking, but the nerves went away when I got behind the wheel."

On Sept. 7 she heads back to the Grand Junction Motor Speedway for the final round. "I am very proud of this season."

She hopes that her story inspires other young girls and women to do what they are passionate about. "It's very possible to make a career — it's about how badly you want this. You have to show others why they should believe in you and why you should keep racing."

To those who dream of driving race cars, she offers words of advice.

"Big dreams can come to life—it may take a while," she said. "You don't have to wait 'til you're ready. If you have a dream, if you love to do this, if you have the grit, do it!"

Follow Lorena "Nena" Enrique on [Instagram](#).



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LAZY JB RANCH TO BE HONORED AT COLORADO STATE FAIR From pg 1

"It is up to us to help educate people."

2026 has been a particularly challenging year, Creamer said. "The lack of water. We had to come down off our mountain pasture this season."

The family has prepared a brief history to be read at the Fair, which is shared below, courtesy of the Biella-Creamer family:

"Lazy JB Angus, owned and operated by the Biella-Creamer family, is a Colorado Centennial Ranch with roots dating back more than 100 years. The family's agricultural legacy began in Louisville, Colorado, where the original ranching operation was established and operated by earlier generations of the Biella family. Built through hard work, perseverance, and a deep commitment to agriculture, the ranch laid the foundation for a family tradition that continues today. As the operation grew, the family relocated to Montrose, Colorado, where Lazy JB Angus continues to thrive in the high country of Western Colorado. Here, the Biella-Creamer family has built a respected seedstock program known for producing performance-driven, high-altitude Angus genetics designed for

both purebred and commercial cattle producers. Cattle are developed in a practical ranch environment with emphasis on soundness, fertility, longevity, and profitability.

Beyond their ranching success, the family has remained dedicated to Colorado agriculture through leadership, youth mentorship, and community involvement.

"Today, Lazy JB Angus stands as a testament to generations of stewardship, resilience, and family values. The Biella-Creamer family continues to honor their heritage while advancing the future of Colorado's cattle industry.

"What makes our family's agricultural history unique is that it began with Italian immigrants who came to Colorado seeking opportunity and worked as coal miners while building a ranching operation of their own. Through determination, sacrifice, and hard work, they established both a ranch and family brand more than 100 years ago, creating a legacy rooted in the American dream and the values of agriculture. Unlike many operations, our family's story was built not from wealth or inher-

itance, but through grit, long days of labor, and a vision for a better future. Those early generations balanced demanding work in the mines while steadily growing their cattle operation and investing in the land.

Over the years, the family faced many challenges, including economic hardships, changing markets, and eventually the need to relocate the ranch and cattle operation from its original roots to Western Colorado.

Even through that transition, the passion for honoring the past and building for the future remained strong.

Today, that same determination continues through Lazy JB Angus. Our operation has become known nationwide for producing quality Angus genetics, with cattle and genetics sold from coast to coast across the United States and into Canada. Our history is unique because it reflects resilience, sacrifice, and the ability of each generation to adapt while protecting the legacy they worked so hard to create."

To learn more, visit <https://lazyjbangus.com/>.



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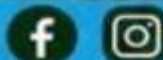
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

I was asked to share the “red-line version” of each proposed Charter amendment here in the Mayor’s Minute. I am happy to accommodate this as it is critical that **YOU, the voters, have all the information you need to make an informed decision** regarding these Proposed Amendments. The current and redline version show the proposed changes so **YOU, the citizens of Montrose, can clearly understand the changes and decide whether to adopt or reject each one**. There are four separate measures under consideration. These proposals are scheduled for a City Council vote on September 1, 2026, where the Council will vote on which measures will advance to the November 3, 2026, ballot. Any that pass that vote will go to the voters for your final decision.

Click the link below to see the changes on each measure.

↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

[Proposed Amendments, Full Redline Text](#)

Review them carefully so you can make an informed choice.

Moving City elections from April to November

-This change aims to **increase voter participation (from 25-30% up to 60-87%)** and saves up to \$25,000 per election.

Term limits for City Council

-This aims to ensure regular turnover of ideas and prevents the advantages of long incumbency from limiting other voices.

Council authority to approve or reject the hiring and discharge of the Police Chief.

-This gives elected officials a safeguard role limited to approval or rejection. It does not allow the Council to initiate either action. Nor does it grant any operational control over the Chief or the Department.

Council authority to approve or reject the hiring and discharge of the City Clerk.

-This gives elected officials a safeguard role limited to approval or rejection. It does not allow the Council to initiate either action. Nor does it grant any operational control over the Clerk or their Department.

Thank you,

Michael J. Badagliacco, “MJB”

Mayor, Montrose, CO



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CITY APPROVES PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-For members of the public, making comments at Montrose City Council meetings means adhering to the three-minute rule. Not so for Councilor J. David Reed, who launched into a filibuster-style speech during the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 18--repeating variations of the same argument for 19 minutes--to delay a majority vote.

Still, when Reed finally finished speaking, Council voted three to two to approve a Montrose County Elections Intergovernmental Agreement between the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder and the City of Montrose for City Charter amendment questions on the Nov. 3 ballot. Councilors Reed and Frank voted to deny.

In addition, Council voted three to two to approve Ordinance 2727 on first reading, *"Submitting to a vote of the Registered Electors of the City of Montrose Proposed Amendments to the Charter of the City of Montrose, Article I Section 8 and Article III Sections 1 and 2 to change the dates of general municipal elections from April of even-numbered years to November of even-numbered years; and setting the ballot question for the November 3, 2026, Coordinated Election."*

Also approved in three-two votes were Ordinance 2728 on first reading, *"Submitting to a vote of the Registered Electors of the City of Montrose Proposed Amendments to the Charter of the City of Montrose, Article I Sections 7, 8 and 11 and Article III Section 1 to amend term limits of the at-large council member; setting a lifetime eight-year limit for elected service for all members of Council; and setting the ballot question for the November 3, 2026, Coordinated Election;"* Ordinance 2729 on first reading, *"Submitting to a vote of the Registered Electors of the City of Montrose Proposed Amendments to the Charter of the City of Montrose, Article VIII Section 8 to allow for the City Council to approve the City Manager's decision to appoint or discharge the Police Chief of the Montrose Police Department; and setting the ballot question for the November 3, 2026, Coordinated Election; and Ordinance 2730 on First Reading, *"Submitting to a vote of the Registered**

Electors of the City of Montrose Proposed Amendments to the Charter of the City of Montrose, Article VIII Section 6 to allow for the City Council to approve the City Manager's decision to appoint or discharge the City Clerk; and setting the ballot question for the November 3, 2026, Coordinated Election."

Prior to those votes, the meeting began with Mayor Michael Badagliacco calling the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. All councilors were present.

There were no changes to the Agenda.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Mayor Badagliacco presented a "You Make a Difference Award" to Visitor Center Volunteer Nikki Zwaschka.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Badagliacco read the rules for public comment.

Beth McCorkle said that no citizens have initiated petitions asking for the changes that Council seeks to include on the November Election Ballot. "...It does cause to me to question the argument that these changes are necessary...if citizens haven't asked for these changes, I ask, why is City Council deciding they need them...our charter belongs to the citizens of Montrose...if there's a problem, show us that problem..."

Carol Howe spoke about data centers, "...I'm here to ask you City Councilors to consider implementing a moratorium on allowing data centers in the City of Montrose, to be in effect until the City develops regulations that would address the issues data centers bring...now is the time to do this..."

Cliff Faurer spoke, disparaging a *Special Report on City Election Integrity* published in the *Montrose Mirror* the previous week. "What's going on over at the *Mirror*. What's all this vitriol all about...the lady doth protest too much, methinks...fellow residents of Montrose there is subterfuge afoot as evidenced by the *Montrose Mirror* Cub Investigative Reporter's articles and it's coming from the person behind the curtain who's pulling the puppet strings. Don't be fooled folks, protect Montrose. Protect the reputation and



Constituent Patty Greeves questioned the actions of City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo during the recent Council election. "...Where are the records for the final tabulation of the ballots as I understand the ballots have not been given to the County Election Office..." Meeting Screenshot.

integrity of your state-renowned city staff and employees..."

Next to speak, Patty Greeves expressed concern about the integrity of the recent City election as evidenced by recent reports and by a statement made at a recent Council meeting in which City Clerk Lisa Delpiccolo said that she took the ballots back to her office and then did not send them to the county as had been agreed. Said Greeves, "...I've talked to several people in the last week and we've had similar questions that have arisen and I would like to share some of them with you...where were the election judges? Were they with Lisa when she transported...when she took the ballots back to her office, did they approve of such an action? Were the election judges in the same room with Lisa as she counted the ballots in her office? Was anybody else in the room when Lisa counted the ballots? If so, who?

"...Where are the records for the final tabulation of the ballots as I understand

CITY APPROVES PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

From previous pg

the ballots have not been given to the County Election Office...if Lisa had concerns about the staff at the County Election Office why did she not express this to the City Manager or the former City Council members prior to the Election, so the appropriate measures could be undertaken to guard and maintain the correct chain of custody for the ballots? Why have the contract with the County Election Office if the City Clerk was allowed to handle the ballots as she wanted instead of following the procedures outlined in the agreement?

"The citizens of Montrose deserve answers and assurances that the City Council, that you will take this matter seriously. Can you tell us what actions you have already taken with what happened on Election Night with Lisa or with any individuals who may have had inappropriate contact with the ballots...also, can Council be forthcoming with information that can assure us of the integrity of our future elections...?"

Constituent John Brown spoke about the inevitable nature and importance of change, "...I'm tired of letting five percent of the population of Montrose choose who's going to be your city councilor, who's going to be your mayor, for the last 20 plus years...we need change, and I thank this board for that change."

Butch Innsli spoke about the speed of traffic coming out of the roundabout onto on Hillcrest, and asked the city to put in a sign letting people know how fast they are

going.

Councilor Dave Frank said that people are being attacked in the media.

He reminded citizens that civil engagement is critical.

Frank noted that Montrose has an organization called Peer Kindness. He asked citizens to stand up for integrity and civil conversation.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

QUASI JUDICIAL ITEMS

NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council approved an application for a new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license application at 512 E. Main Street for Pruf Concepts Inc., doing business as Pruf, for consumption on the licensed premises.

NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Council approved an application for a new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license application at 1245 E. Main Street for Claudia's Kitchen & Bakery, doing business as Claudia's Kitchen & Bakery, for consumption on the licensed premises.

FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM PROJECT AUTHORIZATION AND SOLE SOURCE WAIVER

Mayor Badagliacco recused himself from the discussion and vote. The remaining Councilors voted to authorize \$75,000 for the installation of a fire suppression system in the Network Operation Center, including a contract with Pye Barker in the

amount of \$69,987.

ORDINANCE 2723 - FIRST READING

Council approved Ordinance 2723 on First Reading, vacating portions of a drainage easement within the City of Montrose.

NORTH PARK AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION DESIGN CONTRACT

Also approved was a contract award to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$76,400 for completion of civil design associated with the North Park Avenue Reconstruction Project.

ORDINANCE 2726 - SECOND READING

Ordinance 2726 was approved on second 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.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report by Month and by Area.

New City Finance Director Heather MacDougal presented the Second Quarter Budget Review.

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler thanked MacDougal for the "excellent and thorough" report and said that MacDougal is off to a great start as the City's new Finance Director.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA ANNOUNCES SENIOR LEADERSHIP RETIREMENT, PROMOTION, AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) announces executive leadership changes designed to strengthen strategic alignment across its electric and broadband operations and position the organization for the future.

Chief Safety Officer Chad Sticker will retire this fall after 34 years of dedicated service to DMEA. Throughout his career, Sticker has played a pivotal role in advancing workplace safety and fostering a strong safety culture across the organization. Chad's career spanned several areas of DMEA, from an Apprentice to a Journeyman Lineman, Foreman, Superintendent, Safety Director, and ultimately Chief Safety Officer. DMEA extends its sincere appreciation for his leadership and lasting contributions and wishes him all the best in retirement.

Katie Yergensen has been promoted to Chief Communications Officer (CCO), where she will lead communications, marketing, brand strategy, and member/community engagement. Since joining DMEA in 2025, Yergensen has strengthened the cooperative's strategic approach to communications and marketing, elevating the DMEA and Elevate brands while deepening member engagement and community partnerships.

As part of these leadership changes, the following organizational realignment will also occur:

Mateusz Pena will assume the role of the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) and provide leadership for engineering, power supply, and Elevate.

Sarah Abbott will step into the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) role, overseeing human resources, safety, legislative affairs, inventory, and facilities, and will continue to act as General Counsel.

Jay Suckey will now serve as the Chief Service Officer and lead information technology, billing, and customer service representatives.

"Strong organizations build leaders at every level," said DMEA Chief Executive Officer Jack Johnston. "These changes reflect the depth of talent across our team and our commitment to preparing the next generation of leadership. By investing in our people, we're strengthening our organization today while positioning DMEA and Elevate for continued innovation, excellence, and long-term success for the members and communities we serve."

These leadership changes reflect DMEA's continued investment in organizational excellence, ensuring the cooperative remains well-positioned to deliver exceptional electric and broadband services while meeting the evolving needs of its members and customers. To learn more about DMEA's leadership team, please visit <https://www.dmea.com/leadership>.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED IN DELTA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County Public Health is reporting a confirmed human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) this year. The individual is in their 80's and is from the North Fork area.

West Nile virus is spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. WNV is not spread from person to person. Mosquito surveillance continues throughout Delta County, and mosquito pools continue to test positive for West Nile virus in multiple areas of the county. These positive mosquito pools, along with the confirmed human case, indicate that West Nile Virus is actively circulating.

Delta County Public Health encourages residents to continue taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites and reduce the risk of West Nile Virus infection.

West Nile Virus Symptoms

People of all ages can become infected with West Nile Virus. Most people who are infected will not develop symptoms. Approximately one in five people who become infected may develop symptoms including fever, headache, fatigue, muscle or joint aches, rash, or gastrointestinal symptoms.

The time between the bite of an infected mosquito and the onset of symptoms is usually two to six days but can be up to 14 days. In rare cases, West Nile Virus can cause severe illness. Older adults and people who are immunocompromised are at increased risk of severe disease. Contact a healthcare provider if you experience new or worsening symptoms, particularly severe headache, confusion, or other concerning symptoms.

There is no specific treatment for West Nile Virus. Mild illness usually improves on its own, and rest, fluids, and over-the-counter pain medications may help relieve some symptoms.

Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites

Prevention is especially important while West Nile Virus is actively circulating in the county. Remember the **four R's**:

REPEL mosquitoes by using an EPA-registered insect repellent.

REMOVE standing water from your home and yard.

REPAIR or replace damaged window and door screens.

REMIND family, friends, and neighbors to take precautions against mosquito bites.

WELCOME

○○○ **Evan Bachman**

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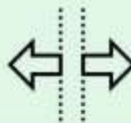
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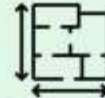
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS WHO RETAIN SANITY WILL SOON FIND NO ROOM IN THEIR "BIG TENT"

Editor:

New crime statistics show that America has never been safer than under Trump's leadership. According to data released by the FBI, the violent crime rate in the U.S. dropped by nearly 10% last year. That is the largest drop since the agency began recording the statistic in 1936. The Trump administration has emphasized tough-on-crime policies through moves like the mass deportation of illegals and the use of the National Guard in crime-ridden Democrat cities. Another achievement is the recovery of more than 11,000 child victims "lost" during the Biden administration. You probably haven't heard that good news because the media is doing everything possible to pretend it didn't happen, or, if they acknowledge it at all, to hilariously give credit to anything other than the Trump administration. CBS news claimed Trump is merely the fortunate beneficiary of "many complex factors." They did not mention the closed border and omitted all of the other crime-fighting policies, like Trump's crackdowns on cartels, gangs, and Antifa. CBS then pivoted to their three "experts" who tossed out anything they could think of besides crediting Trump. Maybe it's because people are drinking less! Or it could be work-from-home trends! Their best one: "It could be Biden-era overdoses. All those overdose deaths limited the supply of people who would have been robbed or murdered last year!" And of course the "independent experts," besides being idiots, were anything but independent or expert. They all three work at the same liberal think tank funded by a group that calls for DSA-style decarceration – meaning closing prisons and not prosecuting felons. Meanwhile, Democrats are increasingly supporting those same policies that promote the defunding of police, the abolition of prisons, and amnesty for illegal aliens as Democrat Socialists gain control of their party.

President Trump just crushed the trade deficit, slashing it from \$136B to just \$29.4B – the lowest in 20 years. You won't hear about that from Democrat media mouthpieces. Biden left US marine Robert Gilman to rot in a Russian prison for four years. Biden preferred trading the "Merchant of Death" for America hater Brittney Griner. President Trump brought Gilman home last week – with no acknowledgment from the press. They also won't talk about the fact

that over three million Floridians voted last week. And -- miracle of miracles -- everyone knew the results within hours. No late-night ballot drops. No counting votes for weeks on end. Compare that to Los Angeles, which counts votes like a third-world country. I guess it takes time to figure out how much stealing you have to perform to get the preferred results.

It is somewhat ironic that Democrats have been trying to destroy Trump for ten years, but don't seem to be at all concerned about the fact their own party – the party of JFK and Martin Luther King, Jr. – is being taken over by socialists and Islamists who make no secret about their intention to destroy this country. They make a big deal about hating billionaires, but only people like Elon Musk and not their own billionaires like George Soros. Musk earned his fortune by making things of value: electric cars and rocket launchers. Soros spends his millions sowing discord and anarchy around the world. There is another billionaire the left makes an exception for: dead Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, whose 100th birthday they are currently celebrating. His 29 luxury homes, four yachts, and a private island are in sharp contrast to the poverty of the rest of the country where 89% of the population lives in extreme poverty. He got his wealth by taking it from the people – stealing it until there was nothing left to steal. Democrats are hoping the American people will buy into their corrupt philosophy of envy and their BS about how an economy works.

Democrats also would like us to ignore the fact they have invited radical Islamists intent on subjugating and ruling this country into their "Big Tent." I've written before about that reality. Let me give one more example: A California "Islamic scholar" just declared that women captured in war become slaves who can be sexually used because the Quran makes it "halal." Uthamn ibn Farooq, based in San Diego, is teaching that raping female prisoners is not a sin because Allah made it lawful. These types of barbaric proclamations are not isolated fringe rants. Even more alarming, they are coming from Muslims [in this country](#).

Two additional observations this week. One, not a week goes by that I don't read about another Democrat politician being caught committing fraud. I'll just list a few that are within the last week or so. Massachusetts:

Lawrence Mayor Brian Depena arrested by the FBI on wire fraud and money laundering. New Mexico: A federal grand jury convicted state House Majority leader Sheryl Williams on 31 felony counts. She stole over a million dollars meant for kids learning trades. Georgia: State Rep. Sharon Henderson pleaded guilty to pandemic unemployment fraud. She was the third Democrat state lawmaker to plead guilty to COVID unemployment fraud. Missouri: Philip LeVota, the sitting Democrat Jackson County Executive was indicted on five counts including fraud and federal program bribery. New Jersey: Lumberton Township Committeewoman Gina LaPlace and her husband were charged with faking signatures on her own nominating petition. Mississippi: Former Columbus Vice-Mayor Joseph Mickesn was indicted and arrested for money laundering and rigging bids. Minnesota: Andrea Leigh Sampson, an assistant Anmoka County family law attorney, was charged with 26 felony counts related to helping operate a sex trafficking organization. California: Stockton City Council candidate Desiree Lynch has been arrested for election fraud.

The second observation is that it is becoming obvious that there is a consistent overlap between radical communist activists and privileged rich kids who have never had real jobs or responsibilities. The Democratic Socialists of America and their movement to turn America into Cuba are supported largely by spoiled, over-educated, white leftists. Cea Weaver, a housing advisor for NYC mayor Mamdani, wants to take away everyone's private property, while her mom owns a multi-million-dollar mansion in Tennessee. Now we find that the leader of the DSA, Gustavo Gordillo, lives in a \$1.5 million NYC property paid for by mommy and daddy, who are millionaires. All this might be humorous if these people were not intent on destroying our Constitution and our nation. They're all spoiled rich kids who haven't had to do an honest day's work in their lives. Instead of being grateful and actually contributing to society, they want to tear it down because they've been taught to hate it. Any Democrats who retain some sanity will soon find no room in their own "Big Tent." The fraudsters, communists, and Islamists will have no room for infidels who love the freedom this country still offers.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHY THE CHARTER CHANGES PROTECT THE VOICE OF MONTROSE VOTERS

By Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

There has been much debate over the charter amendment proposals. Some claim we are proposing regression rather than progress. In my view, we are returning to prior policy in some areas, restoring practical measures in others, and adding common-sense limits on entrenched power. The reasons matter. Below is how I see it. For those who read my writings regularly, this will be a recap; for others, it may be the first explanation of why I believe these measures should be adopted. The full red-line version of the current language and proposed changes for all four proposed amendments can be found at the following [link](#) for anyone who wishes to review it. I encourage all registered voters and citizens to review it and be informed.

Moving Elections to November

Shifting municipal elections from April to November in even years produces two clear results: higher turnout and lower cost. More people vote during the standard election season.

-Spring elections routinely draw only 25–35% of voters.

-November elections in even years draw 60–87%.

Greater participation means the outcome better reflects the community.

The financial difference is equally clear:

-A stand-alone spring election costs the city roughly \$30,000.

-A coordinated November election can cost as little as \$5,000.

-The state covers 40 percent of coordinated election costs, with the remainder shared among participating entities. This saves the city upward of \$25,000 each cycle.

-Opponents raise familiar objections:

-The city moved elections from November to April in 1993, so returning is regression.

-The 1993 change removed politics from

local races.

-Spring elections allow voters to focus solely on local issues.

-November elections are driven by partisanship.

-The shift would extend current terms by seven months without prior voter approval.

None of these claims hold up under scrutiny. The 1993 move did not remove politics; it simply reduced the number of voices at the table. All elections involve politics. Candidates run on values and platforms. Changing the date did not alter that reality; it only sidelined a large share of the electorate. If voters approve the change, they will also approve the one-time term extension needed to make the transition work. That is how structural adjustments occur.

Term Limits and Fresh Perspectives

The term-limits proposal sets a lifetime maximum of eight years across all seats. The purpose is straightforward: ensure regular turnover of ideas and prevent the advantages of long incumbency from crowding out other voices.

Opponents argue:

-Only four people in 142 years have exceeded eight years, so limits are unnecessary.

-The proposal is a solution looking for a problem.

-The city already has term limits.

-The current rule limits consecutive years, not total service. After eight years (or six in a two-year at-large seat), a person can sit out four years and return. That is a loophole, not a true limit. A lifetime cap closes it. The amendment does not remove anyone currently serving who might exceed eight years when it takes effect. Waiting for a problem to appear is not good governance. A clear lifetime limit is a practical safeguard.

Council Oversight on Key Appointments

Two amendments would change how the Police Chief and City Clerk are selected and discharged. Currently the appointed city manager holds sole authority for these actions, with no direct oversight from the elected Council. The proposals would require the manager to:

-Obtain Council approval when hiring the Police Chief or City Clerk, and

-Obtain Council approval when removing the Police Chief or City Clerk.

Council would gain no authority over day-to-day operations or supervision. The manager would retain full operational control once the person is in the role. Council's authority would be limited strictly to hiring and discharge decisions.

Opponents argue:

-This adds unnecessary bureaucracy.

-Council would be interfering with police department operations.

Practical analysis shows:

-It places more eyes on the process.

-It reduces the risk of retaliation against people in sensitive positions.

-It restores accountability that was removed in 2014.

-It brings these roles closer to voters through their elected representatives.

-Accountability is not red tape; it is a necessary check.

Standing on Principle

Disagreement will continue, and that is healthy. These amendments address real patterns of turnout, cost, continuity of power, and accountability. Higher participation, clearer service limits, and shared responsibility for key appointments strengthen the link between residents and the decisions made in their name.

If Council advances these items at the September 1, 2026, meeting, they will appear on the November 3, 2026, ballot, where you, the voters, will decide whether to adopt or reject them.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH EARNS TOP MARKS ON LOWN INSTITUTE RANKING *Hospital earns A grades for social responsibility, value, outcomes, and patient satisfaction*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health (MRH) has earned an overall A grade on the 2026 Lown Hospitals Index for Social Responsibility, with A grades in several key measures, including value of care, patient outcomes, clinical outcomes, and patient satisfaction.

MRH also ranked No. 1 in Colorado for pay equity.

The Lown Hospitals Index is the only national ranking that evaluates hospitals based on social responsibility by measuring equitable care, community investment, value of care and clinical outcomes. More than 50 metrics contribute to each hospital's overall score.

MRH earned high marks in the following categories:

No. 1 in Colorado for Pay Equity, Grade A
Pay equity compares hospital CEO compensation with compensation for house-keeping staff. MRH ranked first among 47 Colorado hospitals and 30th among 2,711 hospitals nationally.

Social Responsibility, Grade A
Measures hospital performance across health equity, value, and patient outcomes.

Value of Care, Grade A
Measures cost efficiency and avoidance of unnecessary tests and procedures that offer little or no clinical benefit.

Patient Outcomes, Grade A
Measures patients' health outcomes and their experience of care.

Clinical Outcomes, Grade A
Measures patient mortality and hospital readmission rates over various periods of time.

Patient Satisfaction, Grade A
Measures patients' reported experiences with their hospital care.

"We're incredibly proud to see Montrose Regional Health perform so well across measures that directly reflect the care and value we provide our community," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health.

"These results belong to our physicians and caregivers who work every day to provide high-quality care, improve the patient experience and use our resources responsibly. To be recognized nationally for that work is a tremendous honor."

"The best hospitals aren't just clinical-

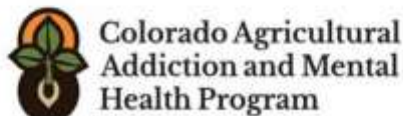
ly excellent; they're deeply committed to the communities they serve and work hard to ensure all patients get the care they need," said Vikas Saini, M.D., president of the Lown Institute.

"High performance on the Lown Index shows that hospitals are doing more of what matters to patients and communities."

To view Montrose Regional Health's complete Lown Hospitals Index result, visit <https://lownhospitalsindex.org/hospital/montrose-regional-health/>.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MRH EARNS MULTIPLE RECOGNITIONS FOR MATERNITY CARE

Recognitions highlight maternal health quality improvement and access to maternity care in western Colorado

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) has been designated a 2025 Maternal & Infant Care Quality Champion by the Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative (CPCQC). MRH is one of 34 Colorado hospitals recognized for achieving a 100% annual engagement record in at least one CPCQC-led clinical quality improvement initiative. The award comes as MRH also earned two 2026 maternity care distinctions from U.S. News & World Report.

Achieving 100% annual engagement required ongoing participation throughout the year, including regular data reporting, monthly initiative meetings, quarterly reviews, implementation of process improvements, and continued education related to CPCQC quality initiatives. The announcement coincides with the release of CPCQC's statewide report, "Stronger Systems, Safer Births: Colorado's 2025 Hospital Quality Improvement Report," which highlights hospital participation in maternal and infant health quality improvement efforts across Colorado. MRH participates in evidence-based maternal health quality initiatives, including CPCQC's SOAR program, which focuses on supporting safe vaginal delivery for low-risk mothers. Through these initiatives, MRH caregivers use standardized practices and safety protocols designed to improve outcomes for mothers and babies.

MRH has also been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a 2026 Best Hospital for Maternity Care and one of only two Colorado hospitals named a 2026 Maternity Care Access Hospital. The access designation recognizes hospitals that provide maternity services in communities that might otherwise have limited access to obstetric care. U.S. News evaluates maternity care using measures including C-section rates, severe unexpected newborn complications, birthing-friendly practices, and other quality indicators.

"These recognitions reflect the dedication of our entire Family Center and Alpine Women's Centre teams to providing compassionate, evidence-based care for every mother and baby we serve," said Jennifer Eckerman, service line director of women's services at Montrose Regional Health. "We're proud of the work our caregivers are doing to continually improve the quality and safety of care while helping families get the healthiest possible start."

To learn more about maternity services available through the Montrose Regional Health Family Center, visit montrosehealth.com/familycenter.

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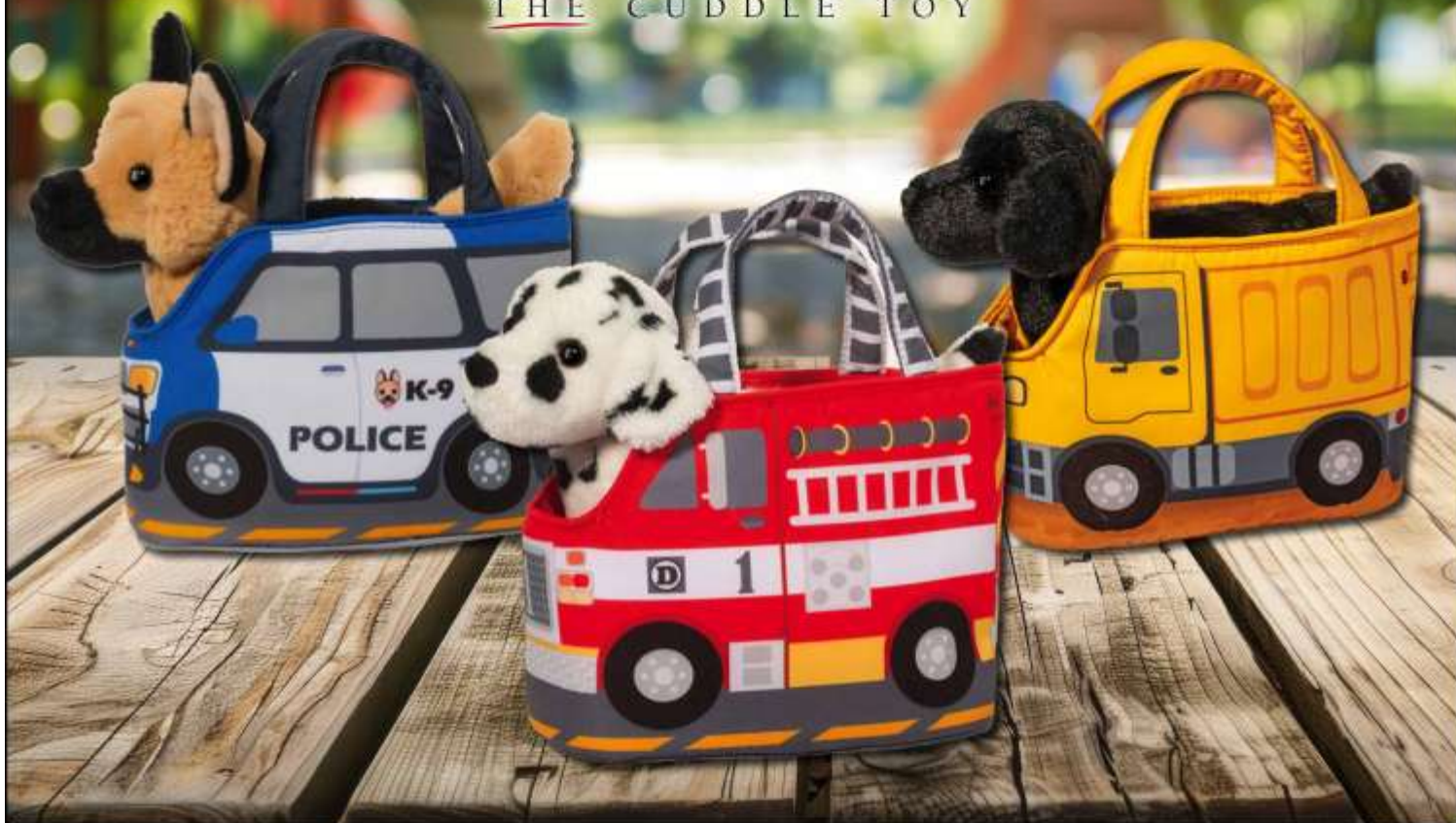
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES EARNS SECOND CONSECUTIVE DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE AWARD, DEPARTMENT ACHIEVES HIGHEST C-STATE SCORE TO DATE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County Human Services has once again been recognized by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) with the C-Stat Distinguished Performance Award, marking the second consecutive year the department has earned the honor.

Montrose County achieved a C-Stat score of 84% for 2025, the highest score in the county's history. The annual award recognizes counties for strong performance in delivering critical human services, with an emphasis on timeliness, safety and accuracy.

"Receiving this award for the second year in a row and achieving our highest score ever is a tremendous reflection of the work our team does every day," said Jennifer Sherwood, Director of Montrose County Human Services. "These measures represent much more than numbers. They reflect our commitment to making sure people receive the services and support they need accurately and on time. I'm incredibly proud of our staff and their continued dedication to the people of Montrose County."

Montrose County met its C-Stat goals in several key performance areas, including:

- Child Support Services (CSS): Timeliness of Review & Adjustment
- Division of Economic and Workforce Support (DEWS): Timeliness of New Adult Financial Applications
- DEWS: Timeliness of New Colorado Works Applications



Montrose County courtesy photo.

- DEWS: Timeliness of Colorado Works Redeterminations
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Application Processing Time
- SNAP Recertification Processing Time
- DCW Father Engagement Contacts Required Monthly

Meeting these benchmarks helps ensure Montrose County residents can access essential services when they need them, from food and financial assistance to child support and other programs that help individuals and families achieve greater stability and independence.

C-Stat is CDHS's performance management system used in partnership with counties across Colorado to measure outcomes, identify opportunities for improvement and strengthen the delivery of hu-

man services.

Montrose County's second consecutive Distinguished Performance Award reflects the department's continued focus on measurable results and quality service to the community.

The Montrose County Board of County Commissioners congratulates the Human Services team on this outstanding achievement.

Earning this recognition for the second consecutive year, along with a record C-Stat score, demonstrates the department's strong performance and the positive impact its employees make throughout Montrose County.

For more information about Montrose County services, visit www.montrosecounty.net

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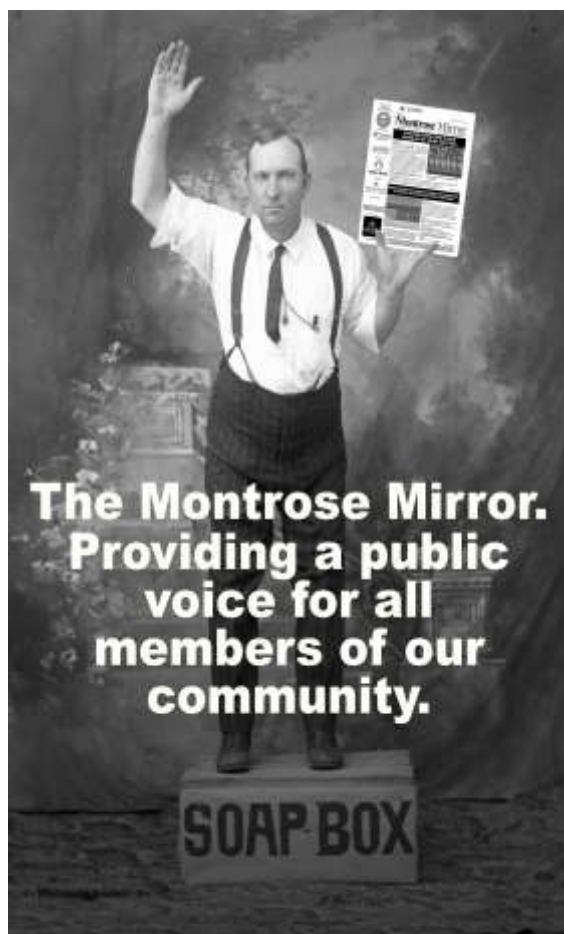
COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MRS. CLAUS FOR A CAUSE 80'S ADULT PROM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Mrs. Claus for a Cause wants to thank the community for its support of our 80's Adult Prom fundraiser Saturday, August 8th, at The Temple in Montrose. Your generosity helped us to raise almost \$15,000 for our free annual event, December 18-20th, at Friendship Hall in Montrose. Special thanks to our event sponsors: Screen Medic, The Dieter Agency, Budget Blinds, Camp Robber, Horsefly, and Community Banks of Colorado.

About Mrs. Claus for a Cause: An annual, free holiday community event open to all children and their families. Located at Friendship Hall in Montrose, December 18th & 19th are open to all families, with December 20th reserved for our friends with special needs. For more information and to volunteer or donate, please visit <https://mrsclausforacause.org/>.



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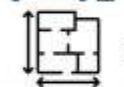


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

VICTOR MARX VISITS WESTERN MONTROSE COUNTY

By Sean Pond

Montrose County Commissioner, District 3

WESTERN MONTROSE COUNTY—Republican gubernatorial nominee Victor Marx recently visited Nucla and Naturita after accepting my invitation to see the West End of Montrose County firsthand.

I invited Victor because policies created in Denver can have enormous consequences for rural communities. Before developing policies affecting public lands, mining, energy, agriculture, and economic development, candidates need to meet the people who live here and understand the resources, history, and challenges of western Colorado.

Representative Larry Don Suckla joined us, along with local residents and professionals representing Anfield Energy, Nuvemco, and Western Uranium & Vanadium.

We toured public lands throughout western Montrose County and discussed the Horizon to Horizon proposed Dolores National Monument that our community helped defeat in 2024. We explained why local participation is essential whenever new federal land designations are considered. These lands are not empty spaces on a map. They support agriculture, recreation, responsible resource development, public access, and the economic survival of rural communities.

The group also toured portions of the Uravan Mineral Belt, one of the most historically significant uranium and vanadium districts in the United States. We discussed the region's uranium, vanadium, and other critical mineral resources and what responsible development could mean for Colorado.

The United States Department of Energy administers 31 uranium lease tracts covering approximately 26,000 acres within the Uravan Mineral Belt. The department estimates that 13.5 million pounds of uranium reserves remain on those tracts. These resources represent the potential for good paying jobs, local business activity, tax and royalty revenue, and a stronger domestic supply of minerals needed for American energy and national security.

Industry professionals explained their current projects, permitting efforts, mining operations, and the economic opportunities that could be created in Montrose County. For a small rural community, even a few dozen good paying jobs can support families, increase school enrollment, strengthen local businesses, and generate essential revenue for emergency services and other special districts.

We also visited the sites of the former New Horizon Mine and the demolished Nucla Station. The coal mine closed in 2017, eliminating 23 jobs. Nucla Station closed early in 2019, eliminating another 58 jobs. Together, those closures removed approximately 48 percent of the property tax revenue that had supported Montrose County and West End special districts.

Those numbers only tell part of the story. Families left the area, school enrollment and local commerce suffered, and the remaining residents were left carrying a larger financial burden. We discussed Colorado's Just Transition programs and the challenges our community experienced when assistance arrived after many displaced workers had already moved, retrained, or found employment elsewhere.

The tour moved quickly, and Victor received a great deal of information in a short period of time. I hope he follows up with additional questions because there is much more to understand about the West End.

I am grateful that he accepted my invitation. He came to one of the most isolated parts of Colorado, listened to local residents and industry professionals, asked questions, and saw our challenges and opportunities for himself.

Regardless of politics, rural Colorado benefits when statewide candidates make the effort to leave the Front Range and learn directly from the communities their decisions will affect.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Respectfully,

Sean Pond

Montrose County Commissioner

District 3



Republican gubernatorial nominee Victor Marx recently visited Nucla and Naturita. Photo courtesy of Montrose County Commissioner Sean Pond.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ZIGGI'S COFFEE PERFECTS FALL WITH A PUMPKIN MENU FOR THE WHOLE PATCH

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Ziggi's Coffee today announced the launch of its fall menu, marking the return of pumpkin across multiple product categories with returning favorites, new beverages, seasonal bread slices and a kid-friendly option. Available beginning today at all Ziggi's locations nationwide, the lineup reflects the brand's approach to perfecting pumpkin with a balance of sweet pumpkin and seasonal spice, served in more ways for guests of all ages to enjoy.

At the center of the lineup is the returning Pumpkin Pie Latte, crafted to deliver the balanced pumpkin flavor that serves as the inspiration for the broader seasonal menu. Available hot, iced or blended, the fall favorite is joined this year by new ways to experience the season, including an Iced Chai topped with Pumpkin Cream Cold Foam and a Pumpkin Pie Shaken Espresso featuring the brand's new Sweet Cream Cold Foam.

The full menu includes:

-Pumpkin Pie Latte – A Ziggi's signature fall favorite made with milk, espresso and pumpkin pie flavor, finished with pumpkin drizzle and a sprinkle of cinnamon. *Prices range from \$4.85-\$9.40.*

-Pumpkin Pie Shaken Espresso with Sweet Cream Cold Foam – Espresso and pumpkin pie flavor are shaken together for a smooth, frothy texture, then layered with milk and topped with rich, creamy Sweet Cream Cold Foam and a sprinkle of cinnamon. *Prices range from \$4.85-\$8.20.*

-Iced Chai with Pumpkin Cream Cold Foam – Your choice of chai flavor and milk poured over ice and topped with creamy Pumpkin Cream Cold Foam for a seasonal twist on a tea classic. *Prices range from \$6.75-\$9.00.*

-Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Bread – A rich, moist pumpkin bread studded with chocolate chips for a sweet taste of fall. *Prices range from \$3.95-\$4.35.*

-Gluten-Free Pumpkin Bread – A soft, moist gluten-free pumpkin bread filled with the sweet and spiced flavors of the season. *Prices range from \$4.10-\$4.50.* The launch also introduces Ziggi's new Sweet Cream Cold Foam, an improved product designed to deliver an even creamier, richer and more consistent cold foam experience.

Perfectly sweet and creamy on its own, the new Sweet Cream Cold Foam serves as a premium topping for select beverages across the menu while also providing a foundation for seasonal offerings, including this fall's Pumpkin Cream Cold Foam. The new product gives Ziggi's additional opportunities to introduce seasonal cold foam experiences throughout the year. "For us, perfecting pumpkin meant finding the right balance of pumpkin, sweetness and spice while making sure the espresso and chai at the heart of our drinks still come through," said Dani Wanner, Vice President of Operations and Product Development at Ziggi's Coffee. "We know our longtime guests look forward to the return of the Pumpkin Pie Latte, but we

also want someone trying Ziggi's for the first time to discover a new fall favorite that delivers both the seasonal flavor they're looking for and the quality of the drink underneath it.

We also created the Lil' Frozen Pumpkin Pie Blender just for kids, so parents can enjoy their seasonal favorite while their kids get one of their own. We want Ziggi's to be a destination for the whole family this fall."

For younger pumpkin fans, Ziggi's is introducing the Lil' Frozen Pumpkin Pie Blender to its kidZone menu. The caffeine-free drink brings the flavors of the brand's seasonal classic to a kid-sized frozen beverage. For a limited-time, guests can purchase a Lil' Frozen Pumpkin Pie Blender for \$2.50* with the purchase of any qualifying full-sized pumpkin drink, giving every guest a way to experience Ziggi's take on the season together.

Ziggi's fall menu is available for a limited time at all locations nationwide beginning Aug. 18, 2026. Product availability, selection and pricing may vary by location.

***Lil' Frozen Pumpkin Pie Blender Offer:** Lil' Frozen Pumpkin Pie Blender available for \$2.50 with the purchase of one qualifying full-sized pumpkin beverage. Offer valid in-store only at Ziggi's Coffee locations for a limited time. Price excludes applicable taxes, tips, and beverage modifiers. Product availability and selection may vary by location. Offer details are subject to change without notice.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DALLAS AREA CLOSED TO PUBLIC DURING CONSTRUCTION WORK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests' Ouray Ranger District will temporarily close National Forest System lands in the immediate vicinity of Dallas Trailhead on County Road 17 beginning Aug. 24 at 9 a.m. to ensure public safety during a Ouray County construction project.

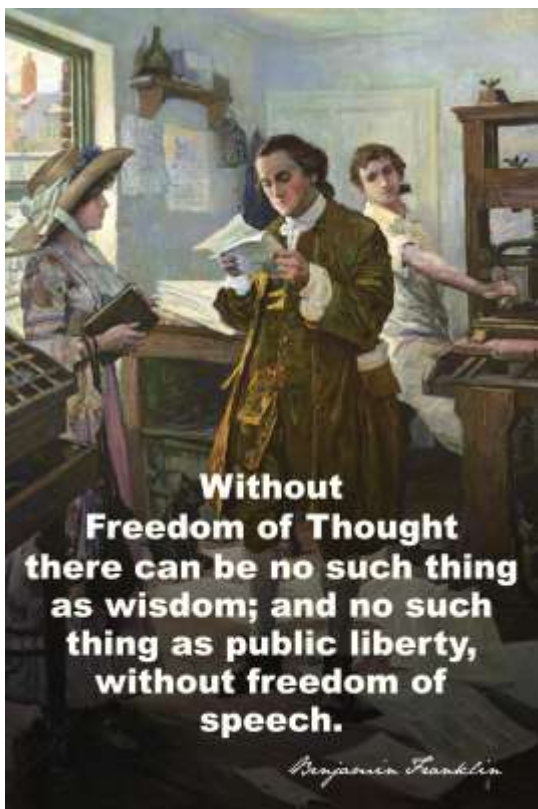
The closure is necessary while crews operate heavy equipment in the vicinity of the trailhead as part of a Federal Emergency Management Agency hazard mitigation grant aimed at reducing recurring flooding on Corbett Creek at County Road 17.

A full closure details and a detailed map can be found [here](#).

The closure will remain in effect from Aug. 24 at 9 a.m. through Nov. 1 unless the order is rescinded earlier. During this period, visitors should plan ahead, avoid the described area, and use alternate trail access points.

The Forest Service appreciates the public's patience and cooperation as partners complete this important safety-driven mitigation work.

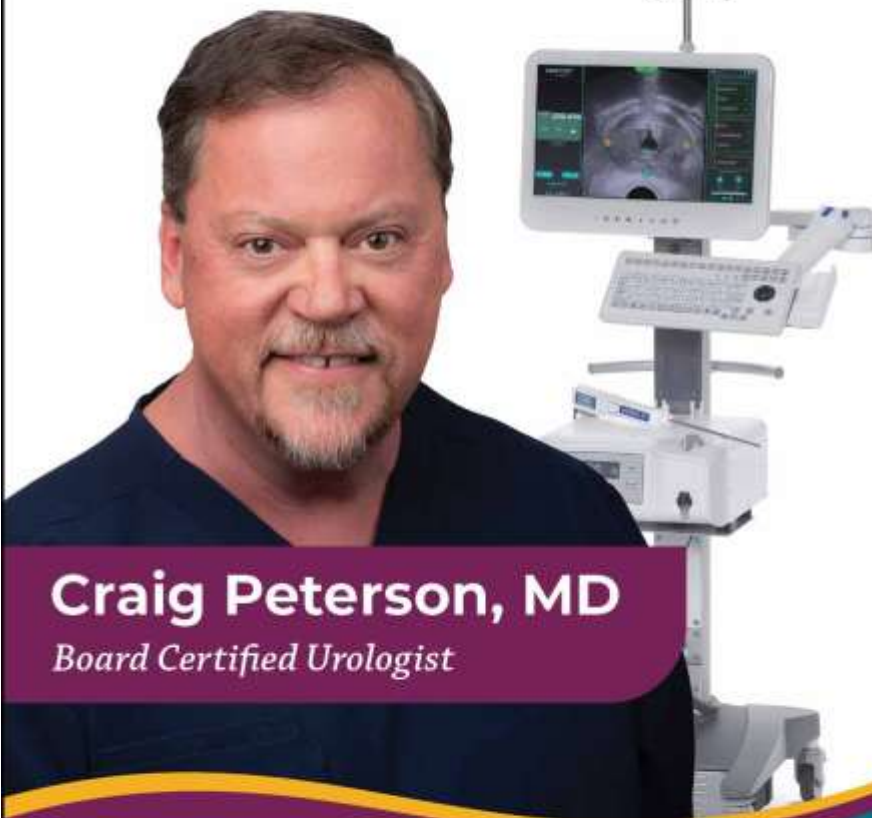
For more information, contact the Ouray Ranger District in Montrose at 970-240-5300.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OPHIR PASS ROAD TO CLOSE WEEKDAYS FOR MINE CLEANUP

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Norwood Ranger District will temporarily close Ophir Pass Road (National Forest System Road 630) on weekdays beginning Aug. 24 to ensure public safety during hazardous materials removal and construction work at the abandoned New Dominion Mine.

The temporary closure supports the hauling of materials and construction of a retaining wall associated with the mine cleanup project led by the Forest Service and partner agencies.

The road will be closed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting Aug. 24 and continuing through Sept. 11. Ophir Pass Road will remain open daily from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. and all day on weekends during this period.

Full closure details and a detailed map will be added to the [GMUG alerts page](#) once the closure is active.

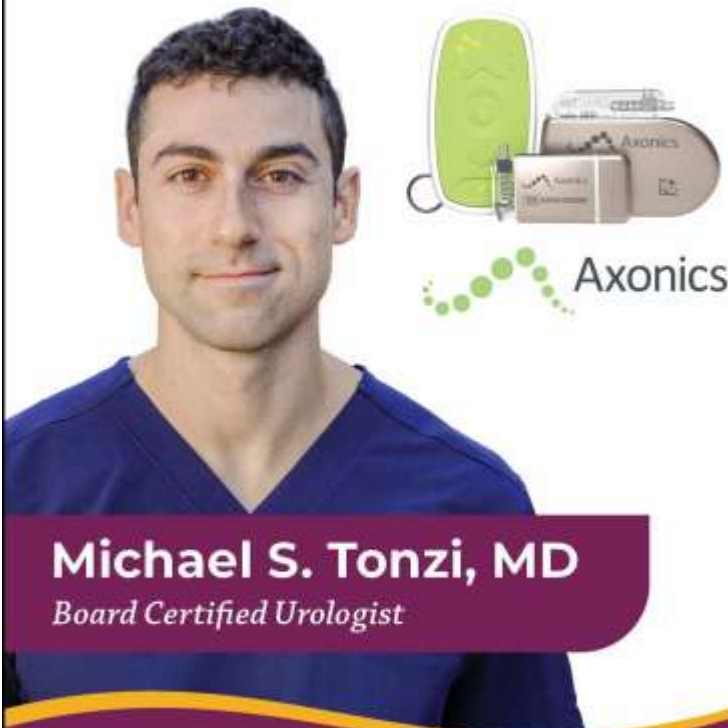
The Forest Service appreciates the public's patience and cooperation as crews complete this important safety-driven mitigation work.

For more information, contact the Norwood Ranger District at 970-327-4261.

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MODERNIZATION PROJECT BEGINS AT LAKE IRWIN

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON-The Lake Irwin Campground and Day Use Area will undergo site modernization starting September 2026, requiring full demolition and reconstruction of facilities. Construction will continue through October 2027, with a full public closure planned for the entire 2027 season.

Facilities at Lake Irwin were built in the 1960s and have exceeded their useful life. The reconstruction project will update the site to meet current recreation needs and improve safety.

Parking capacity will triple; eight new campsites will be added — expanding the campground from 32 to 40 sites — and roads, trails, kiosks, picnic areas and restrooms will be replaced or rebuilt.

In 2026, the campground will close on its regular seasonal date of Sept. 8, while the day-use area will remain open. While the day-use area will remain open in 2026, construction crews may temporarily cordon off areas or slow traffic as needed to maintain public safety.

In 2027, the full closure will include National Forest System Road 826. While public access will be restricted, landowners who access their property via NFSR 826 will retain necessary access. During the closure, a gate will be installed and an enforcement plan will be established. More information will be provided closer to the 2027 recreation season, as details may change.

A grand reopening is planned for June 2028.

Please visit the [project landing page](#) for updates and additional project information.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STEADYFLOW LLC LAUNCHES FULLY MECHANICAL STEADYFLOW GATE FOR IRRIGATION AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Special to the Mirror

CAÑON CITY— SteadyFlow LLC, a new Colorado water technology company that spun out of [3 Rocks Engineering and Surveying](#), today announced the launch of a patented, fully mechanical technology for water management. The [SteadyFlow Gate](#) is a non-electric flow-control gate designed to automatically maintain consistent water flow for irrigation and water-management applications.

The SteadyFlow Gate addresses a longstanding challenge for water users: maintaining the desired flow when water levels fluctuate on a daily basis. Traditional headgates often require repeated manual adjustment as water levels rise and fall, often several times a day. SteadyFlow's automatic regulation can save time, improve predictability and reduce the need for manual intervention as upstream conditions change.

"Managing water requires constant attention to changing conditions as water flows shift, and within our industry, we're still doing much of this work by hand to keep up," said Alex Ewers, founder of SteadyFlow. "We developed the SteadyFlow Gate to take that burden off people's plates with an easy-to-use, straightforward, mechanical solution that automatically handles a task that otherwise requires someone to drive back and forth and adjust gates manually. Our goal is to make it easier for people to get the water they're entitled to while making the system simpler to operate."

For irrigation users, benefits include fewer manual gate adjustments, enhanced infrastructure protection, more equitable water distribution and support for riparian environments. The system can also help ensure users receive the water they are entitled to as levels decrease, protecting what little water users have in low water or drought years.

For stormwater applications, the gate can better regulate discharge from detention basins, reduce flood risk and potentially reduce the required detention-basin footprint.

SteadyFlow's current design is intended for flows of approximately 0.1 to 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) with 1 to 10 feet of available head.

The gate was developed by engineers and agricultural producers at 3 Rocks Engineering and Surveying and was patented in 2017. Development of the SteadyFlow Gate has received support from both state and federal programs. 3 Rocks received an Early-Stage Capital and Retention grant through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade's Advanced Industries Accelerator Program, and the technology received a USDA Small Business Innovation Research Phase II grant to support continued research and development.

SteadyFlow recently joined Colorado's Rural Jump-Start Program in Fremont County through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), where the company plans to grow its manufacturing operations.

For more information, visit <https://www.steadyflowgate.com/>.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TABOR BALLOT QUESTION TO VOTERS THIS NOVEMBER.FROM ADVANCE COLORADO INSTITUTE REPORT

Editor:

"While it is advertised as a path to fund education, it would allow the state to permanently retain and spend revenue above Colorado's TABOR spending cap rather than refunding that money back to taxpayers. The measure directs the retained revenue primarily toward K-12 education funding over a ten year period, but—importantly- allows the permanent retention of any Tabor revenue well beyond ten

years and gives the legislature the ability to spend these funds largely however they wish."

"Additionally, the measure is statutory rather than constitutional. This means it would become state law; not part of the state constitution, allowing future legislators authority to change or repeal it with another vote at the Capital without need of voter approval. A constitutional measure, by contrast, permanently amends the

state constitution and is much harder to change, requiring 55% of voter approval. While voters are told the retained revenue will support education and children's programs, those spending promises are not permanently protected in the constitution." Do we want to give the Denver politicians a blank check????? This measure would also permanently eliminate TABOR. Voters beware.

Carol McBride, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HONORING THE AMERICAN AND COLORADO SUFFRAGE MOVEMENTS - WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE - 19TH AMENDMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Republican Women (MRW) is celebrating 90 years of being in the forefront of Colorado politics. In April of 1936, MRW became a charter member of the National Federation of Republican Women. Colorado was one of the original eleven state chapters of NFRW. The Montrose club has always been focused on promoting the education of women in good governance, being actively engaged in political discourse, directly participating in our government and promoting the right to vote!

As Colorado celebrates 150 years of statehood, Colorado women can also celebrate their historic pursuit for the right to vote. In 1876, Colorado became the 38th state. In 1893, twenty-three years later, Colorado became the first state to grant women's suffrage through a popular public referendum that amended the state's Constitution.

It wasn't until August 26, 1920, when women were officially granted the right to vote in America. The Nineteenth

Amendment of the Constitution was ratified by Congress after 42 years of intense campaigns, marches, protests and court battles. The Suffrage movement made its way from Europe to America with the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in New York. For 70 years organized women pursued this issue. The Amendment made it illegal to deny a citizen the right to vote based on sex. Suffragettes were empowered by the fact that all citizens would have the right to participate and have a voice in our great Republic.

Find more information about the Colorado Federation of Republican Women (CFRW.org) and Register to vote at GoVoteColorado.com.



Montrose Republican Women - Jody Dewey, Diane Carabetta, Kerri Catlin, Marti Barnes, Cherie Whiteford, and Roena Frank. Thank you to Montrose County Historical Museum for the backdrop. Courtesy photo.

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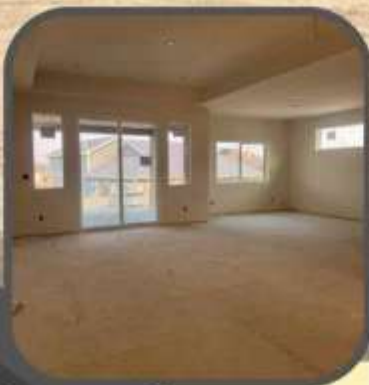
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE BOARD SHOULD REINSTATE DR. STEPHENSON

Editor:

There has been a lot of talk lately, especially in social media circles, suggesting that Dr. Carrie Stephenson has pushed some kind of “woke liberal agenda” in Montrose County School District. As a community member, I believe that claim deserves a closer look. The truth is that a superintendent should not be serving a political party. A superintendent should be serving students, families, teachers, taxpayers, and the long-term needs of the community. From what I have seen, Dr. Stephenson’s leadership has reflected balance, not ideology.

One example is parental rights. In 2022, Dr. Stephenson brought forward a policy change related to sex education. The district moved away from a simple opt-out approach and toward an opt-in/opt-out process so parents would be more clearly informed and have a direct opportunity to approve instruction that could be considered personal or controversial. That is not an example of hiding information from parents. That is an example of increasing parent awareness and parent control.

That same approach was applied to the district’s policy on controversial issues and materials. Again, the point was to make sure parents were informed and that schools handled sensitive topics carefully and transparently. Those are principles many conservatives have asked schools to take seriously.

Another example involved the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. After the State of Colorado changed the survey to include questions related to gender identification, Dr. Stephenson opted Montrose County School District out of participating. Whether people agree or disagree with that decision, it is hard to honestly describe it as evidence of a “woke liberal agenda.”

Dr. Stephenson’s leadership has also placed a major emphasis on Career and Technical Education, career pathways, workforce readiness, industry credentials, work-based learning, financial literacy, and preparation for life after high school. Those priorities are strongly reflected in the district’s new strategic plan. The plan focuses on reading, writing, math, science, history, technology literacy, career awareness, entrepreneurial skills, professional skills, financial literacy, character, work ethic, and real-world preparation.

That does not sound like a partisan agenda. It sounds like a practical plan for students in a rural Western Slope community. The new strategic plan also makes community trust and local values a clear priority. It calls for transparency, clear communication, community engagement, school choice options, family partnership, and shared responsibility. Those are not left-wing or right-wing ideas. They are common-sense expectations for public schools.

People can disagree with Dr. Stephenson. They can criticize decisions. They can ask hard questions. That is part of public service. But calling her “woke” or pretending that her leadership has been one-sided ignores the record.

A good superintendent should not be trying to satisfy the loudest political faction. A good superintendent should be trying to balance parent rights, student needs, academic expectations, workforce preparation, community values, and legal responsibilities. From the examples above, Dr. Stephenson has done exactly that.

Montrose County students do not need more political labels. They need strong schools, honest leadership, parent involvement, career opportunities, academic expectations, and a community willing to look at facts before repeating slogans.

For those reasons, I believe the Board should reinstate Dr. Stephenson to her position as Superintendent of Montrose County School District. The district needs steady, experienced leadership, not political theater. Reinstating Dr. Stephenson would send a clear message that the Board is willing to put students, staff, families, and the future of our schools ahead of political pressure and misinformation.

-Kelly Fox, Montrose



ELECTION INTEGRITY REPORT— WERE STATE STATUTES BYPASSED IN THE 2026 MONTROSE MUNICIPAL ELECTION? - Part 3 *Certainly, with More Questions than Answers*

By David White

MONTROSE—As those of you who are following the questions raised over the last three (3) weeks regarding the integrity of the City of Montrose municipal election held on April 7th of this year, at this point in time, there have been no qualified answers coming from City Council members regarding the irregularities disclosed by City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo in a public statement she made at the City Council Work Session on August 3, 2026.

To recap, following is an excerpt from the first article I penned on August 10, 2026, and which appeared in The Montrose Mirror that started the current public 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>)”

[v=TFxfMMzvHAM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFxfMMzvHAM))”

As the ongoing saga of the compromised 2026 City of Montrose municipal election continues, the protestations emanating from the mouths of Councilors David Reed and Dave Frank along with City Manager Bill Bell and their activist friends are truly indicative of the blind dogma that they are beholden to on this subject and many others related to the administration that they are charged with overseeing. This is the basis of Part 3 (today’s installment) of the questions that need to be answered by the City Council. Hiring of an outside investigator is clearly called for as is a close legal examination of questionable election procedures.

At the end of the City Council Work Session on Monday, August 17th, Councilor Frank stated that the articles on this subject are an ***“attack on City staff, the City Clerk and the City Administration,”*** that the articles are ***“unacceptable,” “disinformation,” “misinformation” and a “vendetta”*** as well as other buzz words that simply do not address the issues that have been brought forward. City Manager Bill Bell, on numerous occasions, has labeled any critique of City government as ***“lies and misinformation designed to harm my reputation and the reputation of my city employees”*** as he did in an email to the publisher of The Montrose Mirror on August 10, 2026 (see last week’s article for the cut and pasted text of that email - <https://www.montrosemirror.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/MM703.pdf>). Such remarks and many more emanating from City Hall border on religious style “dogma,” which, in this context, refers to a belief that is held so firmly that it inhibits an individual’s ability to question or consider alternative viewpoints. This strong adherence can create a mental barrier, preventing critical thinking and open discussion. Not one of these individuals or their supporters have acknowledged that the information presented in every article came directly from their organization through a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request that was sent to

both the City of Montrose and Montrose County. The words were theirs. The spin is to simply to “shoot the messenger” for exposing the deliberate attempt to interfere in an election. Who knows how many times this happens with other areas of governance within the walls of City Hall; however, a pattern is a pattern.

As can be seen in writing; in open public statements on the City’s YouTube channel and other outlets, these dogmatic beliefs are accepted without scrutiny or doubt. These elected officials, who should be questioning every concerned citizen’s inquiry, are instead defending the very public servants (“staff”) that are there to do a job in the public’s interest, not to be defended for the times that they don’t by these elected officials. This again plays to the fact that some politicians (Frank and Reed in particular) have had their loyalties skewed in the direction of City leadership and their respective staff members and not in your favor. They seem to unequivocally resist new information or perspectives that challenge their now established beliefs. This rigidity can lead to a narrow understanding of issues that are brought before them, as alternative viewpoints are disregarded without consideration. Such is the case with these questions regarding election integrity.

Going back to the opening of this article... we find in answer to Councilor Woodden’s inquiry about the missing 42 ballots that were not electronically tabulated according to the contractual agreement with the Montrose County Clerk’s Office and in accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes along with another supposed 41 ballots that were in her office, that City Clerk DelPiccolo gave her reason for violating protocols was, in a nutshell, her concern that there was ***“election bias” (she used the word “impartial”) in the County Clerk’s Office.*** That was the story on August 3rd as stated above.

Information now being released by City Clerk DelPiccolo to the public has manifested itself into the following statement: ***“...The county elections staff requested that we take the untabulated remnant***

Continued next pg

ELECTION INTEGRITY – 2026 MONTROSE MUNICIPAL ELECTION? From previous pg

batch of 42 ballots back to the city election room."

As has been reported in the two prior articles on this subject, **nothing could be further from the truth!**

The paper trail given this writer through his CORA requests shows the complete opposite to be the case as evidenced in these email exchanges between County Clerk Tressa Guynes and City Clerk 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, 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

After yet another request for the missing ballots to be brought to the County Clerk's Office for tabulation, Ms. DelPiccolo, On Apr 20, 2026, at 3:25 PM, Lisa DelPiccolo <ldelpiccolo@cityofmontrose.org> wrote:

Hello Tressa,

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

LISA DELPICCOLO MMC

Contract violations. Senior leadership involvement in an election. Not following all of the state mandated election protocols. Oh, there's nothing to see here is there? Let's move on to other areas of concern as well as apparent violations of Title 31 of the Colorado Revised Statutes which govern municipal elections.

As has been pointed out previously, Ms. DelPiccolo chose election judges to watch over the election process. Of the 16 judges, 15 were City employees with the 16th being the Town Clerk for Mt. Crested Butte, CO, a municipality in Gunnison County.

In spite of concerns raised about conflicts of interest, the potential for City employees and their bosses to put a "thumb on the scale" as it were through comments, influences of varying sorts, she chose to pick election judges from a biased pool of individuals. As a matter of fact, on the City's "Elections" web page, she and the City state that this has been a common practice since 1994! And they brag about it!

"Since the city instituted mail ballot elections in 1994, city employees have traditionally served as election judges along with some volunteers. Also, any city employee who might be in contact with ballots, such as retrieving mail, or employees who might need to be the election room for IT or legal purposes is trained and takes an oath as an election judge." (<https://www.cityofmontrose.org/253/Election-Integrity>)

All I can say is OMG! This public statement on their website makes this okay? Sorry folks, this "tradition" needs to come to an immediate end.

In following up on what the Colorado Revised Statutes say about this under Title 31 as well as what is in the City's Code of Ordinances, it appears that Ms. DelPiccolo had **NOT been empowered** to select even ONE election judge.

Here are, directly from City sources as well as the State of Colorado, the rules regarding the selection of election judges by municipalities and the City of Montrose in particular:

CHAPTER 1-17. – ELECTIONS (CITY OF MONTROSE CODE):

(https://library.municode.com/co/montrose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_TITIAD_CH1-17EL)

ARTICLE III. - ELECTIONS

Sec. 8. - Judges of their election.

The City Council shall be the judge of

the election and qualifications of its own members, subject to review by the courts in case of contest, as by Statutes of Colorado in such case provided.

(https://library.municode.com/co/montrose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICH_ARTIIIEL_S8JUTHEL)

Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 31-10

-401 - Appointment of election judges

At least fifteen days before each municipal election, the governing body shall appoint the judges of election.

Each judge of election shall be an elector registered to vote in Colorado and shall be at least eighteen years of age. The clerk shall make and file in his office a list of all persons so appointed, giving their names, addresses, and precincts. Such list shall be a public record and shall be subject to inspection and examination during office hours by any qualified elector of the municipality with the right to make copies thereof. **The governing body may BY RESOLUTION (emphasis added) delegate to the clerk the authority and responsibility to appoint judges of election.**

In addition to the statutory obligation cited above, on the City's website one can find a document titled "Colorado Municipal Government, An Introduction" published by the Colorado Municipal League (of which the City is a longstanding member) posted on April 14, 2020 by City Clerk DelPiccolo wherein, on page 20, it states:

"The council (or city clerk if the council has by resolution delegated to the clerk the authority and responsibility there) must appoint the election judges at least 15 days before each city election. At least three election judges and such additional judges as deemed necessary shall be appointed. (<https://www.cityofmontrose.org/DocumentCenter/View/32291/CML---Colorado-Municipal-Government--An-Introduction>)"

According to all public records and resolutions approved by the Montrose City Council between December 1, 2025 and April 1, 2026, there were **NO RESOLUTIONS** presented to or approved by the City Council specifically delegating the authority to appoint election judges for

ELECTION INTEGRITY – 2026 MONTROSE MUNICIPAL ELECTION? From previous pg

for the April 7, 2026, municipal election. The City Clerk appointed her own panel of judges...AGAIN.

For reference, on **December 2, 2025** (the last Council meeting of 2025) the council approved **Resolution 2025-23**, allowing future borrowing of funding for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project to reimburse the Sewer Utility Fund. They also approved **Resolution 2025-21**, authorizing a mail ballot election for the 2026 Municipal Election, and **Resolution 2025-22**, which approved findings of fact for the Haynes Addition annexation. In 2026, up to the statutorily defined mandate to appoint election judges at least 15 days prior to a municipal election, at the **March 17, 2026** Council meeting, the Council approved only one resolution – the first in 2026 - **Resolution 2026-01** (Supporting a Comprehensive and Sustainable Transportation Funding Solution).

A resolution delegating the appointment of election judges by any given City Council, CANNOT be a “one and done” resolution in case you’re wondering as City Councils and City Clerks come and go. Any delegation of authority to appoint election judges by the City Council to the City Clerk must be done by a resolution of the Council for **EACH ELECTION**. My research indicates that this election requirement has not been met for years if ever.

Resolution No. 2025-21, which authorized the holding of the mail ballot municipal election on April 7, 2026, specifically cites that it is in accordance with State statutes including Title 31, Article 10 under which the above citation is found. The City Clerk and City Attorney need to answer why this provision and requirement wasn’t and hasn’t been complied with as nowhere in this resolution or elsewhere have I found that Council delegated its authority to appoint election judges to the City Clerk.

Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 31-10-605 - Judge to keep pollbook

A judge of election shall keep a pollbook, which shall contain one column headed “names of voters” and one column headed “number on ballot.” The name and number on the ballot of each registered elector voting shall be entered in regular succession under the headings in the poll-

book.

The City doesn’t identify the Judge who had the pollbook referring only to the City Clerk. Interesting and questionable.

Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 31-10-615 - Judges to post returns

In addition to all certificates otherwise required to be made of the count of votes polled at any election, the judges of election are hereby required to make out an abstract of the count of votes, which abstract shall contain the names of the officers, names of the candidates, ballot titles and submission clauses of all initiated, referred, or other measures voted upon, and the number of votes counted for or against each candidate or measure. Said abstract shall be posted in a conspicuous place upon the outside of the polling place immediately upon completion of the count. The abstract may be removed at any time after forty-eight hours following the election. Suitable blanks for the required abstract shall be prepared, printed, and furnished to all judges of election at the same time and in the same manner as other election supplies are furnished. Not all judges were present. Questions remain if this statute was followed.

Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 31-10-911 - Counting mail ballots

The election officials at the mail ballot counting center (i.e. – the County Clerk’s Office) may receive and prepare mail ballots delivered and turned over to them by the clerk (City) for counting. Counting of the mail ballots may begin fifteen days prior to the election and continue until counting is completed. The election official in charge of the mail ballot counting center shall take all precautions necessary to ensure the secrecy of the counting procedures, and the election officials or watchers shall not release any information concerning the count until after 7 p.m. on election day.

In the case of this year’s election and was disclosed by the City Attorney, over the course of the last 7 municipal elections spanning 14 years, the counting of ballots **HAS NOT** been in accordance with State statutes as discussed previously and outlined in the following statutes:

Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 31-10-811 - Electronic vote counting

(2) The return ***printed by the electronic vote tabulating equipment, to which have been added write-in votes, shall constitute, when certified by the clerk, the official return of each precinct.*** The clerk may from time-to-time release unofficial returns. Upon completion of the count, the official returns shall be open to the public.

(4) If for any reason it becomes ***impracticable*** to count all or a part of the ballots with electronic vote tabulating equipment, the clerk may direct that they be counted manually, following as far as practicable the provisions governing the counting of paper ballots.

(5) “....The conduct of municipal elections when electronic voting systems are used shall follow, as nearly as practicable, the conduct of general and primary elections when such systems are used.”

As has been pointed out in a prior article, the contract between the City of Montrose and the Montrose County Clerk’s Office was and is quite clear. **Section 15** of the contract 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 said 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

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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 ballots needed to reach 50 that night and took them back to her office in City Hall where she later counted them by hand. Unless it was "impracticable" as the statute says to split the counting of ballots by the certified electronic tabulation equipment in the County Clerk's Office by hand counting the claimed last 83 ballots –

which are still in the possession of the City Clerk – which it wasn't as the split counting of ballots happened as a result of a "perception" not facts – this municipal election was "spoiled", and violations of state law were made.)

Mr. Frank. Mr. Reed. Mr. Bell. Stop the stonewalling and finger pointing. Own some sense of responsibility to the citizens of Montrose. Put your dogmatic beliefs aside and agree to investigate this past election and, at a minimum, question what happened under the light of an investigation into the concerns that have been raised by many in our community over this matter. Your actions to the contrary (to date) speak volumes. If you don't

have it in you, resign and let someone who doesn't have your misplaced sense of loyalty do the work for you.

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.

READ ALL ABOUT IT



MONTROSE MIRROR

CELEBRATION OF LIFE/OBITUARIES

BRUCE DUANE KERR

October 4, 1941- August 12, 2026



Bruce was born to Martha and Fredric Kerr, on October 4th 1941 in Titusville Pennsylvania. He was the second

youngest of 5 siblings. He passed away on August 12th in Montrose, Colorado. Bruce lived 84 years, and is survived by his wife Lynda, Sons Duane (wife Teresa and grandson Calvin) and C. Paul (wife Ruthanne).

During his adolescent years he spent time

in Hershey's School for Boys in Hersey, Pennsylvania. He moved to Craig, Colorado to live with his oldest sister Isabel and Paul Dillion for his teenage years. He graduated from Moffat County High School in Craig, Colorado in 1961. He served in the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1964. After leaving the Air Force he received his Journeyman's Electrician Certificate and worked at Union Carbide in Uravan, Colorado. He spent most of his working years as a Maintenance Electrician at power houses in Utah, Wyoming and other western states.

Jeff Dillon asked Bruce to chaperone a school dance. While at the dance no one was dancing. So Bruce asked Jeff who was his teacher was. Bruce then asked Lynda to dance to get the kids on the floor.

Bruce and Lynda were married March 29, 1970.

Bruce and his family lived in Colorado, Wyoming, Alaska and Utah before settling in Redvale Colorado in 1997. Both Bruce and his wife have traveled to all states including Alaska and Hawaii. They have also traveled to most of the Canadian providences.

In 1986 he completed his dream of getting his Pilot license. Bruce then flew family and friends around the western states. He also made many cross country flights with other pilots. One of his longest was with some friends when they moved a plane from Alaska to Texas.

Funeral services will be a graveside service at the Coventry Cemetery in Redvale, on September 5th 11am with a luncheon after at the Redvale Community Center. In lieu of flowers please send donations to Redvale Community Center.

Fair winds and blue sky to all.

CHERYL BETH HOKIT

March 18, 1948- August 11, 2026

CHERYL BETH HOKIT, age 78, passed away August 11, 2026 at her home in Abbott, TX. She was born on March 18, 1948, to Ralph and Sarah Lloyd who preceded her in death.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph Hokit Sr.; sister, Mary (Don) Tennesen; and son, Sean (Jennifer) Stansberry; grandchildren Zachary Stansberry, Morgan (Niko) Youngren and Audrey (Cesar) Molina; great grandchildren Jayden Youngren, Beth Molina and Maggie Molina; nieces and nephews, in-law families and many close friends who were very special to her.

Cheryl was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1966. After high school, she moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where her son Sean was born. Next was Oxnard, California, where she lived for several years until she moved back to Aurora, Colorado. In 1973, she and her fami-

ly moved to the Montrose/Olathe area in Colorado where she resided until she retired in 1999.

She earned the designation of Certified Insurance Counselor, was a member of PIIAC, member and past President of the Altrusa Club of Montrose, and a member of Montrose Christian Church. She earned her Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Colorado Christian University and was part owner of The Insurance Center of Montrose, where she and her son, Sean worked together for several years. Cheryl retired in 1999, and she and her husband Joe Hokit moved to a ranch in Abbott, Texas. She was a substitute teacher, hospice caregiver and Sunday school teacher. She and her husband Joe were members of the First Baptist Church in West, TX.

She was a devoted wife, a kind sister, a beloved mother, loving grandmother and great-grandmother, a well-respected

member of the community and a dear friend to so many. She will live in our hearts and will be missed greatly by those who knew

her. Memorial services will be held at 11am, Thursday, August 20, 2026 at the First Baptist Church in West, TX. In addition, a celebration of life will be held at Montrose Christian Church in Montrose, CO, at 9:00am on Saturday, August 29, 2026, followed by a reception. Please bring your stories and memories to share.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JAMES "MIKE" MICHAEL TRICKEY ***October 28, 1949- August 17, 2026***

JAMES "MIKE" MICHAEL TRICKEY, passed away August 17, 2026, at Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose, Colorado.

Surrounded by family, he left peacefully. Mike was born October 28, 1949, in Oswego, Kansas, the son of the late Charlie and N. Marjorie (Campbell) Trickey.

Mike was a United States Marine Corps veteran, serving from May 1968 to May 1972.

During the Vietnam war, Mike was stationed at El Torro, California where he was a mechanic, primarily working on Phantom III jets, which he would often recount.

From 2017 to 2022, Mike was the Executive Director of Welcome Home Alliance For Veterans (WHAfV) and board member for both WHAFV and the Montrose Veterans Memorial Center. He was a cherished mentor at the center and led major annual fundraisers for WHAFV. Mike was the visionary behind Montrose Veterans Memorial Plaza.

He was an unwavering supporter of veterans in the community.

He enjoyed fly fishing, classic cars, barbecuing, chocolate donuts, and root beer. While he was known for his quick wit and humor, he was very passionate about supporting veterans and made it his focus.

Mike is survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Kylee Dell Smith; daughter Marjorie Hensley of Oroville, California, and stepsons Michael Grigg of Seattle, Washington and Scott Grigg of Washington, D.C.;

Two granddaughters, Carissa Housouer and Bryanna Hensley; one brother, Alan Trickey, one sister, Barbara Ryerson, along with many other family and friends who will miss him very much.

There will be a visitation for Mike at Welcome Home Montrose on Thursday, August 27, 2026, from 9-11 a.m. and arrangements have been made for graveside services 2 p.m., Friday, August 28, 2026, at the Veterans Cemetery in Grand View Cemetery, 16300 6450 Ct. Mont-



rose, CO 81403.

If you'd like to honor Mike, please consider a donation to Welcome Home Alliance For Veterans or simply thank the vet for their service.

JUAN MANUEL MENDEZ BECERRA ***October 6, 1992- August 14, 2026***



JUAN MANUEL MENDEZ BECERRA was born to Melecio Mendez and Estela Becerra on October 6, 1992 in Fresnillo, Zacatecas Mexico, entered into eternal peace on August 14, 2026.

Juan Manuel enjoyed walking, going to the mountains, and riding bikes. Loved spending time with his precious sons on the weekends going to the park and fishing. Always made his sons happy taking him to McDonalds all the time. His dream was always to drive semis.

Survived by his sons Izaiah, Jordan, Omar, of Montrose, Colorado and daughters Alejandra of Zacatecas, Mexico and Kianna of Montrose, Colorado. Brothers Enrique, Humberto Jose Guadalupe of Mexico and sisters Araceli, Letecia, Luz Maria, Marisa of Mexico and sisters Lorena and Adriana of Montrose, Colorado. Juan Manuel was preceded in death by his father Melecio.

Viewing and remembering will take place at Crippin Funeral Home Chapel on August 21, 2026 from 4-7 P.M. and Rosary 7-8 P.M. Juan Manuel will be taken to his eternal resting place in Rio Florido, Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico.

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ART & SOL

BOOK FAIR

September 19th - UTE MUSEUM - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Meet the Authors, Artists, & Publishers

DON'T MISS THE 1ST ANNUAL MONTROSE COUNTY BOOK FAIR!

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE-Sept 19th will be the 1st Annual Montrose Book Fair. It's kind of a big deal. And it's less than a month away! Authors, illustrators, Indie publishers, and historical society booksellers from around our region will gather at the Ute Indian Museum to share their literary and artistic contributions. Visitors can chat with authors, learn about their books, and enjoy live music, food and drink, and shopping with Native vendors on the museum patio. The main event will be held inside the museum's conference center, with about 30 participants showing and selling books and illustrations. Several are author/illustrators for children's books, and a few of them will be drawing and painting during the event.

Author W.L. Bach will be celebrating the launch of his latest military thriller.

Books about Western and local history and those about WWI and WW II and the Civil War era draw a lot of interest. Julie VanLaanen, an indie publisher, Filter Press (from Westcliffe, CO), which focuses on Colorado history, will be bringing one of

her authors with her. The Montrose Historical Society will have a booth about local history. Joe Zeni, president of the Mesa County Historical Society, will be there with his award-winning history book, Promise. San Juan Publishing will be featuring several of their award-winning western and war history books, along with a few self-published books. The show will also present several titles by a Native author, Alfreda Beartrack Algeo, from Palisade CO.

The Book Fair will also host authors writing about caregiving, self-help, health and lifestyle, grief, meditation, and yoga, as well as romantic fiction and short stories. Equine artist and SJPG author Alice Billings will have her book, Hooey, and companion workbook, Horse Colors. She will also be painting. Two other popular SJPG authors include local Dr. Mary Vader—sharing hilarious stories from kids who were her patients (illustrated by artist/author Barb Torke, who is also attending with her work)—and David Padilla, writing about his life journey after immigrating from Mexico to become a mentor to kids in three local school dis-

tricts. The event will also include a booth of collectible and vintage books for sale.

So yes, this is a big deal. And... the Book Fair is not just an art and author event; it's a festival.

Visitors may gather on the patio to shop Native vendors, talk about books, and listen to music while they enjoy food and drink from food vendors.

No food or drink may be taken inside the event center, though; sticky fingers don't work well when handling books.

(Damaged books equate to a mandatory purchase.) Local businesses have donated gift baskets which will awarded to a winning ticket holder at the end of the show. Visitors can also score prizes donated by participants and handed out hourly during the event.

The Montrose Book Fair takes place from 9 am to 4 pm, Saturday, September 19, 2026. The event is organized and managed by San Juan Publishing Group and hosted by the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Dr. Montrose.

The museum gift shop will offer special discounts throughout the day for event visitors.

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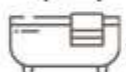
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3 Bed/2 Bath



1179 Square Feet



Corner garden tub



8x8 Matching shed



Open concept split floor plan



Large laundry room



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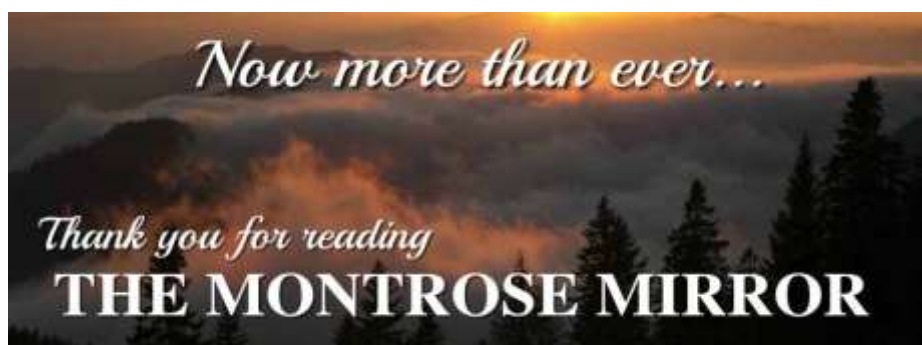
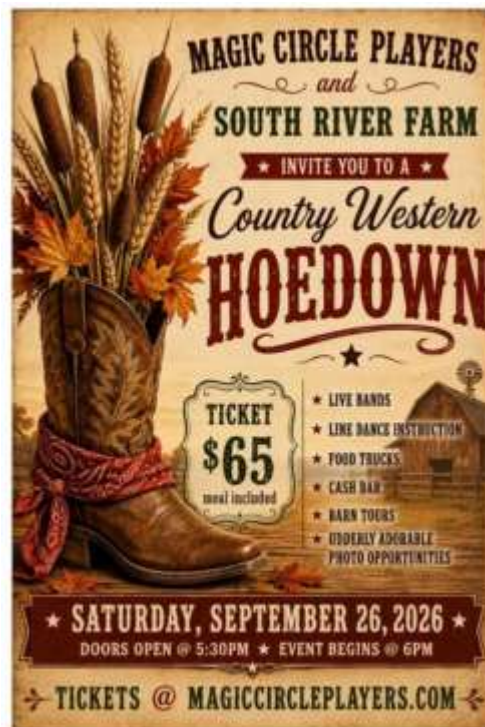
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHOW UP FOR THE COUNTRY WESTERN HOEDOWN!

Saturday - Sept. 26, 2026 - 5:30pm MDT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Magic Circle Players invites you to a COUNTRY WESTERN HOEDOWN at beautiful South River Farm in Montrose. Join us for an evening of live music, food trucks, line dancing, and a cash bar. We have barn tours, photo booths, a Sherriff and a jail cell! Pay to have your friends "arrested," or purchase a Sherriff's badge onsite for immunity. Come celebrate AUTUMN with an unforgettable evening of community, fun and entertainment. TICKET PRICE: \$65, INCLUDES ONE MEAL TICKET. Doors open at 5:30 PM, event begins at 6 PM. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838 or boxoffice@magiccircleplayers.com.



WANTED: MONTROSE WOMEN BOWLERS

♥ **AVERAGE NOR AGE MATTERS**

♥ **ENCOURAGING WORDS ALWAYS WELCOMED**

♥ **A DESIRE FOR FUN, MAKING NEW FRIENDS, and getting SOME EXERCISE almost makes a perfect morning!**

LADIES WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE BOWLING LEAGUE 9am - 12n

STARTS: Wed Sept 2, 2026

SIGN UP AT THE ROSE BOWL
90 Rose Lane, Montrose

COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN
CALL 970-249-4348 for more information



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

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

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the Valley

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

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Montrose, CO 81401

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

COMMUNITY SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

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

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

future where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

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

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

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

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

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

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

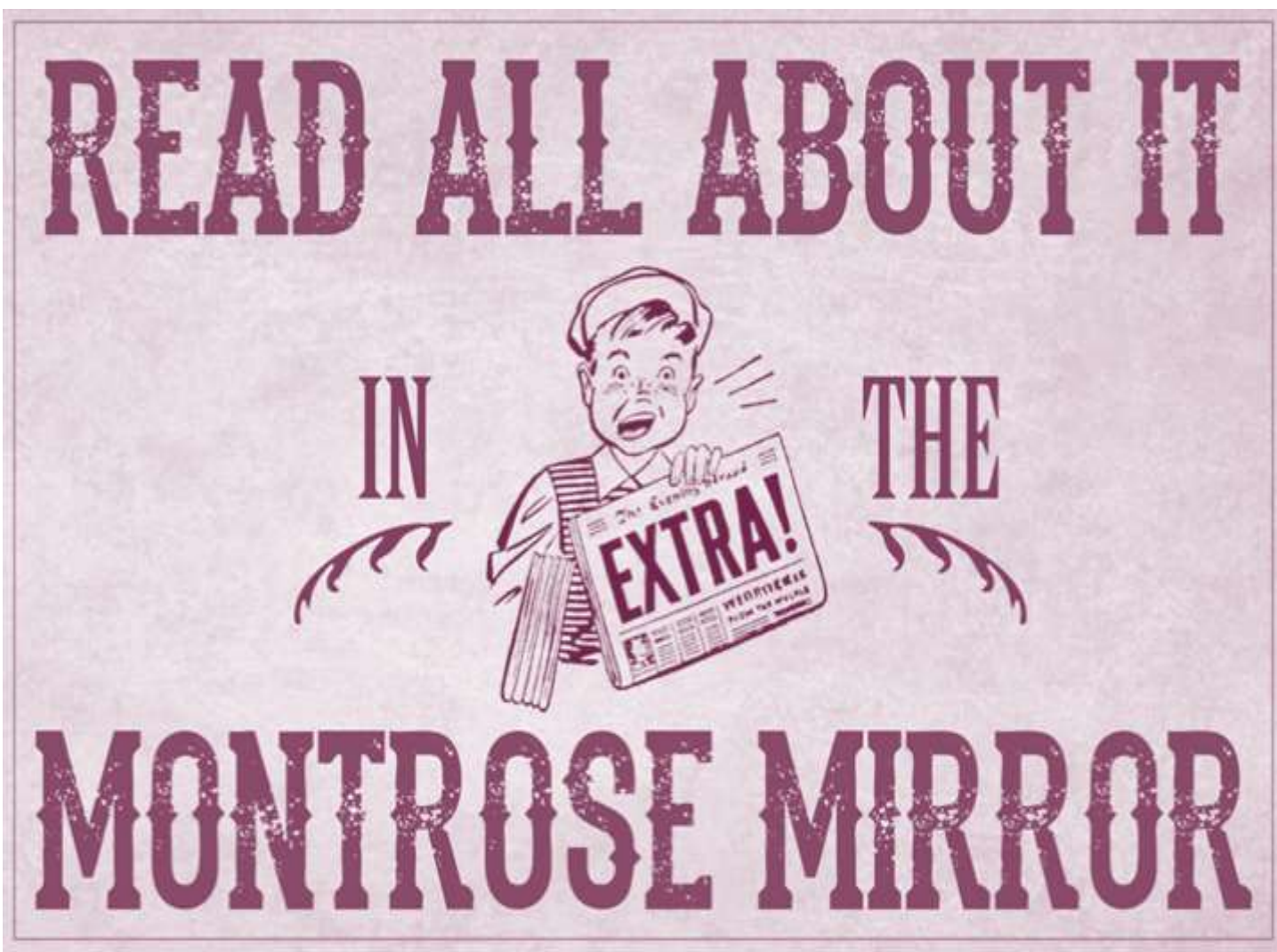
Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



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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. 27-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, Aug. 27, at Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fairgrounds, 1001 N Second Street in Montrose. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program, and show and share. Three prize winners from the Black Canyon Quilt Show will bring their quilts and talk about their process. Another member will give a presentation on labeling quilts. Questions? 360.448.0153.

Sept. 1-Tuesday Sept. 1 at 5, at Hispanic Affairs Project 504 n, 2nd -Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to help mitigate results of pollution locally. Non-partisan, Environmental, All Welcome, Info at 970-765-9095.

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

Sept. 19-Colona Community Church Annual Harvest Dinner, 3-6pm. Celebrating 114 years. Live Music. Colona Stockyards. Free to All.

Sept. 19-1st Annual Montrose County Book fair. Ute Museum. 10am to 4pm.

Sept. 26-Magic Circle Players invites you to a COUNTRY WESTERN HOEDOWN at beautiful South River Farm in Montrose. Join us for an evening of live music, food trucks, line dancing, and a cash bar. We have barn tours, photo booths, a Sheriff and a jail cell! Pay to have your friends "arrested," or purchase a Sheriff's badge onsite for immunity. Come celebrate AUTUMN with an unforgettable evening of community, fun and entertainment. TICKET PRICE: \$65, INCLUDES ONE MEAL TICKET. Doors open at 5:30 PM, event begins at 6 PM. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838 or boxoffice@magiccircleplayers.com.

LDS FOOD TRUCK ARRIVES IN MONTROSE

*Mirror Staff photo
MONTROSE-In honor of
the United States' 250th
anniversary, The Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints has been
sending food to 250 food
banks across all 50 Unit-
ed States. A truck pulled
into Montrose on Thurs-
day, Aug. 20, arriving at
the Sharing Ministries
Food Bank, to be distrib-
uted to those in need.*



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Recommendations for Residential
Xeriscape for Montrose, Colorado

By Ginny Price, Retired Colorado Master Gardener/Small Acreage Assistant

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