



ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION



FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE!

© Issue No. 705 Aug. 31, 2026

the Montrose Mirror

DMEA NAMES NEW CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER



The regular Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Meeting was held on Aug. 25. Citizens Climate Lobby Activist Tony Hoag introduced himself as the Chief Instigator. During Member Comments Hoag said, "I'm just here to instigate and to hold your feet to the fire!" Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On Tuesday, Aug. 25 the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3pm. Board members Enno Heuscher and Ryan Sedgely were absent (out of town/traveling), Jacob Gray attended on Zoom, all other board members were present in person.

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

Introductions:

Attendees were comprised of board members, department heads, staff, and co-op members Tony Hoag (Citizen's Climate Lobby), and Joseph Gill (virtual).

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jack Johnston introduced the new Chief Safety

[Continued pg 38](#)

RE-1J BOARD VOTES UNANIMOUSLY TO RELEASE SUPERINTENDENT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—In a Special Meeting on Monday, Aug. 24, the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the "Employment Separation and Release Agreement" with regard to Superintendent Carrie Stephenson. All directors were present, including Board President Neisha Balleck; Vice President Ted Valerio; District D Director Tom West; District E Director Tiffany Vincent; District F Director Jody Hovde; District G Director Shane Daly; and District C Director Scott Scarborough.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, and approval of the agenda, the Board entered into Executive Session, "pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b), (e), and (f) for legal advice regarding matters arising from the third-party investigation and the employment of Superintendent Dr. Carrie Stephenson; determining positions, developing strategy, and instructing negotiators regarding Dr. Stephenson's employment; and personnel matters concerning Dr. Stephenson."



Former Re-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson, pictured in undated Mirror file photo above, was released by the Board of Education on Aug. 24.

[Continued pg 7](#)

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A storybook garden filled with colorful morning glory vines climbing along classic brickwork, vibrant floral borders framing a rustic white garden bench, and playful touches like whimsical tree ornaments, a stone birdbath, and garden statues nestled among the greenery.

We celebrate a wonderful local yard every other week. Send your neighborhood nominations, photos, and addresses to marae@marmontrose.com

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,
 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

Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Harry Switzer

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

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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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Vicki Jones

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Britany Butler

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Aaron Tobler

Broker

970-275-0780

aaron.tobler@gmail.com



MLS #837503 | 310 S Townsend Avenue \$510,000

Many possible uses for this high exposure location, plenty of room for off-street parking for the many uses that are allowed for this location. Building is solid and can be remodeled for allowed uses. 3 overhead doors that could become windows.



David Kienholz

Broker

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RE-1J BOARD VOTES UNANIMOUSLY TO RELEASE SUPERINTENDENT From pg 1

NEW BUSINESS

Following the Executive Session, the Board returned to regular session and voted unanimously to approve the Employment Separation and Release Agreement with regard to Stephenson.

Prior to the vote, District F Director Jody Hovde said, "I'd just like to go on to say that I might vote for the outcome of this, but I want it to be on record that I have concerns about the process and how we came to this."

In other business, the Board heard [an update](#) from RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus on the [re-funding of bonds](#) related to the construction of Columbine Middle School.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session "pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e) and (f) for personnel matters concerning Dr. Jessica Kalb's acting superintendent assignment and for determining positions, developing strategy, and instructing negotiators regarding the duties and compensation associated with that assignment."

Upon returning to regular session, the Board voted to adjourn the Special Meeting, to be followed by the regular work session.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

HAVE WE BECOME COCOON PEOPLE?

Editor:

Have we become Cocoon People living in our comfortable bubble? We're all guilty of it at some time during our lives. We have families, jobs, school, other activities; all is good.

Life goes along mostly without major or dangerous disruptions. However, cocoons are dangerous because we're tuned out to the little things happening affecting our lives that we ignore for the comfort of our cocoons. Those little insidious things we say "Oh, that's ridiculous" or "that won't happen" and we fail to recognize their consequences. We have the opportunity to step out of our complacency this November. It is our Right, Privilege and Duty to vote. It is OUR OBLIGATION TO OURSELVES to be informed about each Candidate and the issues. It's the Candidates who are the priority as they will be the office holder not the Political Party. The Party is secondary to the Candidates. The Party supports the Candidates with marketing and financial assistance but your Vote for the Candidate is what counts. They will be making decisions that affect your life. Start now to familiarize yourself with the issues and Candidates on the ballot this election. This Ballot, as usual will have ambiguous and misleading information and with a "quick read" and not being informed you could be voting AGAINST YOURSELF AND YOUR BEST INTERESTS.

That's what you will get and what you deserve. Each election is important and gives us a choice for the outcome.

Elections do have consequences. Speak up and Show up to support the Candidates and issues important to you.

Carol McBride, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCOTUS INTERRUPTS ELECTION NORMS

Editor:

Article 1 Section 4 of the U S Constitution says: "*The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.*" In other words, State Legislators determine how elections are to be held, not the President of The United States.

The Tenth Amendment says: *any powers not given to the federal government by the Constitution, or forbidden to the states, belong to the states or the people.*

The Constitution clearly provides the individual states the authority to regulate elections. It was highly disappointing to

me with the recent ruling from the Supreme Court regarding Trump's executive order imposing restrictions on mail-in voting. They put a "stay" on the injunctions issued by several lower courts prohibiting the post office from proceeding with the Trump executive order. The Supremes rationale was the States have suffered no harm because the Postal Service had not issued its final rules. They did not however rule whether or not the executive order was legal or not.

The rule requires states to submit lists of their voters requesting mail-in ballots to USPS ahead of an election, and imposes new policies to ensure only those voters whose information has been sent to USPS can receive ballots through the mail. It also mandates the creation of new enve-

lope designs and barcodes, ***which will make clear that ballots have been cleared through the federal system.***

The rule applies to states with voters requesting mail-in ballots. I'm not sure how it would affect Colorado as our ballots are mailed regardless if you requested one or not. As of August 1, there are 3,986,025 active voters in Colorado. Are those 4 million voters to become disenfranchised if the State does not bow to Trumps demands. It would probably delight him.

I would caution everyone to be prepared to vote in person or to request a ballot in person. Ballots are scheduled to be mailed beginning October 5th. Do your duty and vote even if the Trump administration is making it more burdensome.

Dave Stockton - Montrose

CHARTER CHANGE IS MOVING MUCH TOO QUICKLY

Editor,

I speak against the proposed City Ordinances seeking to change various provisions contained in the Montrose City Charter. I have resided in the City since Sept. 1966, was appointed to the Montrose City council in January 1993, was elected to a 4 year term in Nov. 1993, and served as Mayor in 1995-96.

One of our Council's issues was to consider changing its municipal election from November to a new date. We received complaints that the long ballot of the general election was too complicated. When our municipal election was combined with the state, county, and other entity elections, there were too many voter issues (many partisan) which caused confusion for many of our citizens. Our elections are NON-partisan. We decided that it was best to not combine non-partisan with partisan elections. Why should voters seek candidates only Republican or Democrat, Liberal or Conservative. We were seeking the best qualified regardless of politics.

Changing the date of our election required a change in our Charter which in turn required our Council to seek input from its citizens.

Our City Charter is the organic document creating our Montrose Home Rule form of government. As such it belongs to our citizens. We spent much time seeking direction from our citizens. In the end we determined a change in date for our elections would be in their best interests by focusing their attention on City issues (election of new Council members) without distraction of issues in the other government elections occurring at the same time. City Ordinance 1486 passed by the Council in Aug. 1993, was referred to the citizens, and passed overwhelmingly in November, 1993. This Ordinance created the April elections which have served the City well since 1994.

This brings up the question: what is to be gained by moving the city election back into the general November election?

What reasons do the present Council have

in asking the citizens to make this change? Perhaps more citizens will cast votes but will the additional votes be "informed" votes. One reason for passing Ordinance 1486 was that the Citizens could concentrate on and become better informed of City Council candidates since they would not be faced with many other distracting issues.

Should this Ordinance be approved by the Council in September, they will have the responsibility to fully educate the citizens of their reasons for requesting all of the changes to the Charter, as well as the need for such changes. (in other words, why is the present way "broken" and is this the right "fix") Probably a "blue book" should be prepared containing both arguments for and against each of the issues raised. They only have about 2 months before the November election. This whole event is moving much too quickly as pointed out previously by many of our citizens. I agree with them.

Tom Cheney, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATES HORSE CARRIAGE AND VEHICLE CRASH

Montrose Police Department

MONTROSE—On August 29, 2026, at approximately 1:11 PM., officers responded to a horse vs. vehicle accident in the intersection of North Park Avenue and North 2nd Street. A single horse hitched to a carriage, unoccupied, was startled while waiting to be loaded into the trailer at the North 2nd Public Parking Lot. The horse ran eastbound on North 2nd Street while the carriage was still hitched. The vehicle involved was traveling south bound at the intersection when the horse impacted the passenger side of the vehicle. We are saddened to report that the horse had to be euthanized by responding veterinarians due to the seriousness of the sustained injuries. The driver of the vehicle did not sustain any injuries. Our thoughts are with both the horse owner and vehicle driver.

Investigating officers determined that there were no criminal actions involved with this incident.

For media inquiries, contact Paul Eller, Montrose Police Public Information Officer, at 970-787-8251, or peller@montrosepdpd.org

The Montrose Police Department encourages anyone with information related to these events, or who may have witnessed these events, to contact the Montrose Police Department at 970-252-5200 or WestCo Dispatch at 970-249-9110.

MONTROSE FORUM TO FEATURE REC DISTRICT TEAM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 2, from 8-9 a.m., as the Montrose Forum welcomes representatives from the Montrose Recreation District (MRD) for an exciting look at new programs, expanding opportunities, and future plans for recreation in our community.

Our speakers will be Justin Mashburn, Executive Director; Jeremy Master, Deputy Director; and Astro Ball, Grants and Outreach Specialist.

The Montrose Recreation District continues to play an important role in enhancing the quality of life for residents of all ages. Our speakers will share exciting developments in MRD programs and facilities and what these changes will mean for our community in the months and years ahead.

-Come learn why MRD's summer and after-school programs are such an essential resource for working families, providing safe, engaging, and enriching opportunities for children when families need them most.

-The presentation will also highlight new and expanded programming for youth, adults, and seniors, demonstrating MRD's commitment to serving our entire community.

-Perhaps most exciting, MRD will share initial plans and renderings for the New Field House, one of its most significant recreation projects since the Montrose Community Recreation Center opened in 2017. The proposed Field House will bring high-quality indoor programming, sports, fitness, and recreation amenities to the north side of Montrose, creating new opportunities for residents of all ages.

There is a lot to be excited about! Please join us Wednesday morning to meet our speakers, learn more about the programs and services MRD provides every day, and get a firsthand look at what's next for recreation in Montrose!

The Montrose Forum meets Wednesday, September 2, from 8-9a.m. We hope you will join us!

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE SHOULD ALL EXPECT MORE FROM OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Editor:

One of the most cherished rights we have as citizens is the right to vote. Along with that right comes an expectation that each and every time we cast our vote, we can be assured that our vote is tabulated in an equitable manner.

For the last three weeks, through extensive research of verifiable facts, David White has cited chapter and verse, concerns we all should have about specifically the accuracy of vote tabulations in last April's City Council election. Additionally, his research raises valid questions about the veracity of all city elections dating back to 2014. Clearly a thorough independent investigation is needed to get to the bottom of these serious concerns.

The majority of our current City Council certainly has an understanding of the need to get to the bottom of those issues raised. Sadly, our two lame duck council members, Reid and Frank, are more concerned about covering the backside of any city employee involved in any wrong doing than being accountable to all Montrose citizens. These same councilmen were opposed to Montrose being a non-sanctuary city and more recently opposed to even considering much needed Charter changes for the City of Montrose. We should all expect more from our elected representatives.

Dee Laird, Montrose

"RULES FOR THEE..."

Editor:

Public officials have a duty to protect the health, safety, and well-being of every constituent—not just some, but all. As community members and leaders, we also share a responsibility to stand up for fairness and respect. That means speaking out when people are unfairly targeted, supporting those who are treated unjustly, and refusing to remain silent in the face of intimidation or falsehoods. As community members and leaders, we share the responsibility to hold public officials from all political parties to the highest ethical standards, demanding honesty, accountability, and transparency in their actions.

In Colorado, the ethical responsibilities of public officials are grounded in the state Constitution and in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The underlying principle is straightforward: **public office belongs to the public, not to the individual who temporarily holds it.**

Article XXIX, §1 declares that:

- the conduct of public officers and local government officials must maintain the respect and confidence of the people;
- officials must carry out their duties for the benefit of the people;
- officials must avoid conduct that violates the public trust or creates a justifiable impression that the public trust is being violated; and
- using public office to obtain personal financial gain, beyond compensation provided by law, violates that trust.

When leaders and community members fail to educate themselves or disregard factual information, the resulting discourse can create unintended consequences.

The Colorado Court of Appeals recently addressed the distinction between protected opinion and actionable factual implication in **Wilburn v. Guthrie**, 2026COA13. The Court stated:

"A statement of opinion may be actionable as defamation if it is based on false or undisclosed facts."

The Court further stated:

"But if the factual context for the opinion is fully and accurately disclosed, the speaker's subjective characterization of those facts may constitute a constitutionally protected opinion."

The Constitution reminds us the "people" that public service is about protecting the rights and dignity of all people, and Christian teachings encourage us to fulfill these duties with a selfless heart, placing the welfare of others above personal gain. Humility calls us to serve others without seeking recognition for ourselves, and true charity is expressed in quiet acts of kindness—not through boasting, but through genuine compassion for our neighbors.

It is through our collective vigilance and willingness to speak out that we can ensure our government truly serves the people, and that those who betray the public trust are held accountable for their actions.

Aimee Tooker-Neighbors for Good Governance

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET US NOT FORGET

Editor:

It's back! Just over a quarter of a century - already. How many of you are twenty-six years old this year? They can't recall 9/11 and most wouldn't be able to tell you what it meant if you asked them. How many who were teen agers when it happened remember it? Those who understood the ramifications of it probably still do. I remember Pearl Harbor even though I was an infant, because my folks and friends talked about it for years afterword, and I was also born on 9/11.

I woke up on 9/11, 2021 to see the imprint that the first plane made in Tower Two and five minutes later I watched the second plane hit the second Tower, with some small metal and body parts going through it. Then I heard about the other two planes and wondered how many there would be. I watched helplessly while dozens of men and women, who were afraid to burn to death, jumped from Tower Two hundreds of feet to the sidewalk below before the cameras turned away. In all, four planes and 2,996 innocent people were murdered that day including heroic New York Firemen, Police officers and others. This is not counting the hundreds of those who died from removing all of the deadly debris for years.

Let us not forget the 19 murderers who died in the four planes and most of all Khalid Sheikh Mohammed who masterminded the entire plot, and who remains in jail, hopefully not for long!

But it's not over! Internet personality Hasan Piker, Michigan Democrat, is best friend of Abdul El-Sayed who wants to be the next PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. Hasan recently said that 9/11 (2021) was a good thing! Hasan and Abdul El-Sayed are well established with the Democrats and have millions behind them. Don't forget to VOTE!

Gary Paul Johnston, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY NAMES NEW PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County is pleased to announce the selection of Jacqueline Davis MHA, FACHE as the new Montrose County Public Health Director. A Montrose native and resident, she is an experienced public health and healthcare executive. Davis brings more than 18 years of leadership experience in public health, healthcare administration, communications, emergency preparedness, and long-term care.

Davis joins Montrose County from Delta County Public Health, where she has served as Public Health Director, overseeing public health programs, clinical services, emergency preparedness, environmental health, and WIC operations.

"Jacqueline brings a strong combination of public health experience, healthcare leadership, and an understanding of the unique needs of communities on the Western Slope," said Montrose County Manager Joe Kerby. "Her experience building partnerships and strengthening organizations will be a tremendous asset to Montrose County Public Health and the residents we serve."

During her tenure with Delta County, Davis has focused on strengthening public health services, organizational performance, and employee retention. Her leadership has included clinical services, immunization programs, communicable dis-

ease response, environmental health, emergency preparedness, and a range of grant-funded public health initiatives. Throughout her career, she has emphasized building strong programs, supporting staff, and developing effective partnerships that expand access to essential public health services and meet the needs of the communities she serves.

Davis has worked closely with Montrose County through existing regional partnerships, including a multi-county WIC partnership designed to expand access, strengthen clinical coverage, and improve operational efficiency.

Throughout her career, she has worked with healthcare systems, elected officials, community organizations, and state and regional partners to improve access to care and address public health priorities across the Western Slope.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve Montrose County," said Davis. "I look forward to working alongside the talented Public Health team, building on the strong work already underway, continuing to strengthen partnerships that help us better serve our community and region, and expanding access to essential public health services."

Prior to joining Delta County Public Health, Davis served as Director of Marketing, Communications, Public Relations and Public Information Officer for Delta

Health.

Davis holds a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Ohio University and a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and Exercise Science from Colorado Mesa University. She is a board-certified



Jacqueline Davis MHA, FACHE.
Courtesy image.

Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and was selected to participate in the 2026 National Association of Counties Public Health Leadership Academy.

Davis also serves as Board Chair for River Valley Health Center, member of CMU Montrose Advisory Counsel, and on the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials Policy Committee.

As Public Health Director, Davis will lead Montrose County Public Health programs and services while working with employees, healthcare providers, community organizations, and regional and state partners to protect and improve the health of Montrose County residents.

For more information about Montrose County Public Health, visit <https://www.montrosecounty.net/940/Public-Health>.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CONFIRMS THREE WEST NILE VIRUS CASES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County Public Health has confirmed three human cases of West Nile virus in Montrose County this season and is reminding residents to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites. West Nile virus is most commonly spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. In Colorado, most human cases are typically reported in August and September, making continued prevention especially important as mosquito activity continues.

"With three confirmed cases in Montrose County, we want residents to be aware that West Nile virus is present in our county and take simple steps to reduce their risk," said Lisa Gallegos, Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator for Montrose County Public Health.

"Using insect repellent, wearing protective clothing, limiting time outdoors when mosquitoes are most active and eliminating standing water around your home can all help prevent mosquito bites."

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not develop symptoms. About 20 percent of infected people may experi-

ence flu-like symptoms, while fewer than one percent develop a serious, potentially life-threatening illness. Adults over age 60 and people with certain medical conditions are at greater risk of serious illness.

Anyone experiencing severe symptoms, including severe headache or confusion, should contact a health care provider.

Montrose County Public Health encourages residents to take the following precautions throughout mosquito season:

To Protect Yourself

-Use insect repellent when outdoors. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol provide effective protection. Always follow label instruction

-Limit outdoor activities at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes that can carry West Nile virus are most active.

-Wear protective clothing, including long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks, in areas where mosquitoes are active. Clothing can also be treated with an appropriate insect repellent for additional protection.

To Mosquito-Proof Your Home

-Drain standing water around your home

at least once a week. Empty water from tires, cans, flowerpots, clogged gutters, rain barrels, birdbaths, toys and other areas where water can collect.

-Install or repair screens on windows and doors to help keep mosquitoes outside.

-Consider replacing outdoor lights with yellow "bug lights." These lights may attract fewer mosquitoes but do not repel them.

-Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and continue taking precautions throughout the mosquito season.

Free mosquito dunks are also available to Montrose County residents through Montrose County Public Health for use in larger areas of standing water that cannot be easily drained. Mosquito dunks help prevent mosquito larvae from developing in standing water. Residents can pick up free mosquito dunks at Montrose County Public Health, 1845 South Townsend Avenue in Montrose, while supplies last.

For more information about West Nile virus, prevention and symptoms, visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's West Nile virus webpage.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



A STATEMENT FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Recently, some community members raised questions about the 2026 General Municipal Election. In response, Montrose City Council members requested and received thorough, accurate information about the election from City of Montrose staff members. Each Council member had the opportunity to review information and ask detailed questions.

All five members of the Montrose City Council agree:

- Conducting fair, transparent, and accurate elections is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of local government.
- The City Council is confident in the accuracy of the final election results.
- The City Clerk, the City's chief election officer, administered the 2026 General Municipal Election with rigorous neutrality to ensure a fair, unbiased, and accurate outcome.
- In future elections, the City will ensure that roles and responsibilities of election administration are clear.
- The City Council desires improvements in the municipal election process including and not limited to: refined and City-specific agreements, a formalized process for selecting and appointing election judges, and an official space designated by the City Clerk where all candidates will be invited to await results on election night.
- City of Montrose staff continue to review City election administration processes and will share recommendations for improvements with City Council members.
- The City Council has the authority to make policy changes to the City's election process.
- Answers to recent questions about the 2026 Gen Municipal Election
- The results of the 2026 Gen Municipal Election

City Council public schedule for the week of Aug 31, 2026

Monday's Work Session (10 AM) discussion items:

- Rotary Park Pump House Replacement Authorization

Tuesday Council Meeting (6 PM)

- Second Reading – Proposed Charter Amendments (4)
- 2026 Montrose Permanent Fund Contribution for CMU
- Second Reading Vacate portion of a drainage easement.
- Second Reading Vacate portion of right of way.
- North Park Ave division of property
- Valley Ranch Subdivision filing
- Brookside Meadows Subdivision filing
- Executive Session

Work sessions and City Council meetings are held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the BPOE civic building at:

107 S. Cascade.

Thank you,

Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor, Montrose, CO



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DAVID'S MINUTE

Editor:

In the August 24th edition of the Montrose Mirror Mayor Badagliacco posted a link, <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/188/Elections#docaccess-d605197108b969266d209c739e270ef7>, to the Redline proposed amendments to the Charter. He did so at my request. I did not however ask him to express his point of view. He did so under the City's banner giving it the impression his opinion is sanctioned by the City and his fellow Councilors. It is not.

Here is my point of view:

With respect to Term Limits, we already have them. We meet the requirements specified in the Colorado Constitution. As a Home

Rule City all you had to do was propose a lifetime limit to the existing language with respect to the District and At-Large positions. My real opposition is extending the At-Large Position by two years.

Recently, we had a Councilor from three decades ago speak to why municipal elections were moved to April in 1993. The rationale back then has held true through the test of time; that is to non-politicize the elections. It appears you want to wipe away three and a half decades of tradition. Your rationale for moving the elections back to November is to increase participation. Increased participation does not equate to being engaged in the election; to be engaged is to understand the issues at hand; not simply checking a box. The real issue at hand is voter apathy. If you can fix that, you will stimulate engagement and increase knowledge driven participation.

I've been most outspoken with respect to the City Manager having to gain approval from City Council to appoint or discharge the Chief of Police and City Clerk.

The proposed language simply adds a bureaucratic step to what should be the sole responsibility of the City Manager. In fact, the proposed language is very specific in limiting City Council's authority. ***The proposed language expressly prohibits its Council to interfere with day-to-day operations of either position. I fear this or a future Council will find a work around. That work around would be preemptive in nature. Council could simply disapprove of any candidate that is not aligned with their belief system. Because of that, the Chief of Police and City Clerk now become political appointees. Another unforeseen consequence!***

Dave Stockton - Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DAVID WHITE WAS PRESENT ON ELECTION NIGHT

Editor:

For three consecutive weeks, David White used the pages of the Montrose Mirror to question the integrity of Montrose's April 7 municipal election and criticized City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo's handling of the final ballots.

White alleged that DelPiccolo breached the City's contract with Montrose County, compromised the vote-counting process and violated election protocols. He described the election as "compromised," "tainted" and "spoiled," raised the possibility of election interference and compared the situation to the criminal conduct of former Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters.

Those are extraordinarily serious accusations. **Yet White omitted an important fact from all three articles:** He was personally present inside the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder's building on election night, awaiting results alongside two candidates whose races were still being decided.

County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes confirmed this to me in writing.

According to Guynes, White was among approximately eight people allowed to wait inside the building that night. Guynes also identified City Council candidates Michael Badagliacco and Adam Woodden as members of the group.

To be clear, Guynes said the group never entered the election count room. Its members were not credentialed watchers or official observers. According to Guynes, they were there only to wait in a separate room for the City Clerk to release the results.

Guynes explained that accommodating candidates, members of the public and the media who want to wait for election results is common practice in the County. She said the County does not invite anyone but generally accommodates those who ask to wait.

Therefore, White's presence does not prove that he interfered with the election, observed the ballot count or received preferential information. There is presently no evidence establishing that he did any of those things.

But disclosure still matters.

In his August 10 article, White reported that Woodden received notice of his "pending" election in the County Clerk's office and that Badagliacco was notified "in the same manner." White clearly considered the candidates' presence relevant enough to include in his account.

What he did not tell readers was that he was also inside the building awaiting those results.

That omission is particularly troubling because White presented his three articles as an investigation into the decisions and events surrounding the election. He was not merely reviewing records months later. He had personally been present during part of the election-night events he was examining.

Readers deserved to know that.

White also relied heavily on records and information obtained from the County Clerk's Office. Yet he did not disclose his election-night presence with the candidates, explain why he was there or acknowledge that he was personally connected to the sequence of events he later scrutinized.

This is not a minor detail. It goes directly to transparency and credibility.

White demanded complete transparency from City officials while failing to provide the same transparency about his own connection to the story. Had he disclosed his presence, readers could have evaluated his reporting with a fuller understanding of his perspective and involvement.

White's articles also frequently moved beyond documented facts into speculation. He raised the possibility that ballots had been altered or discarded, suggested that previous City elections may have been manipulated and compared the City's conduct to actions that resulted in Tina Peters going to prison.

Those statements were not accompanied by evidence that any ballot had been changed, discarded or fraudulently counted. Nevertheless, they cast doubt on election workers, City employees and the legitimacy of multiple municipal elections.

Anyone has the right to question election procedures. Contracts should be followed, conflicting accounts should be explained, and public officials should be held accountable. But allegations involving election fraud or interference require solid evidence, careful language and complete disclosure from the person making them.

White cannot reasonably demand that election officials disclose every detail while withholding a relevant detail about himself.

This is not about whether White had the right to be in the County building. According to Guynes, members of the public were routinely accommodated. It is about his decision to write three articles about the election without telling readers that he was personally present that night with two candidates awaiting the outcome.

ELECTION INTEGRITY REQUIRES TRANSPARENCY. SO DOES RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC COMMENTARY.

Montrose residents deserve the entire story—including the parts the writer may find inconvenient to disclose.

Beth McCorkle, Montrose

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IT'S TIME TO LAY YOUR BRICK!

Inaugural Montrose Veterans Memorial brick-laying ceremony set for Saturday, Sept. 26



Landscaping bushes and trees donated by San Juan Gardens being placed by Double A Landscaping on Aug. 27, 2026. Photo by Les Williams.

By CB Williams

MONTROSE— After a 20-plus-year vision of building a memorial in Montrose, Colo., the late Mike Trickey's dream has come true. The inaugural Veteran Tribute brick-laying ceremony is set for Saturday, Sept. 26 at the 1800 Pavilion Dr. Memorial site. Approximate 600 veteran/service/memorial bricks have been purchased by hundreds of donors in support of the Memorial, and they will have the opportunity to lay those bricks in place around the walkways.

For bricklayers, it's important to RSVP by Sept. 10

The board is asking donors, who purchased bricks before May 1 and wish to participate in the ceremony, to RSVP— either by clicking this link at www.montrosevmc.org, or by calling Amy Eifling at 970-765-2210. It is important when 650 bricks are being laid, to get an idea of how many people are coming. Those who cannot attend the ceremony can choose to have another family or friend (or the board) lay their bricks. Bricks purchased after May 1 also will be laid during the next ceremony, which will be announced later, along with those whose owners have not RSVP'd by Sept. 16.

Patriot bricks will be laid on a date to be determined.

This event is open to the public and is a special time to observe and honor loved ones.

Schedule for Sept. 26 Bricklaying Ceremony

Check-in for bricklaying will be at 8 a.m., followed by 9 a.m. program with posting of the colors, invocation, National Anthem/Pledge of Allegiance, opening remarks, bricklaying, closing remarks, benediction and retiring of the colors.

"Speaking not only for myself, but for the entire MVM Coalition board," Les Williams, BOD president, said, "we are relieved and joyful that we have come to fruition with the building of the Memorial.

"We are working on getting the features in now to have it ready for Sept. 26, but we are well on our way to completion."

Still preparing the site

"This week we will be receiving some of the most beautiful pieces to be seen at a Memorial," Williams said, "the engraved black granite panels and other features are arriving from PG Memorials."

Wrapping up the prep work on the Huey helicopter at the Montrose Regional Airport is an effort led by MVMC Chairman J. Bob Brueske. Plans are to have the Huey in place before the brick-laying ceremony. Freedom, the bronze sculpture of an eagle, will be in place for the ceremony.

"It's hard to express all the feelings going on right now," Brueske said. Brueske has been the BOD member tasked with coordinating all the construction efforts with Team Stryker, the city, county, Montrose businesses and providers of the panels and bricks.



The late Mike Trickey with his wife Kylee Smith at the Memorial ground-breaking in May 2026. Mike, the visionary and founder of the Memorial passed away Aug. 17.

"Five years we've been working toward this," he said, "and it is very special."

Watching the project grow is something, he continued, and he complimented the Montrose area community with supporting the effort.

"I knew community support would be out there," he said, "sometimes during fundraising we'd hear, 'Yeah, I can help with that,' but we weren't always certain they'd come through."

"Well, many, many have come through."

On Sept. 28, both Brueske and Williams said they cannot wait to watch as the hundreds of donors place their bricks.

"It's going to be a special day," Brueske said. He said the only sad part of the day will be knowing that there have been veterans who have passed away while they were waiting to see this built.

"Mike Trickey will have passed away five weeks before the bricklaying," he said,

IT'S TIME TO LAY YOUR BRICK! From previous pg

shaking his head, "five weeks after five years of waiting."

So much time, so much support

Williams said the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition has superb board members:

Troy Meyer, Army veteran, was involved in the vision Mike Trickey had and came up with the initial design, which later was adapted by architect Phil Motley to fit the new site next to Montrose Botanic Gardens. As an engineer, Meyer has been involved with all phases of the operation, including recording drone videos of the construction which have gained tens of thousands of views.

"The inspiration for this memorial was born from the voices, stories, and wisdom of local veterans who have carried the weight and honor of service. Their insight became the foundation for a shared vision: to create a lasting place of remembrance that honors those who have served, those who continue to serve, and the families who have walked beside them—sharing both the sacrifices and the strength that service demands," Meyer said.

"As the vision took shape, ideas emerged, evolved, and found their place. Concepts were added, moved, reconsidered, and rearranged, each becoming part of a larger story. Yet through every change, the heart of the vision remained unwavering.

"This memorial is meant to be more than a monument. It is intended to be a place where names and sacrifices are remembered, where gratitude is given voice, where reflection can bring understanding, and where healing can begin. It is a place to honor the past, recognize the courage of those serving today, and help future generations understand the profound cost—and enduring meaning—of service. "Above all, it is a place to pause, to remember, to learn, and to carry forward the stories of those who gave so much for others."

Lance Bach, retired Navy Seal, also has been instrumental in moving the Memorial along. As best-selling author, Bach has raised donations for the Memorial through his book sales events.

Dave Vergamini, Navy Seabee, has served as American Legion liaison. The American Legion and American Legion Riders have always been an important part of the Co-



**Valley Concrete Pumping in action on final pours Aug. 27, 2026.
Photo by J. Bob Brueske.**

alition, as well as the Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Most board members belong to one or more of these local organizations.

Dave Powers, Army veteran, is another engineer who has been working alongside Troy Meyer through the design and construction phases. Dave served in the same unit as the Huey that will be on display. Amy Eifling, Marine veteran, serves as secretary/treasurer role of the Memorial, as well as volunteer coordinator for the Montrose Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans. Eifling tracks every donation and sale and has since the MVMC board began. She was close to Mike Trickey and had his support in working on this mission. April Heard, current WHAFV executive director, and Randy Havens, WHAFV board president, continue their support as part of the Coalition.

Partnering with city and county

Williams pointed out the support the Memorial has received from partners City of Montrose and the Board of County Commissioners—and not only from present members but past members including Roger Rash, Sue Hansen, Keith Caddy and others. Former county manager and Memorial supporter Jon Waschbusch is now City of Montrose Parks Superintendent

and will be caring for the Memorial grounds in the future. Waschbusch and former assistant/interim county manager Emily Sanchez lent ongoing support. Williams said Phil Rich, Montrose County veteran services officer, will continue to be a big part of the Memorial.

"Phil has been a great resource over the past few years," Williams said, "he helps keep communications open with the county."

"Scott Stryker of Stryker Co. has been key throughout this process," Williams said, "Team Stryker has led the way in the building of the Memorial, and we can't say enough about them."

Jim Scheid, City of Montrose Public Works Director, has been with the MVMC through thick and thin.

"From the very first concept Jim has been there working through challenges and roadblocks.

"There are so many to thank," Williams said, "we hope they are all able to make the ceremony where we can shake their hands and thank them in person."

Your brick. Your story. Your veteran.

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For more information visit

www.montrosevmc.org or email bloodaw-glkw@gmail.com.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOPEWEST KIDS OFFERS SCHOOL-BASED GRIEF SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING LOSS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-As students head back to school, HopeWest Kids is once again offering school-based grief support groups for children and teens who have experienced the death of a loved one.

HopeWest Kids partners with school counselors throughout Montrose and Ouray counties to identify students who may benefit from grief support services. These groups are held during the school day, coordinated through school counseling staff, and facilitated by HopeWest Kids grief counselors.

Groups typically meet weekly for six to eight weeks, helping students explore and express their grief while connecting with peers who have experienced similar losses.

"Grief can feel isolating, especially for young people," said Addie Campbell, Grief Counselor at HopeWest. "School-based grief groups give students a safe and familiar place to connect with others who have experienced similar losses and remind them they are not alone. Providing support at school also makes it easier for families to access services without the added challenges of transportation, missed work, or missing school. "

Last year, 249 children participated in school grief groups, and overall, more than 411 children received grief support through HopeWest Kids, the only program of its kind in western Colorado.

The need for grief support extends well beyond hospice-related losses. In fact, 82.6% of HopeWest Kids participants experienced a non-hospice-related death. With an estimated one in 12 children in the state of Colorado, expected to experience the death of a parent or sibling before age 18, access to grief support is necessary to help children and teens navigate loss and equip them with healthy coping skills.

School grief groups are offered at no cost thanks to the generous support of our community. Families who believe their child could benefit from grief support are encouraged to speak with their school counselor or contact HopeWest directly at (970) 257-2390 or through our online contact form at hopewestcares.org/grief-support.



RSVP for the Montrose Veterans Memorial Brick laying ceremony on September 26th.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MISLEADING BALLOT LANGUAGE AND A POTENTIAL BLANK CHECK

Editor:

Voters' Idea of the proposed ballot measure SB26-135 may be quite different than what the measure **ACTUALLY MEANS AND INTENDS TO DO**.

There's a lot involved and to sort out before voting. The language of the Proposed Measure is ambiguous and confusing for voters.

As Advance Colorado Institute explains: "This type of language is broad and unclear, as nearly any program or state expenditure could be classified as "helping children" so long as the legislature deems it so. It ultimately leaves significant room for lawmakers at the Capitol to expand or

reinterpret how the money is spent over time.

Additionally the measure is statutory rather than constitutional. This means it would be state law, not part of the state constitution, allowing future legislators authority to change or repeal it with another vote at the Capitol without needing voter approval. A constitutional measure by contrast permanently amends the state constitution and is much harder to change, requiring 55% of voters to approve it. Because this measure is statutory, future legislators could change or redirect the funding with a simple majority vote. While voters are told the retained

revenue will support education and children's programs, those spending promises are not permanently protected in the constitution. The central problem with SB26-135 is that it undermines the purpose of TABOR, which was designated to limit government growth, including how much taxpayer dollars they are allowed to keep. TABOR refunds are a unique feature of Colorado and have historically provided real relief to households across the state. This is hardly the first time the government has attempted to work around TABOR and find more revenue sources." **VOTE WISELY; SAVE TABOR.**

Carol McBride, Montrose

THE KING, THE QUEEN AND THE JOKER AT CITY HALL

Editor:

Over the last few years, the good citizens of Montrose have been repeatedly subjected to the idiotic NO KINGS rallies by our socialists/communists against President Trump. Irrespective of the fact that Mr. Trump was elected in a landslide to do exactly what he has been elected to do indicates that those fools are inflicted with a terminal case of TDS!

Factual information that has come to light over the last month indicates that our city government rests in the hands of not only a King, but also a Queen and a Joker.

Since 2014 the King has occupied the City Managers chair and has personally directed City government for 12 years. The Queen has occupied the city clerk office for years, and it was recently discovered that she has been unable to verify the accuracy of ballots cast in previous elections. The Joker resides in the City Attorney office and it became clear last week that he does not think that he is accountable to City Council.

All who are really concerned with good governance should plan to attend City Council Tuesday, September 1, and voice your opinion regarding suspension of the King, the Queen and the Joker pending and independent investigation of improper voter tabulation.

Dee Laird, Montrose



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES FELIX SPRAY SERVICE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County Historical Society presents Leonard Felix of the Olathe Spray Service sharing the aerial crop spraying and other air services provided to the Uncompahgre valley over the past 50 or so years. Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 7 pm, in the Montrose County Historical Society general meeting and program will be in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Please enter through the small door just to the left of the North Second Street main entrance to Friendship Hall. This program is free and open to the public. Light snacks are provided.

AMY GAVELL APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OPERATION ROUND UP

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has appointed Amy Gavell, DMEA's Chief of Staff, as Executive Director of the cooperative's Operation Round Up (ORU) program, strengthening the cooperative's commitment to supporting local families, organizations, and communities.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary, member-funded program that allows participating DMEA members to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar, with those small contributions pooled to create a meaningful source of support for the community. Members can also round up to a larger amount if they choose. The DMEA Operation Round Up Charitable Trust distributes funds based on community needs and impact.

"Operation Round Up is a great example of the cooperative difference," said Gavell. "It's neighbors helping neighbors. A few cents from one member may not seem like much, but when thousands of members participate, those small contributions become a powerful resource for people and organizations right here in our communities."

The program currently raises over \$50,000 each year. As of 2026, the amount generated by ORU will be matched by DMEA's Capital Credit Community Fund to provide an even greater impact for local families and organiza-

tions. ORU is a charitable trust made up of a nine-member board of DMEA members from across the cooperative's service territory.

Gavell began at DMEA in 2011. As Chief of Staff since 2022, she brings extensive knowledge of the cooperative, its members, and the communities it serves. Gavell will continue as DMEA's Chief of Staff while serving as ORU Executive Director. Her work with DMEA has included supporting organizational priorities, board relations, and community-focused initiatives.

Gavell has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Denver. She currently sits on the Boards of the Montrose Community Foundation and Mrs. Claus for a Cause and was a 2026 Women of Distinction recipient from Our Town Matters.

In her role as executive director for ORU, Gavell will help oversee the Operation Round Up program and support the volunteer Board of Directors as they evaluate funding requests and identify opportunities to make a meaningful difference throughout DMEA's service territory.

"Amy is a tremendous asset to both DMEA and Operation Round Up," said DMEA CEO Jack Johnston. "She brings a deep understanding of our cooperative, a genuine passion for our community, and a strong commitment to making a difference. Operation Round Up gives our

members a direct way to put that commitment into action, and I'm confident Amy's leadership will help the program continue to grow and expand its impact."

Participation in Operation Round Up is voluntary.

Members who participate typically contribute about 50 cents per month, or approximately \$6 per year. Members can also choose to make additional contributions.

"Community is at the heart of everything we do at DMEA," Gavell said. "Operation Round Up is one of the clearest examples of that spirit in action. I'm honored to help lead a program that allows our members to make a difference for their neighbors in such a simple and meaningful way."

Members interested in participating in Operation Round Up or learning more about the program can visit dmea.com/operation-round-up or call DMEA at 877-687-3632.



DMEA Chief of Staff Amy Gavell. Courtesy photo.

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DMEA NAMES NEW CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER *From pg 1*

Officer Scott Breithaupt (replaces retiring Chad Stickler). Other promotions include Chief Communications Officer (CCO) Katie Yergensen, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Sarah Abbott, Chief Technical Officer (CTO) Mateusz Pena, and Chief Service Officer Jay Suckey. Chief of Staff Amy Gavell was appointed Operation Round-Up Executive Director.

Citizen's Climate Lobby Activist Tony Hoag introduced himself, "I'm the Chief Instigator!"

General Business

Consent Items: Action Items

Membership & Meter Report (approved unanimously)

July 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes (approved unanimously as corrected)

Informational Item: Committee Chair Reports

Finance, Audit & Rates – Jacob Gray, Chair.

Gray said, "Last week, on the 18th, we had a meeting. There were three major things with forecast requirements for rates going up." After Gray's brief overview, Board Vice Presdeint Kevin Williams added to the report. He said, "With fee structure it's cost recovery. The emphasis is on recovering costs and not being punitive. We need to add that to the minutes."

Energy Services – Steve Metheny, Chair. Metheny said, "We did have a meeting. Three items. (1) Power Supply, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), settling into the transmission network. It's a complex world out there and we are thankful we have a staff that understands things. We are fortunate with what we have. (2) Rebate program for people who want to upgrade their [solar] panels. (3) Expenses for things coming up for our residents in the near future [i.e., AMI System, SCADA System, Mobile Substation, power transformers]."

Member Relations – Kevin Williams, Chair.

Williams said, "We also met on July 30th. Main purpose was Electric Service Rules and Regulations, a board review. It's a short report, but a lot of work."

Executive – Stacia Cannon, Chair.

Board President Stacia Cannon said, "We did not have an Executive meeting, but a Strategic Planning Session for DMEA and

Elevate [subsidiary]. Melaine Hall of Illuminate [Business Services] was the facilitator." The report from Hall is not yet available.

Informational Item: CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston said, "We had one MED [major event day] on July 26 with the racoon. Half of the substation was out for 14 and a half minutes."

Matheny said, "How did it go? Were there any lessons learned?"

Johnston said, "The camera system worked, where the flash originated from. We re-energized. It was as good as it could have gone."

Matheny said, "Did the members feel they got info in a timely manner?"

Johnston explained the outage occurred around midnight, and most members would not be seeking info at that hour. It was also noted that the Gold Mountain Fire is 90 percent contained.

Johnston continued with his board report, "This was a slower month for us. Hydro is running strong to normal. Almost full employment, by one. We are proud to be patriotic with flags on our trucks [4th of July]. Ninety-nine point 4 percent on phishing. There must have been one person stumped. We are out in the community with events, Friday Night Lights. Operating margins are strong. Warm summer means more air-conditioning. Large commercial is doing well. We are trending positive."

The board had brief discussions on billing cycles, Operation-Round-Up, and line-items that needed further explanation. The topics of cost-of-service study and rate impact were held for Executive Session.

Informational Item: Affiliated Organizations & Education Reports.

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

Johnston said, "We did not have a meeting, but we meet this coming Thurs-



During the regular Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) meeting held on Aug. 25, the board of directors was introduced to new Chief Safety Officer Scott Breithaupt. Breithaupt replaces Chad Stickler, who will retire in October after 34 years. Photo by Gail Marvel.

day. Sales are below last year. There is some increasing competition, but we are still poised to be in the top. We have \$6.5 million in inventory. We're not feeling supply chain issues. The audit was conducted. I'm slated to move from [the position of] Secretary to Vice President."

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

Lockhart said, "There is an August 27-28 meeting. CREA has some additional help for the upcoming legislative session. Obviously a lot of stuff in the area of wildfires. Wildfire mitigation, liability relief limited to damages, large load type piece, multiple pieces on policy and interconnection. On large loads, CREA supports large loads when it protects members. We'll have those things being worked on in draft language pretty quickly. There will be a lot of revisions."

Conferences, Webinars & Meetings:

Williams had the opportunity to do the coin flip for the Friday Night Lights Montrose football game. He said, "There were 3,500 people and the fire marshal had to close the gate [capacity]. It was a packed house."

There are three more Friday Night Lights events scheduled.

Cannon and Gray, with their spouses, attended a dinner celebrating a business solar upgrade.

On Aug. 12 Cannon

Continued next pg

DMEA NAMES NEW CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER From previous pg

attended a CFC webinar on liability risk, building more reliability, and managing the grid.

Action Item:

Board Policy 101: Director Responsibilities, Duties & Standards of Conduct (approved).

Resolution 2026- Amending the 401k Plan to Change the Normal Retirement Age (approved)

Discussion Items:

Board Policy 105: Director Districts and Regions & Elections of Directors (no action)

Board Policy 110: Board Committees (no proposed changes)

Board Policy 116: Member Concerns (no proposed changes)

Future Meetings

Following lengthy board discussion, it was determined that DMEA will hold two Rate Hearings

-Rate Hearing at the (Delta) Read office on Nov. 12, 6 pm.

-Rate Hearing at the Montrose headquarters on Nov. 17, 6pm.

Both meetings will have remote options.

Member Comments

DMEA does not set a time limit for member comments and Citizen's Climate Lobby Representative Tony Hoag had multiple questions and comments. He said, "I'll let you know that there are two moratoriums; one in Delta and one in Montrose, moratoriums on data centers. There will be a review at a meeting in September. I wrote letters-to-the-editor to the *Press* and the *Mirror* that included 12 to 14 regulations and [included] one request to DMEA...large load tariffs."

The board discussion that ensued questioned whether the county commissioners had in fact voted on a moratorium considering the upcoming election and new commissioners.

Hoag continued, "With Guzman I had a question in terms of data centers. Are they strictly for support, or building [data centers]?" His question was asked and answered in a previous meeting.

Johnston said, "Supporting."

Hoag said, "The rate hearing. What is the proposal?"

Johnston said, "No specific proposal at this time. The board hasn't decided right now on a rate increase. A possible rate

increase was announced at the annual meeting. There are a few steps to take yet — the budget process and the cost of service [analysis]."

During previous meetings Hoag stated he believes DMEA, because of the last rate increase, has a surplus of funds. He said, "It's the optics that the public will see."

Cannon said, "We aren't far enough along in the process to make it public. The optic piece will be addressed. We do not have all the answers right now."

Hoag said, "But it's pretty obvious what's going on here. Is it possible to get the [board] packet before the meeting?"

Johnston said, "The board [of directors] gets the packet in advance, and a couple of days after the meeting it is made public [slight modifications]."

Hoag said, "But that's after the meeting." He explained he had trouble with all the acronyms he hears in the meetings and wanted to study the packet, "...so I know what questions to ask."

Cannon stated she would confer with staff. Johnston noted that the board packet contains some proprietary information for the board of directors and it cannot be released to the public.

Continuing with his questions Hoag said, "Three-to-five year goals, that would interest me. I'd like to know DMEA's plan for three to five years down the road. I'd like a one-page, in layman terms, for what is going on in a meeting. Where is DMEA at with more renewable energy? I don't know what individual [board] members think."

With a good natured chuckle Cannon said, "It's good that you don't know what individuals are thinking. We come together as a board to make decisions."

Hoag said, "I instigate. I'm just here to instigate and to hold your feet to the fire!"

Executive Session

-Privileged CEO Report

-Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Presentation

-GDS 2026 Rate Study Presentation

-Electric Service Regulations

-Fees

Confidential Corporate, Litigation, and Regulatory Matters

Confidential Board Governance Matters

Executive Session Summary – Amy Gavell, Chief of Staff.

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

"At 5:27 p.m., upon motion from Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Norris, the Board unanimously voted to enter Executive Session to receive a privileged CEO report, including a Southwest Power Pool (SPP) presentation; a presentation on the Rate Study prepared by GDS, and a discussion on electric service rules, regulations, and fees; a confidential corporate, litigation, and regulatory matters update; and a discussion on confidential Board governance matters."

At 9:48 p.m., upon motion from Director Williams, seconded by Director Lockhart, the Board unanimously exited Executive Session."

There were no additional Executive Session items to address.

With no further business to conduct, the Board adjourned its Regular Meeting at 9:48 p.m."

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

DMEA Directors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ELEVATE EXPANDS CUSTOMER SUPPORT WITH 24/7 CHAT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Elevate is expanding its customer support experience by launching 24/7 chat support, giving customers another convenient way to connect with Elevate whenever they need assistance.

The new always-on chat service is designed to make customer support more accessible and flexible, recognizing that questions and connectivity needs don't always happen during traditional business

hours. Whether a customer has a question late at night, needs help troubleshooting a connection early in the morning, or simply prefers communicating online, Elevate's chat support provides an additional way to get help on their schedule.

"Providing great customer service means meeting people where they are and making it easier for them to get the help they need," said Chief Technical Officer Mateusz Pena. "Sometimes you need assis-

tance outside of the standard workday. With 24/7 chat, customers have another option that fits their schedule and their communication preferences."

The expanded support option is part of Elevate's ongoing focus on improving customer experience through greater accessibility and convenience.

Customers can access Elevate's chat support through elevateinternet.com/support.

LET THEM EAT CAKE!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Let Them Eat Cake! Saturday, Sept. 19 at Hillcrest Congregational UCC, 611 S. Hillcrest Drive. Benefits Shepherd's Hand and our church's Women's Union. Registration at 1:30 pm, cake party begins at 2 pm. Bring a cake, a cake server and \$5 donation. Go home with a pizza box full of sweet treats!

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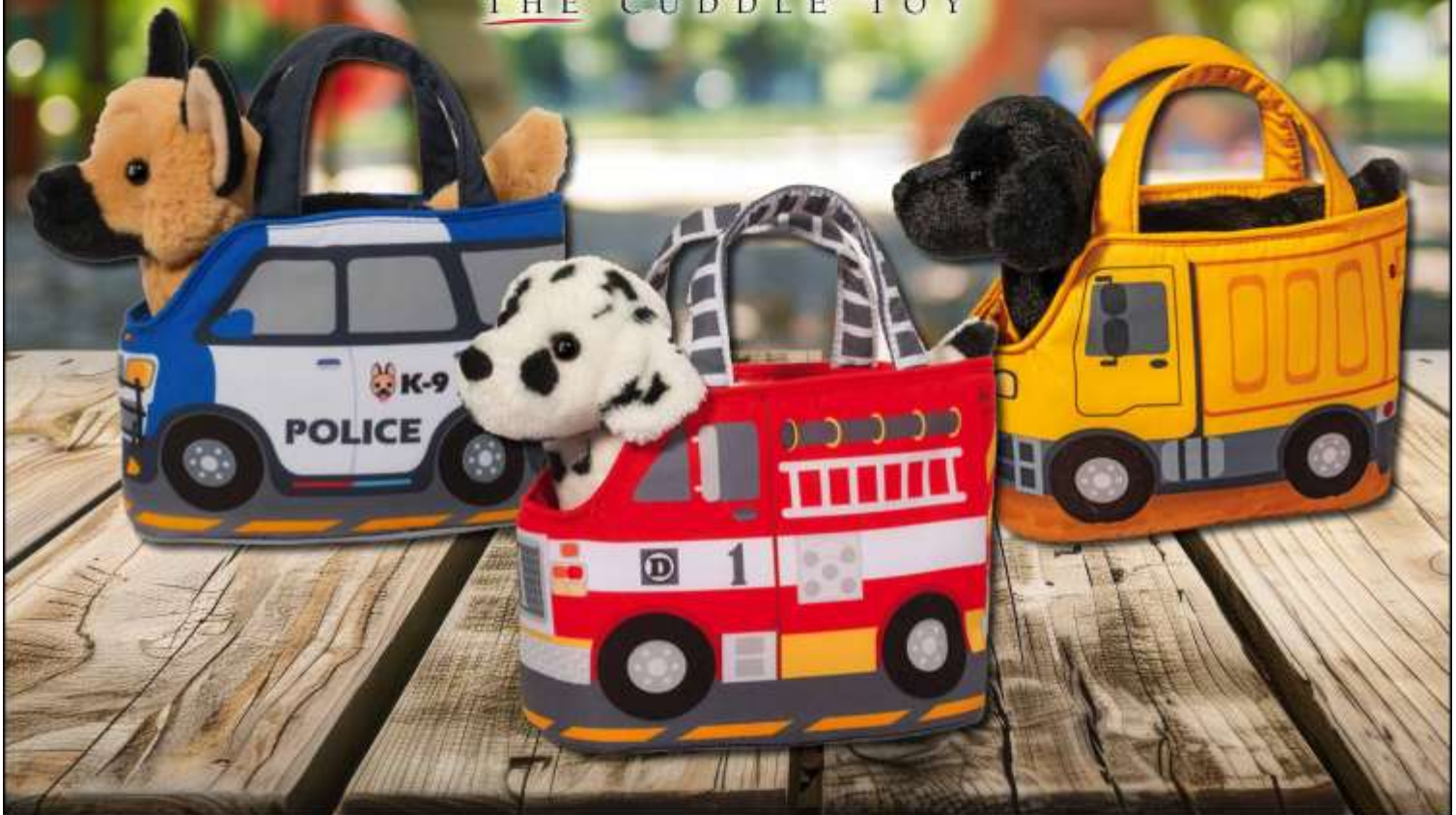
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PHYSICAL

By Don Stott

The other morning, shown on Turner Classic Movies, was one of the all-time great comedies made in 1938, titled, "You Can't Take It With You," starring Jimmy Stewart, who in 1938, was a pretty young guy! When I lived in Philadelphia, I was a member of "Old Academy Players," and I played the part on our stage, the part in the film, played by Lionel Barrymore. Old Academy Players, is where Grace Kelly got started in her acting career. I acted in several productions there, and once it was noted that Grace Kelly had donated another \$10,000 to us. Grace was beautiful, and her family was wealthy. Her Dad made it, by owning a brick laying company, and Grace grew up in a beautiful mansion. Her Dad's advertising slogan was, "Kelly for Bricks." Enough of that, but 'You Can't Take It With You,' gave me an idea for a column. Literally, 'you can't take with you,' is an old expression, and the subject of countless Jewish jokes, who always said they were going to take it with them, or 'die trying.' You can't take gold or silver with you either, and burying anything in your coffin, except yourself, would be a waste. However, you can leave gold and silver to your kids, family, favorite charity, or even a political party, with no inheritance taxes.

Physical things consume most of our lives. We need and use physical water, food, heat, cold, homes, cars, clothes, and just about everything we need and use. Paper is good for newspapers, paper money, contracts, wallpaper, books, and I suspect a few other items, but it is the physical things, which give us life, sustenance, pleasure, and all of which goes with our lives. There would be no life without physical items. I was 30 when U.S. coinage went from silver to base metals, and I was amazed at the short time it took for the silver to disappear.

I am literally amazed also, at how many Americans, use 'wealth managers,' to handle their financial affairs; usually with a 1% per year charge on all of their customer's wealth! I believe most Americans, place their surplus assets in one of the over 700 wealth managers' control. Fox Business channel, always seems to find a 'wealth manager' to be inter-

viewed, as to his or her opinion on the stock market or government interest rates.

Think of it! Probably a trillion, and probably more dollars, are in the ledgers of wealth managers, buying and selling stocks, bonds, and other dollar denominated objects, of which no one has any physical possession. It's all computer entries, just like bit coin is also. (The word 'crypto' means hidden or fake). A trillion or more dollars, as shown on computer screens, indicates America's wealth or poverty. Nothing physical. Nothing you can count on, like physical hundred dollar bills. There are 875 million shares of General Motors, and 90.5% of them are held by institutions such as wealth managers, who have no physical shares in their offices, and neither do you. A share of G.M., indicates that you own a one hundred eighty seven five millionth of General Motors. Does that give you any power over General Motors? No, because it is the G.M. board of directors, which runs it, headed by its president. Is G.M. 'crypto?' It surely is hidden, as is all shares of everything. All wealth, to me anyway, should be physical wealth, and not in computer entries or paper promises.

In a previous column, I noted that people occasionally ask us: 'Why should I buy gold or silver, when you can't spend it at the super market?' Try spending your computer screen at a super market! Sell a couple of ounces if you need dollars. It's quite simple. If your surplus wealth is stored in precious metals, it's in your hands or safe to do with it what you please. Sell some or buy more. They're physical gold and silver, which have been real money in all nations, for thousands of years. Gold and silver, which have always been desired by everyone, everywhere, at all times, at any time. They're real physical wealth. Universal wealth. Gorgeous wealth. Wealth not involved with a government tax collector or lawyer administering your will. Wealth which increases in dollar prices automatically, as the dollar shrinks in value, without you doing anything. They just sit there, automatically going up in dollar prices!

Why would anyone trust a manager of your wealth, when you can easily manage

it yourself, at no yearly charge, or anyone knowing anything about your wealth to base charges upon, or a government to tax. Your wealth should not be for public or government consumption. One's holdings in anything should be your business, and no one else's. New York's new commie mayor and his democrat stooges are going to pass a wealth tax. How would they know how much wealth you have, if it weren't for bureaucrats, tax collectors, and wealth managers? California is also attempting to do just that.

I manage my own wealth. It costs me nothing, and no one has any idea of how rich or poor I am. I always keep some dollars handy, and last week, a client sold me three, gold Maple Leafs. He's buying a new car and needed a few extra dollars to offset his trade-in, and cash he had on hand. All very simple

I own a million-dollar home, a rental property, a few cars, antiques, hundreds of books, and a few paper dollars, and the rest is all in gold and silver. Why would anyone not do the same? Not to preach, but I am certain that when people buy a few coins from us, it is a safeguard or insurance, and not their entire surplus wealth.

The buck has already lost over 95% of its purchasing power in my lifetime! Why would anyone want to store their wealth in a leaky bucket, administered by a 'wealth manager,' who may lose it all if markets go against him, and if he makes a profit, it's taxable, after his 1% yearly charge! Nothing can possibly destroy the value of gold and silver! When the stock market crashed in 1929, gold remained at \$20.67 per ounce, and silver at 60 cents an ounce.

The Iranian 'Rial' is worth a fraction of a U.S. penny, with the dollar consisting of a million rials. Those who stored their wealth in rials, have lost all of it. Those who stored wealth in French assignats, during the French Revolution, Confederate North and South money, during the War Between the States, German reichsmarks, after World War One, American stocks in 1929, and even paper money used in our Revolution, called the 'continental,' lost it all then too. Lest I forget, have already lost 95% of it today.

PHYSICAL From previous pg

Be it a sunset, a great meal, glass of wine or an Evan Williams (the best bourbon) on the rocks, a great movie or book, a trip to somewhere, a restaurant, or anything physical, good or bad, they're physical, not promises in a computer. None of my wealth is anyone's business. My wealth goes up in price, not value, as the dollar goes down, and I have to do nothing to make that happen. I keep good books, pay all taxes on time, and never cheat Uncle Sam, and I'm not worried about my economic future. Worry about yours or in your wealth managers' computer? Think about it.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA WELCOMES SCOTT BREITHAUP AS NEW SAFETY DIRECTOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has named Scott Breithaupt as its new Safety Director, bringing more than two decades of electric industry experience and a deep commitment to serving DMEA members and communities to the role. "Safety isn't simply a program or a set of requirements—it's about building and supporting a culture where taking care of one another comes first," said DMEA CEO Jack Johnston. "Our employees work in challenging environments every day, and we owe it to them to provide the training, resources, and support necessary to do their jobs safely. Scott brings tremendous experience and a strong understanding of our operations to this role, and I'm confident he will help us continue building a culture where safety comes first."

Scott joined DMEA in August 2017 as a Journeyman Lineman and has 21 years of experience in the electric industry. Before joining DMEA, he worked for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and Colorado Springs Utilities, where he helped construct and maintain electric infrastructure. In his former role as a DMEA Serviceman, he responded to outages throughout the area, working directly with members and helping during some of their most challenging moments.

"Safety has always been a fundamental part of the work we do at DMEA, and I'm honored to take on a role that allows me to help strengthen that culture across our cooperative," said Breithaupt. "My experience in the field has shown me that looking out for one another, taking the time to do things safely, and never becoming complacent are critical to making sure everyone goes home safely at the end of the day."

Scott has also demonstrated a strong commitment to service beyond DMEA's local service territory. For the past two years, he has volunteered with DMEA's Light Up Navajo team, traveling to remote communities to help bring reliable electricity to families who have never had access to it.

As Safety Director, Scott will lead DMEA's comprehensive safety and loss prevention program, focusing on protecting employees and cooperative assets while supporting the reliable delivery of power and internet services.

To learn more about safety at DMEA, please visit dmea.com/safety

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YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE — CAN TIME IN NATURE MAKE YOUR BRAIN BIGGER?



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD. Courtesy photos.



Greetings Mirrorites!

OLATHE—Recently I listened to a lecture on advances in measuring human intelligence. The lecture backstory reminded me of something I had heard a few years ago, but never explored the research behind the claim.

In grammar school, I was taught that human evolution was one of linear progression: as we became more "civilized," our brains grew larger, fueling the fire of innovation, language, and complex society. But is this actually the case?

Ten thousand years ago, the primary driver of intelligence was survival in a natural landscape. You know, nature red in tooth and claw. The transition from hunter-gatherer societies to sedentary agriculture demanded a shift in cognitive focus. We began to manage complex social hierarchies, understand the cycles of domesticated crops, and develop the first systems of property and law. Raw cognitive processing power was important, but not as important as a more specialized, analytical type of thinking. Therefore, brains shrank as humans divided themselves into doctors, lawyers, or Indian chiefs. Or so researchers suggested in a [2021](#) paper studying skulls from the last 3,000 years.

Au contraire, say other researchers in 2022 and [2024](#). MRI studies concluded that brain size *has* increased between WW1 folks and those measured in 1970. So, while some researchers claim that

human brains have shrunk 15% in the last 3,000 years, others claim that they have grown 15% in the last 80 years. If both are right, then perhaps we humans are at a cognitive draw, with declines now being completely made up for! Why might this be? "Genetics plays a major role in determining brain size, but our findings indicate external influences — such as health, social, cultural and educational factors — may also play a role," states Dr. Charles De Carli of UC Davis. This jives with what the Norwegian researchers have concluded. So we're all getting smarter, right?

Fun fact...for the better part of the 20th century, social scientists observed that average IQ scores across the globe were rising. Named the "Flynn Effect" after the late psychologist James Flynn, this steady climb—roughly three points per decade—was attributed to better nutrition, expanded access to education, and coping with the increasing complexity of the modern environment. It suggested that as the world became more cognitively demanding, humanity was rising to meet the challenge and would continue to do so. Seems reasonable enough. Kinda like brain size, for a while.

However, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, that upward trend hit a ceiling. In several developed nations, the curve didn't just flatten; it began to dip. This phenomenon is now known as the Reverse Flynn Effect, and it has sparked a rigorous

debate among psychologists, sociologists, and educators about whether we have reached "peak intelligence" or if our modern lifestyle is actively eroding our cognitive capabilities.

For instance, a 2018 study of Norwegian males found that IQ scores began to decline for cohorts born after 1975. Similar trends have been observed in the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. Drawing from their analysis of over 730,000 Norwegian military conscripts, [researchers](#) concluded that both the increase and the decline in IQ scores originate from environmental factors operating within families. They ruled out genetic and demographic explanations and highlighted the role of shifting societal conditions. Improved education, nutrition, and public health likely fueled earlier gains, while the recent downturn may stem from stagnating educational quality, increased passive media consumption, and reduced cognitive engagement. The decline isn't massive—often a fraction of a point per year—but it is consistent enough to signal a significant shift in human development. Brain size may or may not be shrinking from ancestral norms, but intelligence appears to be decreasing regardless. What does this have to do with the benefits of nature for your brain? We are an extremely social, and now extremely urban, species, isolated from the natural world. This may well be one major reason

CAN TIME IN NATURE MAKE YOUR BRAIN BIGGER? *From previous pg*

for the intelligence decline. Nature deficit disorder and excessive screen time may explain a great deal of the Reverse Flynn Effect. Time spent in natural settings reduces amygdala activity and lowers cortisol levels. This shift is crucial for neural connectivity because high cortisol is neurotoxic; it physically withers the dendritic branches in the hippocampus, important for learning and memory function. By mitigating this stress response, nature allows the hippocampus to maintain its structural volume and its vital connections to the rest of the brain. How does this happen? Theta brain waves are closely tied to building and strengthening neural

connectivity during learning, memory formation, and higher cognition. Time in pleasant nature increases alpha and theta brain waves which are closely linked to increases in functional connectivity, or processes used by different areas of the brain to communicate and coordinate activity. This is a core biological basis for human intelligence.

Rather than depending on a single smart region, general intelligence emerges from efficient, system-wide communication across distributed global brain networks. Time in nature makes this happen. For an in-depth look into the current research compiled on this topic to date, read the weighty [2026 paper](#) cleverly titled “Your Brain On Nature”. Not joking, that’s really the name.

So, to conclude, time spent in restorative environments changes your brainwaves, which improves functional connectivity, which means you eventually become smarter than the average bear or even the average human. Time in nature may not make your brain physically bigger, but it will make you sharper as long as you get at least 1.5 hours per week of a nature hit.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

TAXES – THE NEW DIGITAL FRONTIER IN COLORADO

While you don't "own" a "Digital" product, You're Now Paying Sales Tax on It!

By David White

I, like others reading this article, just received my current Netflix bill. With it came an unexpected and unwanted surprise. This month's bill included a line item for "sales tax." They've never taxed us before, which led me to investigate what this new line item on the bill was about. Here's what I found and I don't like it.

As a result of a Colorado Department of Revenue lawsuit against digital media streaming giant Netflix and the subsequent settlement of the lawsuit that the Colorado Court of Appeals oversaw in which the State of Colorado argued that online digital products qualified as taxable transactions under existing statutory definitions, particularly and without a transfer of ownership of a product, sales tax can, simply put, be applied to any digital media streaming service which charges a subscription or other fee for using their service to access movies, digital books, software and any other digitally streamed product available to the consumer. This is just the beginning. The bottom line is that they're going to tax everything that you "consume" even if you don't have ownership rights to them. Sales tax will be applied to your monthly digital subscription from here on.

As background, in 2021, Colorado's sales tax law was amended through House Bill 21-1312. This amendment explicitly included digital goods under the definition of "tangible personal property," which allowed sales tax to be applied to streaming services. This expanded its definition of taxable transactions to include digital goods and certain digital services, placing streaming subscriptions within the scope of taxability under the law.

The state's approach was grounded in the idea that access to digital content, even without transfer of ownership, can constitute a taxable transaction when it provides a consumable benefit to the end user. The sales tax on these transactions applies to not only the State of Colorado (2.9%) but also to Montrose County (1.75%) and the City of Montrose (3.88% and which includes the sales tax collected

on behalf of the Montrose Recreation District which pays the debt service on the Montrose Community Recreation Center) creating another stream of "income" for these entities. What a nice windfall! NOT! Already strapped consumers are hit once again by government taxation.

The Colorado Department of Revenue argued that Netflix's subscription model fits within this expanded framework, effectively treating streaming as a taxable provision of entertainment similar to cable or satellite television. A key issue before the court was whether Netflix's streaming subscriptions constituted taxable transactions under Colorado law. The Department of Revenue's position relied heavily on the classification of streaming as a form of taxable access to digital content, rather than the sale of a physical product.

The Colorado Court of Appeals ultimately agreed with this reasoning, concluding that the statutory framework could accommodate streaming services within its scope. A particularly important aspect of the ruling was the recognition that taxability does not depend on the transfer of ownership, but rather on whether the consumer receives the right to use or access content for consideration.

According to information found on the website of the law firm Reed-Smith, LLP (<https://www.reedsmith.com/>) about this decision, the Court of Appeals resolved the case on **statutory grounds** and **expressly declined** to reach the challenge under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights ("TABOR"), leaving that constitutional question undecided. The TABOR argument may be the more consequential of the two. Under recent Colorado Supreme Court authority, extending an existing tax to previously untaxed goods, services, or providers without voter approval may render the tax invalid. Both vendors and purchasers of software, content, data, or platform access should assess their exposure and consider protective refund claims rather than treating the issue as settled.

(<https://www.reedsmith.com/articles/netflix-settled-but-colorado-s-digital->

[goods-sales-tax-question-remains-unresolved/](#))

At this point, it's time for someone to step up and challenge the decision by the Court of Appeals on the grounds that this new sales tax is unconstitutional as it was imposed legislatively without a vote of the people as required by TABOR. I didn't find where this has happened as of now, but hopefully it will soon.

These kinds of laws and court decisions are worrisome for more than just the tax issues that they create. The phrase attributed to a member of the World Economic Forum back in 2016 (Danish politician Ida Auken) about a future in which a person relies on the sharing economy for many of their needs and repeated by WEF founder, Klaus Schwab says, "You will own nothing and be happy," might in fact be a warning sign to all of us that this new tax is just the beginning.

To think that what you don't own and physically possess is taxable goes against everything we hold dear. Yet that's apparently what the Colorado Legislature believes and they're willing to spend tax dollars to defend it.

If anything makes the case for owning a DVD, CD, VHS, printed book, software, etc., this new law does. Get any of them that you'd like to physically own before they're gone!

(NOTE: For reference to explanations cited in this article, and a detailed explanation of the legalities of this court decision, go to the following site: <https://1stopvat.com/netflix-vs-colorado-sales-tax-streaming-services-ruling/>)

Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He was most recently the Interim Montrose County Manager. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren with 2 more on the way & a great grandchild.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ALEXIS GILLMAN NAMED TO MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY'S SUMMER 2026 DEAN'S LIST

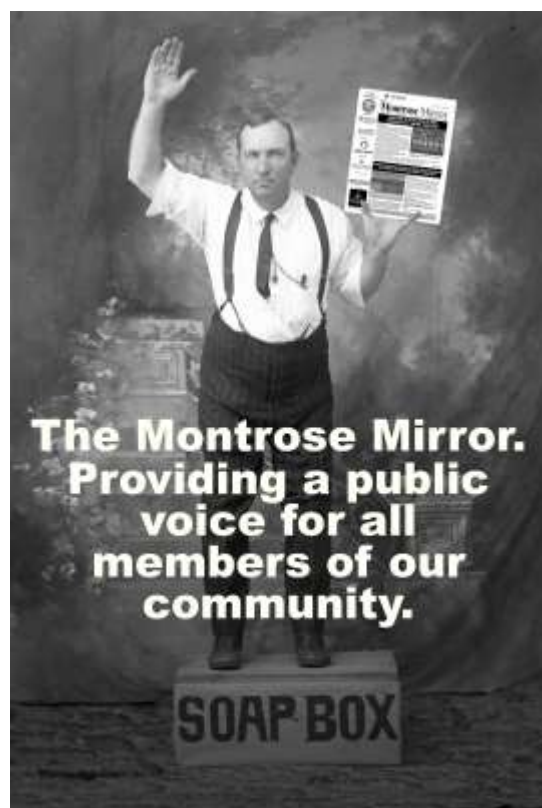
Special to the Mirror

SPRINGFIELD, MO-- Each semester, students at Missouri State University who attain academic excellence are named to the dean's list.

For undergraduate students, criteria include enrollment in at least six credit hours during the summer semester and at least a 3.50 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Alexis Gillman of Montrose (81403) made the list. Gillman was among more than 1,200 students named to the summer 2026 dean's list. *Missouri State University* is a community of citizen scholars committed to public affairs. Our innovative teaching, research and service create transformative experiences that benefit individuals and society.

For more information about Missouri State, visit MissouriState.edu. You can also find us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and see what's happening on [YouTube](#). Receive notification of Missouri State news releases as soon as they are posted by subscribing to our [news blog](#).



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AVOID DISTRACTED RIDING, SECONDS MATTER *E-device riders are vulnerable road users*

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Along with the rise of e-devices come some of the same unsafe and high-risk behaviors that drivers have struggled with, like avoiding distractions. The temptation to multitask or use technology can impact a rider's ability to focus on what's ahead and reduce physical control of their e-device.

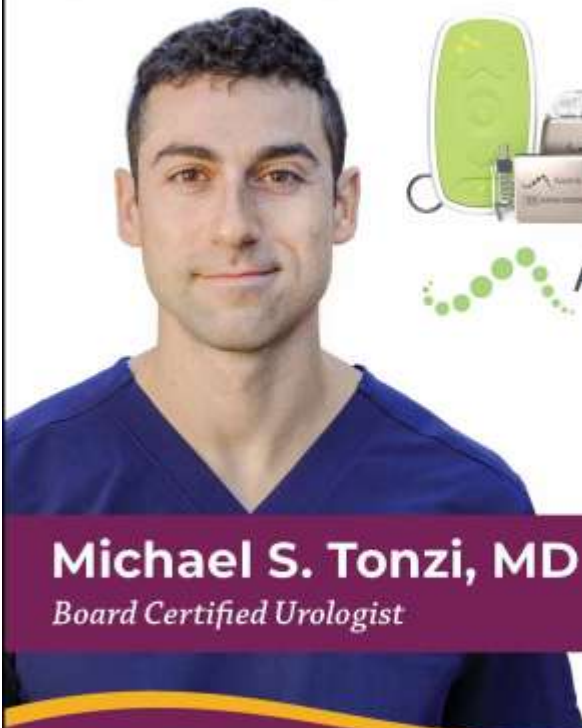


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"Technology isn't the enemy, but how and when we use it matters," stated Col. Mathew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Riders need to remove distractions to be able to quickly respond to unpredictable changes in front of them. The faster they ride, the less time they will have." Whether using a cell phone while riding or headphones that block out traffic and pedestrian cues, riders need to proactively focus on the path ahead of them and stay connected to the people and vehicles around them.

Stay Connected to Your Environment

1. Pull over before using your phone. Even a few seconds of inattention can erase your reaction time.

2. Mount your phone securely. If navigation is necessary, use a handlebar mount and glance only when stationary.

3. Keep both hands on the bars. Maintain full control of your e-device. Swerving or braking becomes incredibly difficult without both hands available.

4. Avoid full-cover headphones. Avoid wearing headphones or earbuds, especially in both ears. Remain fully aware of approaching vehicles, pedestrians and traffic sounds around you.

5. Prioritize visibility. Use lights, reflectors and light clothing. Ensure you're seen even when others aren't paying attention.

In a [recent study](#) on distractions, looking at a cell phone for just 2 seconds at 15 mph, a rider will travel 46 ft. This is the length of three school buses parked bumper-to-bumper. To avoid injury or a crash, riders need to maintain full attention while operating their e-device. Seconds Matter.

The Colorado State Patrol is raising awareness of the risks and requirements associated with micromobility devices. Riders and caregivers should know the rules and local ordinances of where they ride to ensure they are operating both legally and safely. Don't be an e-DIOT, be safe, and be seen as a responsible e-device rider.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

INMATES NOW IN CHARGE OF THE DEMOCRAT ASYLUM

Editor:

I wrote last week that any Democrats who retain some sanity will soon find no room in their own "Big Tent" because the fraudsters, communists, and Islamists will have no room for infidels who love the freedoms this country still offers. Unfortunately for those sane, moderate Democrats, the inmates are now in charge of the Democrat asylum. The only legitimate purpose of government is to protect the lives and rights of its own people – as our founders constantly pointed out. For decades in Great Britain, migrant gangs, mostly Muslim Pakistani men, groomed and raped 250,000 vulnerable English girls. Britain's liberal government mostly turned a blind eye, while jailing ordinary citizens for their opinions, and letting uncontrolled immigration destroy their country. The UK has now issued a pamphlet with behavioral guidelines for "asylum seekers," explaining that women should not be raped and have the same rights as men. Like their Democrat counterparts in the US, the liberal British politicians seem unable to ask the simple question: "If these third-world Muslims need to be taught that rape, forced child marriage, and controlling women as a piece of property are bad, should we maybe think about not admitting these people into our country?" Duh. In the People's Republic of Minnesota, Democrat politicians are now writing letters to Somali gangs asking them to not disrupt the Minnesota State Fair. I assume they have already sent letters to the Somali day care operators and other fraudsters and asked them to do a better job of hiding the multi-million-dollar theft of taxpayer funds from various welfare programs put in place by Democrats. Somalians have had Temporary Protected Status in America for 35 years. Fully 80% of Somali households are still on government welfare. (Maybe the other 20% "work" at the Learing Center and other scams?) I guess three and a half decades to learn English, get jobs, and contribute to society is a bit much to ask? We don't want to let the bad actions of 259,970 Somalians ruin it for the other 30, right?

Minnesota liberals could learn a lot from California's Governor Newsome, who just signed the "Stop Nick Shirley Act" into law. Dems really hate it when an American citizen with a phone uncovers their fraud, so they make unconstitutional laws saying that you

are not allowed to uncover their fraud. Imagine how deeply corrupt you have to be to pass a law that stops journalists from exposing fraud in your own state. Governor Walz is the inmate running the Minnesota asylum. His state has welcomed hordes of illegal aliens from third-world countries who were quick to recognize that the welfare programs passed by the state's Democrats were an open invitation to theft. Coming from a society where theft was the norm, they naturally accepted the invitation. Worse yet, a large percentage of them committed crimes way worse than fraud. Rather than address the problem his party created, Walz preferred spending his time pardoning vicious illegal immigrant child rapists while slandering law enforcement – and ensuring boy's locker rooms were adequately supplied with feminine hygiene products. Rationality, logic, and reason are not Democrats' strong points. Michigan Democrats are trying to keep up with the craziness. They want their favorite Muslim Marxist, Abdul El-Sayed, to help run the Michigan asylum as their Senate nominee. He will of course spend the next two months telling Michiganders that he will make their lives more affordable, without talking about his belief in Sharia Law, defunding the police, and abolishing ICE so that they can import a zillion more Muslim invaders. He won't want to talk about the fact his mother and uncle both worked for the Islamic American Relief Agency that not only supported Hamas and the Taliban, but also funded Osama bin Laden in the years just before 9/11 before being designated a terrorist organization. Oh, and don't forget that, per Sayed, toxic masculinity is at the heart of America's favorite sport - football.

The inmates running the Democrat asylum are perfectly OK with a flood of people coming to this country and running for office who fundamentally hate everything about America and our western values. They can't honestly win a majority of the citizens' vote, so they opened the borders wide to flood the nation with people only interested in a free ride, or even worse, conquest. They also want the female vote, so they try to teach that men are their enemy while simultaneously lying about all their anti-female policies. Where are all the women's rights groups protesting against Islam's barbaric practices against women? Where are the feminists

protesting the WNBA and men in women's sports? CeCe Telfer competed in men's Division II events, but ranked only 390th nationally in the 400-meter hurdles – obviously not qualifying for national championships. After "transitioning" and competing in women's events, he won the NCAA Division II national championship in the 400m hurdles. Caitlin Jenner, former Olympic champion and current transvestite, was a lone voice of reason: "I don't want that to be ruined with biological men coming to play in women's sports. XX you're in, XY you're out. You can go play with the men."

Democrats want the black vote, so they teach black people that whites, and particularly Republicans, are the enemy. Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) last week: "The Confederacy is alive and well. That's all MAGA is." The inmates running the Democrat asylum assume, and are to some degree correct, that the American people are totally ignorant of history and who Democrats are. The Confederacy was founded by Democrats who seceded to preserve slavery. The Republican party was created to destroy it. Jim Crow, the KKK, and segregation were all Democrat projects which Republicans ended. The scourge of the black community in this country is Democrats. It doesn't matter what color those Democrats are; they've all supervised the destruction of the black family through manipulative social policies and government dependency -- for their own personal gain. A lot of white liberals were involved in that, as were black liberals, but no Republicans. That subterfuge of the black community continues to this day. Last week, far-left race baiter Don Lemon and Mayor Eddie Melton teamed up to completely lie about the actual reason parts of Gary, Indiana, went dark for nearly two weeks. After a major storm, thousands in the majority-black city went without power. Both Lemon and Melton claimed the city was being neglected because of its racial makeup. What they didn't mention was the utility had to pause work until the city could guarantee the work crews' safety -- their crews were being shot at. Crime and chaos delay recovery far more than any imaginary racial plot, but the race baiters ignore the facts in favor of the same old tired narrative. Black liberals clearly have their fair share of inmates running the Democrat asylum.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH WELCOMES NEW INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIAN TO ADULT PRIMARY CARE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health is pleased to welcome Dr. Carly Joseph, MD, to its Adult Primary Care team beginning Sept. 1, 2026. Dr. Joseph specializes in internal medicine, providing comprehensive care for adult patients from preventative health through the end of life, with a particular focus on women's health across the lifespan.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Carly Joseph to Delta Health," said Delta Health Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Executive Officer Nick Colleran. "Dr. Joseph brings a rare combination of engineering precision, public health insight, and a genuine commitment to rural care; she trained at a medical school built around a rural and primary care mission. Increasing access to Internal Medicine care close to home matters to our residents, and we're confident Dr. Joseph's background and focus will make a real

difference for our community."

Dr. Joseph is originally from Michigan, where she lived in a number of small towns and rural communities before setting out to build a career in rural medicine. An avid mountain biker, skier, and rock climber, she was drawn to a community that could support that lifestyle alongside a rural medical practice — and Delta County made an immediate impression. "I wanted to practice rural medicine in a place that would support all of my outdoor hobbies," Dr. Joseph said.

"Within the first day of visiting, I knew Delta would be a great fit."

Dr. Joseph studied biomedical engineering at Michigan Technological University before attending Central Michigan University College of Medicine, drawn by the school's rural and primary care mission. She went on to complete a Master of Public Health at the University of Michigan, researching pandemic-related isolation

among older adults and its implications for rural health, and completed an Internal Medicine residency in Portland, Maine.

"Delta Health stood out as a group that shared my vision for primary care, where being smaller and independent means physicians have real room to be creative in how they help patients thrive," Dr. Joseph said. "People need to feel seen and understood, and this is the foundation of meaningful, trusting relationships in primary care. I try to bring what matters most to each patient to the front and center of our plan of care."

Outside of work, Dr. Joseph looks forward to exploring Delta County and plans to take up cross-country skiing on Grand Mesa this winter.

Dr. Joseph will see patients at Delta Health Adult Primary Care beginning Sept. 1. To schedule an appointment, call 970-874-7668.

The Mirror:

For coverage that never leaves
our readers out in cold ...



www.montrosemirror.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE'S CORNERSTONE CLUB ANNOUNCES EXPANSION AND GOLF COURSE RENOVATION PLANS ***Four-season mountain community unveils enhanced golf experience, new wellness offerings, overnight accommodations and exclusive Telluride ski access***

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Cornerstone Club, a 4,800-acre, four-season private club community in Montrose, Colorado, today announced a major expansion led by Reef Capital Partners designed to elevate the resident and member experience.

The plans include golf course renovations, expanded amenities, new overnight accommodations, enhanced wellness offerings, and exclusive ski access in Telluride.

"Reef Capital Partners is honored to guide Cornerstone Club into its next chapter," says OD Vincent, VP of Golf Operations at Reef Capital Partners. "Our vision is to preserve everything our members love about this special community, while making thoughtful investments that enhance the experience for generations to come and strengthen its legacy as a truly year-round destination."

At the heart of the expansion is the renovation of the club's acclaimed Matt Dusenberry-designed golf course, scheduled to be completed in summer 2027. Members will enjoy upgraded turfgrass, refined fairways, revitalized bunkers and improved cart paths throughout the course, along with the transformations of two signature holes. Hole 12 will become a dramatic short par-4 that rewards strategic play, while Hole 18 will be reimagined as a memorable par-5 finishing hole.

Adjacent to the 18th green, Cornerstone will unveil a new bar and grill overlooking

an expansive putting course, creating a gathering place where members can connect, relax, and celebrate the golf experience after the round. Complementing Cornerstone's culinary offerings, this new venue will join the Cap Rock restaurant in the clubhouse and the Elk Shack on the golf course.

The clubhouse campus will also grow to include a resort-style pool and hot tub, an event lawn for family gatherings and club events, and new locker rooms serving golf and pool guests.

Nearby, Cornerstone is also upgrading its training facilities into a state-of-the-art performance center featuring indoor activities like racquetball and a fitness center outfitted with elite training equipment. Wellness offerings will expand as well, with a new spa and thermal village featuring indoor and outdoor thermal pools, private treatment cabins, relaxation cabanas, couples' experiences, and a coffee and juice bar.

In addition to golf and poolside recreation, programming will also broaden, and members can enjoy hiking, horseback riding, pickleball, and tennis during the warmer months, along with indoor golf simulators, wellness experiences, and seasonal events throughout fall and winter. Beginning in Winter 2026, Cornerstone Club real estate members will also gain exclusive access to Crest Club Telluride, a private alpine retreat located within the Madeline Hotel & Residences, Au-

berge Resorts Collection. The partnership allows members to seamlessly transition from summer mountain living to winter skiing in Telluride.

To accommodate increased member use, Cornerstone Club will add eight new overnight cabins, giving members and guests convenient accommodations options for weekend golf getaways and extended mountain retreats.

"Cornerstone has always been more than a golf course, it's a retreat, legacy, and a way of life. We are excited to build on that foundation, enriching the experience while preserving the qualities that make this place truly exceptional," says Andy Deiro, General Manager of Cornerstone Club.

As part of the club's evolution, Reef Capital Partners has also partnered with Coral Tree Hospitality to oversee hospitality operations. The Colorado-based company will help enhance member services while preserving the community's distinctive culture and connection to the surrounding landscape. One Cornerstone memberships are now available, offering a limited opportunity to join the club ahead of its next phase of growth. The community's public real estate release is anticipated in 2027.

For more information on Cornerstone Club, please visit <https://cornerstoneclub.com/>. Property images are available [here](#) and renderings are available [here](#). (credit: Cornerstone Club).

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FOR MAYOR BADAGLIACCO

Mr. Mayor.

Your opinion piece in the Mirror, asserting that there will MORE voter participation in November if we move the April ballot to Nov. is woefully WRONG. A Washington Post article disputes this fact.

Let me FULLY INFORM YOU YOU'RE WRONG.

Due to Trump's attempt to sow confusion and distrust of the election system, the citizens of Montrose would be better served if you did not proceed with going forward with the ballot initiative to move the municipal election from April to November. You have not provided any empirical data supporting greater participation in November elections vs. a standalone Municipal election. Following are excerpts from an article from the Washington Post that indicates people will fail to show up to the polls because of the confusion regarding mail-in voting. You should wait until that issue is resolved prior to trying to change voting from April to November.

"For much of his second term, President Donald Trump has been trying to dramatically change how people vote. He's pushed to limit (or ban) mail voting, create strict voter ID laws, require verification of citizenship, and even once said that Republicans should "take over the voting" and nationalize it. His attempts to make sweeping changes to election law have been mostly unsuccessful so far, but they have created a lot of uncertainty about how elections will be run — including this fall. In some states, ballots for November's election will get mailed next week.

Election experts worry some confused voters will opt out of participating altogether.

The fate of the policy is in the hands of the courts, which have yet to issue any final ruling on it.

On Monday, a divided Supreme Court essentially said the Trump administration could make the preparations necessary to institute the policy in this fall's elections but did not make a final decision on whether the change ultimately will be allowed. Presidents typically don't have control over how elections are run; the Constitution grants that authority to states and Congress.

His focus on this has perplexed even some conservatives, especially those in rural areas who say mail-in voting is popular and safe. "Over 70 percent of Montanans vote mail-in, and it goes up every election," Sen. Steve Daines (R-Montana) told reporters this year. Trump has voted by mail, and almost all states offer some form of mail balloting.

His Justice Department has tried and failed to get many states to hand over sensitive voter data; they've lost every single court case brought by states that have challenged these demands. And the Supreme Court recently upheld a law in Mississippi that allows mailed ballots postmarked by Election Day to count even if they arrive days later.

States are moving forward preparing for the midterm election, Becker said, regardless of what the feds do. That said, ***the administration appears to be hell-bent on creating a sense of chaos and confusion around the election. This puts a tremendous pressure on voters, and especially on election officials.***"

[Washington Post Link](#)

Lynn Stockton - Montrose



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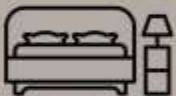
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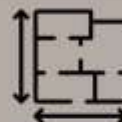
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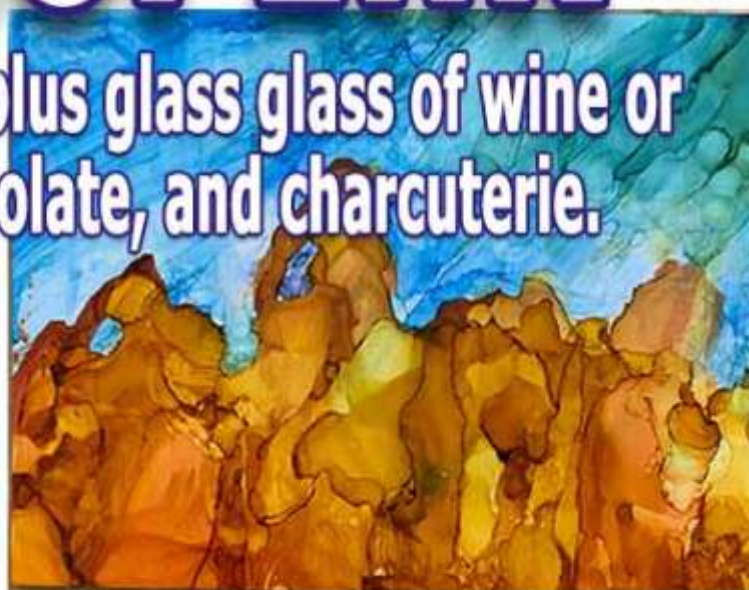




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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MICHELE BATTISTE OF LAFAYETTE FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS ON SEPT. 1 AT 7 PM

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-Poet Laureate of Lafayette Michele Battiste will be the featured guest for the Talking Gourds first Tuesday Bardic Trails virtual reading series Sept. 1st at 7 pm MDT.

"I've heard Michele read at several poetry festivals," said Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director, "and I've never failed to be impressed."

The author of four books of poetry and an oracle deck, Battiste's collection, *Waiting for the Wreck to Burn*, won the Louise Bogan Award for Literary Merit and Excellence from Trio House Press. Her latest book, *The Elsewhere Oracle*, is a collection of poems that doubles as a divination tool (Black Lawrence Press, 2025). She is the current poet laureate of Lafayette.

Battiste's work has appeared widely: in publications such as *American Poetry Review*, *American Book Review*, *LIT*, *The Rumpus*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*. She has received awards, fellowships and residencies from AWP, the Center of the American West, The Jerome Foundation, Blue Mountain Center, and Good Hart Artist Residency, among others.

She is associate director of philanthropy for The Nature Conservancy where she works to tackle climate change and protect nature. www.michelebattiste.net

For those that like story or poem prompts, we are suggesting "Fire," although poems on any subject are welcome. Virtual attendees are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share each month after the featured reader -- their own work or someone else's.

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program hosts the free Bardic Trails virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month. The Wilkinson Public Library continues as our collaboration partner, with town support from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts & Special Events. Featured reader for August 4th will be Diné poet/performer Kirbie Bennett of Durango.

Participants are encouraged to visit <<https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren't already on our mailing list. Or email Art Goodtimes directly.

Thanks to the Cantor Family, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our program and projects.



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SPECIAL REPORT: CITY OF MONTROSE

CITY OF MONTROSE ELECTION MEDDLING – PART 4

They Can't Leave Well Enough Alone with the Facts, So now Facts are "Misinformation"!

By David White

With their hand(s) caught digging into the proverbial cookie jar when it comes to the integrity of 14 years of municipal elections, it appears that the City of Montrose Administration is at it again directing that factual information conveyed to the public by this author with verbatim quotes and documents provided by Montrose County Clerk's Office, County Attorney and the City of Montrose under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), are now being labeled as **"misinformation."**

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo, in a recent disclosure in response to citizen inquiries about the state of the City of Montrose's election integrity, remarked that: "Because ***misinformation*** is circulating" ... "we started an **'election integrity page'** on the City website." Interesting that they're now interested in election integrity, which hasn't been an overriding concern of theirs for at least the last 14 years according to the City Attorney, a period of time when questionable election practices were carried out.

Following is a recap of the facts as we know them:

- The April 7, 2026, City of Montrose municipal election was overseen by City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo who was the "Designated Election Official" according to a City Council resolution naming her as such.

- The City Manager signed a contract with Montrose County in January of 2026 to have the County Clerk's Office process election ballots on behalf of the City and to do so on State of Colorado certified electronic tabulating equipment.

- The City breached the contract when, on the night of the election and after the polls closed, the City Clerk took 42 untabulated ballots from the County Elections Department and returned with them to her office. There was no written chain of custody of those ballots. The ballots left a sealed, logged, surveilled facility that observers were watching, and entered a room or office in City Hall where the City says nothing was recorded.

- In addition to the **42** ballots, that there were **17** "Confidential Ballots, **16** ballots received from voters that needed to be "cured" due to a signature discrepancy or

other issue; **7** provisional ballots received from "voters" and **1** UOCAVA (overseas military or civilian) ballot that arrived late but was postmarked in a timely fashion – **83** ballots in total.

- The City refuses to answer how many of the 16 cured and how many of the 7 provisionals were verified, and by whom.

- Repeated attempts by the County Clerk and the County Attorney to retrieve these ballots from the City for tabulation were rebuffed by both the City Clerk and the City Attorney.

- The City Clerk, without obtaining permission via a public resolution from the City Council as the "governing body," selected 15 City employees and 1 outsider (the Town Clerk of Mt. Crested Butte, CO) to be the election judges in violation of State statute.

- The City Clerk, without witnesses nor under video surveillance, "hand counted" the 83 ballots in her office and then combined her total with that of the County Clerk's to prepare an "abstract" of the total number of votes cast in the election knowing that it is not legal to employ two methods to count ballots unless one or the other of the accepted counting methods proves to be "impracticable" to do so under State statute (electronic or hand counting).

- In an August 3, 2026, City Council Work Session, when asked by Councilor Adam Woodden what the status of these ballots was, City Clerk DelPiccolo stated that she "felt" that the County Clerk's office was "impartial" (meaning biased) and took it upon herself to hand count, without any observers (the City declined to provide the names of anyone that may have been present for this hand count) all 83 ballots and then had a canvass of the vote performed and an abstract of their total count prepared and signed off by then Mayor Dave Frank along with the Municipal Judge LeClaire and herself to certify the election results.

- The City Clerk stated that "senior leadership" in the City had decided that the 83 ballots would NOT be given to the County Clerk. Presumably, this decision was made by the City Manager and/or the Assistant City Manager who comprise the "senior

leadership team" within the City government.

- The City Attorney has admitted to at least the last 7 municipal elections (over 14 years) being compromised with these practices.

Even with the preponderance of evidence provided by the City and County through Colorado Open Records requests of multiple failures to conduct elections in a manner consistent with the word "integrity," the City is now trying to save face by coming forward with a new "Election Integrity" page on their website that went live on August 20th.

See: <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/253/Election-Integrity>

While it is noteworthy that they are now tacitly admitting to errors in the municipal election process, it is still of concern that they're standing behind some critical flaws in their protocols. As an example, in the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of the "integrity" web page, they ask this question: [Why are City employees used as election judges?](#) In answering their own question, they state the following:

"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."

Not one word is mentioned about the City Council's responsibility to select the judges or delegate the authority to do so to the Designated Election Official (usually the City Clerk) by resolution. Nor is the obvious conflict of interest issue addressed. This needs to be stopped and rectified. 32 years is long enough to have known that this practice has been a violation of State statutes.

On the subject of who is in the ballot counting and tabulating room in the Montrose County Clerk's Office Election Center, they pose this question: [Who is in the scanning and tabulation room when the ballots are taken to the county election facility?](#) And in answer, state:

CITY OF MONTROSE ELECTION MEDDLING – PART 4 From previous pg

"Only city election judges and county elections staff are allowed in the scanning and tabulation room for municipal elections. At least two election judges transport ballots to the county facility."

However, when they discuss [Who is in the room when ballots are tallied at City Hall?](#) They state:

"When ballots are tallied for the final count, several election judges and the city clerk are present in the election room. Multiple tallies are conducted to assure accuracy."

Since there is not a chain of custody of the ballots nor is there video surveillance (they answer this too by stating - ***"Surveillance is not required under the municipal election statutes."***), how do we know that their stated practices are being observed and, again, ballots should be going to the County Clerk's Office for tabulation which is not mentioned here.

Questions remain to be answered in addition to those already asked and which the City continues to stonewall a response to. The City's own 2026 Mail Ballot Election Plan obliges the Clerk to "maintain daily receipt and reconciliation records for both voted ballots and ballots returned as undeliverable," and requires that ballots be "scanned into the database as received before the envelope is opened." Those records are the reconciliation. They have never been produced. There is also a reason beyond bookkeeping that they must exist. A disposition recorded against the voter's identification number is what prevents a voter whose ballot was rejected from being issued a replacement. Without it the City cannot demonstrate that no one voted twice.

The bottom line is withholding the ballots was ordinary as a part of the cure process. Moving them out of a logged and surveilled County facility into a room where nothing was recorded was not, and refusing for five weeks to bring them back after every secrecy rationale had expired was not either. Add election judges appointed with no delegating resolution, a fourteen-year practice the City Attorney confirmed in writing, and certified totals that appear to leave no room for the rejections such a

batch should contain.

It's time for the rhetoric and the nebulous "misinformation" word to stop being thrown around by City leadership as a way to deflect criticism and the facts that surround this issue and many others. And that goes for their skills at the MDP and members of the public who haven't done the research nor asked the hard and pertinent questions that make this matter one that every one of us should be concerned about. The City Council needs to own this one and make the changes needed to truly ensure that our municipal elections are conducted with the utmost of integrity. I have hope and trust that these changes

will be forthcoming in the near future. If not, we'll be continuing this conversation.

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.

Catering: Graduations, Weddings, Family Gatherings

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Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
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TRIVIA NIGHT

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**Please join us for our 6th Annual
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Scan to Register

Date: Saturday, October 24th at 6:30pm.
Registration: \$30 per person (up to 8 people per team)

*Includes unlimited access to appetizer & dessert bars and non-alcoholic drinks.

*Elks Cash Bar will also be available

MORE INFO

970-275-0751

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

WILLIAM "BILL" RALPH GLENDENING *September 4, 1945 — August 12, 2026*

BILL GLENDENING, age 80, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on August 12, 2026 after a battle with many illnesses. He was surrounded by loved ones as he left this world. Bill was born September 4, 1945, in Montrose to Ralph and Edna Glendening. Bill graduated from high school in Montrose in 1964, Married Janie Walker Glendening August 21, 1966, enlisted in the Army shortly after, and continued to earn a BA from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado in 1973. After Janie passed from cancer, he married Mary Spock Glendening. Bill worked for many different places. Federal Land Bank, Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Production Credit Association, the Montrose Potato Growers, and finished his work career with Lambert and Associates in Montrose. Besides work, Bill had a great passion for horses from a young age and enjoyed quarter horse racing with his family. Bill never met a stranger and could visit and listen with anyone, about anything.

After a bout with multiple illnesses, Bill died peacefully surrounded by those he loved. He is survived by his wife Mary of Montrose, his daughters Kim (Calvin) Murray of Roosevelt, Utah, and Kristi (Richard) Auguston of Montrose, his grandchildren Kaci (Logan) Wisener of Salt Lake City, Utah, Jordan (Weston) Walker of Roosevelt, Utah, Jon Auguston, and Toni Auguston of Montrose. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Edna Glendening; his sister, Patsy Glendening; his half-brother, Charles Glendening; his first wife, Janie Glendening; and his stepson, Brandon Rossiter. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him.

There will be no formal service; the family will have a private celebration of life at a different time. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, CO 81401.



MATTIE LEE BRIDGES *December 11, 1930 – August 23, 2026*



MATTIE LEE BRIDGES, 95, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on August 23, 2026. Mattie Lee was born on December 11, 1930, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Lee and Mattie Reed. She was raised in La Junta, Colorado, where she met William "Bill" Bridges. The two were married on September 23, 1951, beginning a life together filled with family, hard work, friendship, and many wonderful memories. Shortly after their marriage, Bill and Mattie made their home in Montrose, Colorado.

Mattie Lee was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, and her beloved husband, Bill. She is survived by their three children, Richard (Shirley) Bridges, Jim (Jeanne) Bridges, and Penny (Randy) Leonard; as well as 11 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren. Her large and growing family was one of the greatest joys of her life.

Throughout her working years, Mattie Lee clerked at the sale barn and farm sales alongside Dean and Betty Bridges. She later worked for Rocky Mountain Natural Gas in Montrose for 24 years, followed by 8 years with Federal Land Bank.

Anyone who knew Mattie Lee knew she was truly one of a kind. She was a social butterfly who always seemed to have a fuller social calendar than the rest of us. She loved her flowers, playing cards and bingo, bowling, and spending time with her many friends. She was also one of the Denver Broncos' biggest fans and rarely missed an opportunity to cheer on her Broncos.

Above all else, Mattie Lee loved her family. Nothing made her happier than spending time with the generations of family that grew around her. Over her 95 years, she built a beautiful life filled with family, friendships, laughter, and countless memories. Her outgoing spirit, love of a good card game, devotion to her Broncos, and the special way she connected with people will be remembered by all who knew and loved her.

She will be deeply missed, forever loved, and always held close in our hearts.

ISSUE 589 Aug. 31, 2026

ART & SOL

SUSPENSEFUL THRILLER TO OPEN AT MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE

By Lisa Rediger

MONTROSE-Deep in the frozen isolation of the Colorado mountains, celebrated novelist Paul Sheldon (Scott Pollak) awakens after a devastating car crash to discover that he has been rescued by Annie Wilkes, (Spencer Crosby) a former nurse and his self-proclaimed "number one fan."

At first, Annie seems kind, devoted, and eager to care for him but beneath her warm smile lies something deeply unsettling. The doors are locked. The telephone is gone. No one knows where Paul is. When Annie discovers that he has killed off her favorite fictional character, her admiration erupts into terrifying obsession, and her remote farmhouse becomes a prison. Trapped, badly injured, and com-

pletely dependent on a woman whose cheerful mood can twist into explosive rage without warning, Paul is forced to write a new novel under her constant watch. Every page must satisfy her.

Every word could betray him. Every creaking floorboard and approaching footstep could mean he has been discovered. With no escape and no one coming to save him, Paul must turn his greatest weapon, his imagination, into his only chance of survival.

Based on Stephen King's legendary thriller, *Misery* is a relentless battle of obsession, control, manipulation, and madness that will leave audiences frozen in suspense until the final, heart-pounding moment. Opens Sept. 4, 2026.

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS
The Magic of Live Theatre Since 1959

MISERY

By William Goldman
Based on the novel by Stephen King

Directed by Michelle Terry · Assistant Director Dru Weaver



SEPTEMBER 2026
FRIDAY SEPT 4 · 11 · 18 @ 7:30PM
SATURDAY SEPT 5 · 12 · 19 @ 7:30PM
SUNDAY SEPT 6 & 20 @ 2PM

Tickets online @ MagicCirclePlayers.com

COME Play WITH US

MISERY is presented in association with United Theatre as part of the United Play Series. www.unitedtheatre.com

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WORD FROM THE WEST:

Piñon Jays in the Air, on the Ground, on my Mind



Wendy Videlock.
Courtesy photo



Photo of piñon jay By Allan Hack.

By Wendy Videlock

We've had a flock of piñon jays stay longer this year than usual.

Normally they sweep through the neighborhood here on the edge of the ravine, clean out all the feeders, make a ruckus and then move on.

This year, about half the flock moved on after a few days and the other half have stayed.

Piñon jays, also known as scrub jays, pioneer jays or blue crows, live their lives connected tightly with the trees that name them.

To encounter a flock of these marvelous birds is to encounter motion with purpose: a shifting cloud of largish blue-gray bodies spilling across the sky, then settling into the crowns of pinyon pines. They are not quiet. They are not subtle. They are birds of community, birds of call and recall, birds of long-term investment in a land that rewards patience and intelligence.

Here in Western Colorado our piñon-juniper woodlands stretch across mesas, foothills, and high desert slopes. Ours is a landscape, not of forest nor shrub land, but something older and more resilient. These woodlands exist on limited rain, scant soils, and vast swings in temperature.

At the center of that partnership is the piñons pine and its seed, or pine nut. Piñon nuts are large, nutritious, and encased in tough cones, making them literally a hard nut to crack.

Unlike wind-dispersed seeds, piñon seeds rely on animals for movement. These jays have responded with remarkable adaptations. Their bills are like daggers—stout and efficient for prying seeds from cones, and their expandable esophagus allows them to carry dozens of seeds at once.

And they cache like professionals. Scrub jays bury seeds in shallow soil across wide areas, often returning months later to retrieve them. The forgotten seeds germinate, giving rise to new pines.

This is not incidental dispersal but an evolutionary process.

The bird is not consciously planting trees, but its behavior produces that result with reliability.

Here on the edge of the ravine we have planted a few piñon pines over the years—and we keep our watering holes and feeders full. And a good thing, too, as these birds and the trees that sustain them are severely endangered. The loss of the trees is the loss of the birds.

The decline of these birds, (an estimated 80% decline in the last fifty years), is more than the loss of another bird species. It is the unraveling of an ancient partnership. As piñon jays disappear, fewer seeds are carried across the landscape. The woodland itself loses one of its oldest gardeners.

Watching our smallish flock linger this year, I find myself hoping we are witnessing, not an ending but a survival strate-

gy—a small act of resilience. The entire flock couldn't survive here, but the few should be able to. It seems they've come for our pines and stay for the supplemental feedings we provide.

Every morning they gather above the ravine before setting out across the mesa. They return in late afternoon and always arrive together, calling to one another. Scientists tell us that piñon jays are among the most social birds in North America, living in extended family groups and remembering thousands of seed caches scattered across the landscape.

It is difficult to watch them without sensing that they belong, not simply to one another, but to the trees themselves. The flock is only half bird. The other half is woodland.

You can help these beautiful birds by planting piñon pines. These pines don't require a lot of water, but any extra water you can provide them will ensure their survival. Once established, these pines would be the only trees to survive in twenty years should we folks in the lower valleys have to stop irrigating our yards. **Wendy Videlock lives on the edge of East Orchard Mesa in Western Colorado. Her poems and essays appear in *Best American Poetry*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Hudson Review*, *Rattle*, *Hopkins Review* and other venues. Her books are available wherever books are sold. Find out more [HERE](#).**



1st Annual Montrose



BOOK FAIR

Literary Festival. Regional authors, illustrators, and publishers

10 am - 4 pm, September 19th

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**Host: Ute Indian Museum
Event Coordinator:
San Juan Publishing Group, Inc.**



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SILVERTON CREATES! RETURNS SEPTEMBER 11-12 FOR TWO DAYS OF ART, MUSIC & COMMUNITY

Special to the Mirror

SILVERTON— Silverton Creative District invites locals and visitors to celebrate creativity at altitude during the 2026 Silverton Creates! Art & Music Fest, September 11–12 in Memorial Park. Taking place during one of the most spectacular times of year in the San Juan Mountains, the free two-day festival brings together more than 25 artists and makers from across the region, live music, food, libations, and family-friendly activities—all surrounded by Silverton's brilliant fall color.

This year marks an important chapter for both the festival and the organization behind it. What began as a community-wide celebration of Silverton's artists and creative businesses has evolved over the years, with the Maker's Market becoming the centerpiece of the event. For 2026, Silverton Creates! takes its next step as a concentrated two-day Art & Music Fest, creating a lively gathering place where visitors can meet artists, shop original work, enjoy live music, and experience Silverton at the height of the fall season.

This milestone comes as Silverton Creative District celebrates its first festival season as a Colorado Certified Creative District — a designation recognizing communities where arts, culture, and creativity contribute to local identity, economic vitality, and quality of life.

"Silverton Creates! has always been about showcasing the incredible creativity that exists here while inviting artists and makers from around the region to be part of our community," said Lisa Branner, Executive Director of Silverton Creative District. "Becoming a Certified Creative District gives us an opportunity to build on that foundation. This year's festival feels like the next step—bringing artists, makers, musicians, residents, and visitors together for a weekend that really reflects Silverton's creative spirit."

The weekend begins Friday, September 11, from 6–9 p.m. with a free Silverton Summer Sounds concert featuring Denver-based Giant Walking Robots, with Silverton's own The Van Allen Dilemma opening the evening.

On Saturday, September 12, from 11 a.m.

–5 p.m., Memorial Park becomes the heart of the festival with the Maker's Market & Music Fest. More than 25 artisan vendors from Silverton and communities across the region will fill the park with original art and handmade goods, giving festivalgoers a chance to meet the people behind the work and shop directly from independent artists and craftspeople.

The market is designed as much for lingering as it is for shopping. Visitors can grab something to eat, enjoy a drink from the event bar, bring the kids for creative activities, and settle in for live music throughout the day. This year's daytime lineup features Tyler Simmons, The Monkberries, Inside Voice, and Ryan Marble.

After the Maker's Market, festivalgoers are invited back to Memorial Park from 7–9 p.m. as Denver nine-piece ATOMGA closes out both Silverton Creates! and the 2026 Summer Sounds season with a Saturday night concert.

In celebration of Colorado's 150th anniversary and San Juan County's 150th anniversary, every musical act featured throughout Silverton Creates! and the 2026 Summer Sounds season is Colorado-based. From local Silverton musicians to performers from Durango, Denver, and communities across the state, the all-Colorado lineup puts homegrown talent at the center of this milestone year.

By concentrating the celebration into a single fall weekend, organizers are also positioning Silverton Creates! as a true destination event—one designed to give visitors a reason to stay, play, and spend a full weekend in San Juan County, driving meaningful economic impact for local lodging, restaurants, and shops during peak leaf-peeping season.

With September bringing crisp mountain air and aspens turning gold across the surrounding hillsides, Silverton Creates! offers plenty of reasons to stay the whole weekend. Organizers encourage visitors to explore Silverton's legendary four-wheel-drive jeep roads, hit the trails at the new Baker's Park trail system just outside of town, and dive into the area's rich mining-era history and heritage tourism sites—all while supporting independent

artists, makers, musicians, and local businesses.

All Silverton Creates! events are free and open to all ages, reflecting Silverton Creative District's commitment to keeping arts and cultural experiences accessible to the community.

Founded in 2019, the Silverton Creative District (SCD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to advancing arts and culture in Silverton and San Juan County. SCD strengthens community connections and economic vitality through cultural programming, artist support, and creative placemaking. Learn more at www.silvertoncreativedistrict.org.

Silverton Creates! is supported by these generous sponsors: Ballantine Family Fund, CHFA, Colorado Creative Industries, the Colorado Trust, Dera Deli, National Endowment for the Arts, San Juan County Tourism Board, Creative West, Town of Silverton, Citizens State Bank, Coffee Bear, Columbine Roadhouse, George and Anna Riley, Grand Imperial Hotel, San Juan County Community Fund, Silverton Area Chamber of Commerce, Silverton Standard & The Miner, Ska Brewing, Teller House Hotel, Timberline Trading, Animas Trailworks, Creative Crackerjack, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango Magazine, JudithGraham.com, Silverton Lakes, The 9318 Collective, Cliffhanger Jeeps, C-X Western Brand, Gertie's Gifts, Skyflower Boutique, 9318 Contracting, Anthrocene Contracting, Colorado Adventure Transport, Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado, Doug & Becky Hill, El Bandito, High Noon Hamburgers, Kendall Mountain Motorworks, Lacey Rose Saloon, Osteria Ristorante, San Miguel Power Association, Silverton Lofts, Silverton LP Gas, Silverton Mountain, Silverton Realty - Tiesha Weller, Stellar Properties - Melissa Childs, The Orange Crate Too, The WhistleStop, Venture Snowboards, Villa Dallavalle Historic Inn & Wildcrafter Spa, Fetch's Mining & Mercantile, The Train Store, Vermilion Realty - Karen Srebacic-Sites, and The Wyman Hotel.

For festival information, visit www.silvertoncreates.com.

BOOK FAIR

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

GEORGE DEWILBY: WRITING ABOUT WHAT WE CARRY

By Kathryn Burke

MONTROSE-George Dewiliby has spent nearly thirty years working in hospitals and cardiac catheterization labs. His writing explores the emotional weight of caregiving, grief, loss, resilience, and healing. George will be joining us for the Montrose Book Fair Sept. 19 at the Ute Indian Museum, and I wanted to know more about what he writes—and why. KRB (Kathryn Burke): Your first book was *The Light I Had to Fight For*. Tell us what it is about.

GD (George Dewiliby): The book focuses on the emotional side of caregiving—the responsibility, grief, pressure, privilege, and weight that can follow healthcare workers home long after a shift ends. It explores burnout, compassion fatigue, resilience, loss, and what happens when people spend years helping others through some of the hardest moments of their lives while quietly carrying their own.

KRB: Please explain the title. What is the 'light' you had to fight for? And why?

GD: The light is the part of you that still cares. After years of difficult cases, loss, long hours, and accumulated grief, it can become easy to protect yourself by becoming numb. For me, the fight was learning how to carry what I had seen without letting it take away the part of me that could still feel, still care, and still believe the work mattered.

KRB: Why did you feel this book needed to be written?

GD: Because healthcare workers are often very good at taking care of everyone except themselves. We talk about the patient, the procedure, and the outcome, but not always about what the people in the room carry home afterward. I wanted to give language to that experience and remind people those feelings are real and shared.

KRB: our second book takes a different

direction. Tell us about *Learning to Heal Through the Dogs Who Loved Us*.

GD: That book came from the loss of my Labrador, Wilson. What began as my own attempt to understand that grief grew into a project involving dog owners across the United States who shared stories of dogs that changed their lives. The book combines those stories with reflections for the moment many families struggle with most—not

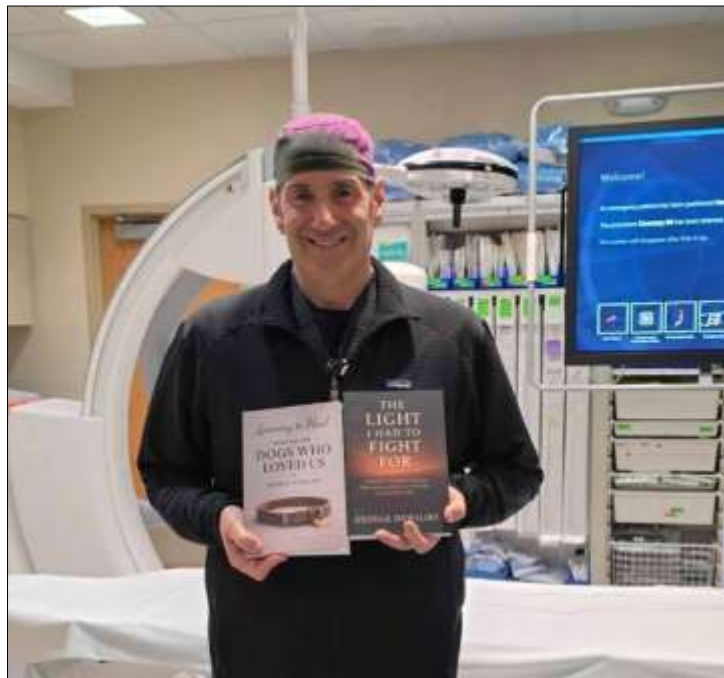
only the decision to say goodbye, including euthanasia when that is part of the loss, but what happens afterward.

KRB: So, this was a project that hit close to home.

GD: Very much so. A dog is often far more than a pet. They become part of the structure of daily life—our routines, stability, comfort, and companionship. When they are gone, families can be left carrying emotions that are difficult to explain and even harder to navigate. The goal is not to tell people how to grieve. It is to help them feel less alone inside it.

KRB: Do you think that message is reaching people?

GD: I do. Veterinary professionals throughout Western Colorado have begun reading the book and considering it as a resource for grieving families. San Juan Veterinary Clinic here in Montrose re-



Author George Dewiliby, shown in the Montrose Hospital Cath Lab, will be at the Montrose Book Fair Sept. 19. Courtesy photo.

quested Comfort Cards to provide to families following the loss of a pet, and other clinics between Montrose and Grand Junction are evaluating the material. Since March, the two books have sold approximately 2,500 copies through direct outreach, reader recommendations, professional networks, and social media.

KRB: Judging from your titles, the two books sound very different.

GD: They really aren't. Both ultimately ask a similar question: What do we do with the things life leaves behind after it changes us?

One begins in healthcare and the other with the loss of a dog, but both are about grief, love, what we carry, and how we find a way forward.

My third book, *The Life Nobody Sees*, is forthcoming and continues that same exploration of the parts of life people often carry quietly.



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MISERY

By William Goldman

Based on the novel by Stephen King

Directed by Michelle Terry • Assistant Director Dru Weaver



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FRIDAY SEPT 4 • 11 • 18 @ 7:30PM

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SUNDAY SEPT 6 & 20 @ 2PM

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MISERY is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service. www.concordtheatricals.com

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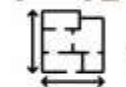


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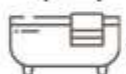
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GET THE BEST OUT OF LIFE TODAY, TALK WILL STRESS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—"Yesterday is a cancelled check; tomorrow's a rubber check; today is ready cash— use it!" With such zeal Laird Landon, PhD, will approach a talk he calls, "Seniors, Live Life to the Max!" in Alpine Bank's Aging Well series. It will be about wringing the best life out of today while fretting less about yesterday or tomorrow.

The presentation will begin at 1 p.m. Monday, August 31 in the Senior Center at the Pavilion in Montrose. Admission is free and the talk is not an introduction for any product or service.

Landon was an applied psychologist and consultant to bank executives in his career. He is now retired and the chair of the Caregiver Support Foundation in the Montrose-Delta areas.

Among themes in the talk are accepting that everything changes and thinking less about both the past and the future.

"I have a lot of positive things to say about how wonderful it is to be alive," Landon says. "I also talk about death and accepting death and about dealing with grief and losing your best friends."

Landon chairs the six-member board of the foundation that seeks to ease the challenges of family caregivers. All board members are volunteers and are or have been family caregivers.

The foundation sponsors confidential caregiver support groups in Delta and Montrose. Its major public event is the annual Family Caregiver Summit, on October 16 this year at the Pavilion in Montrose. Region 10, Area Agency for Aging is a co-sponsor.

The summit features talks and breakout sessions on family caregiving and aspects of aging as well as displays by commercial supporters.



Laird Landon, PhD.
Courtesy photo.



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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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)

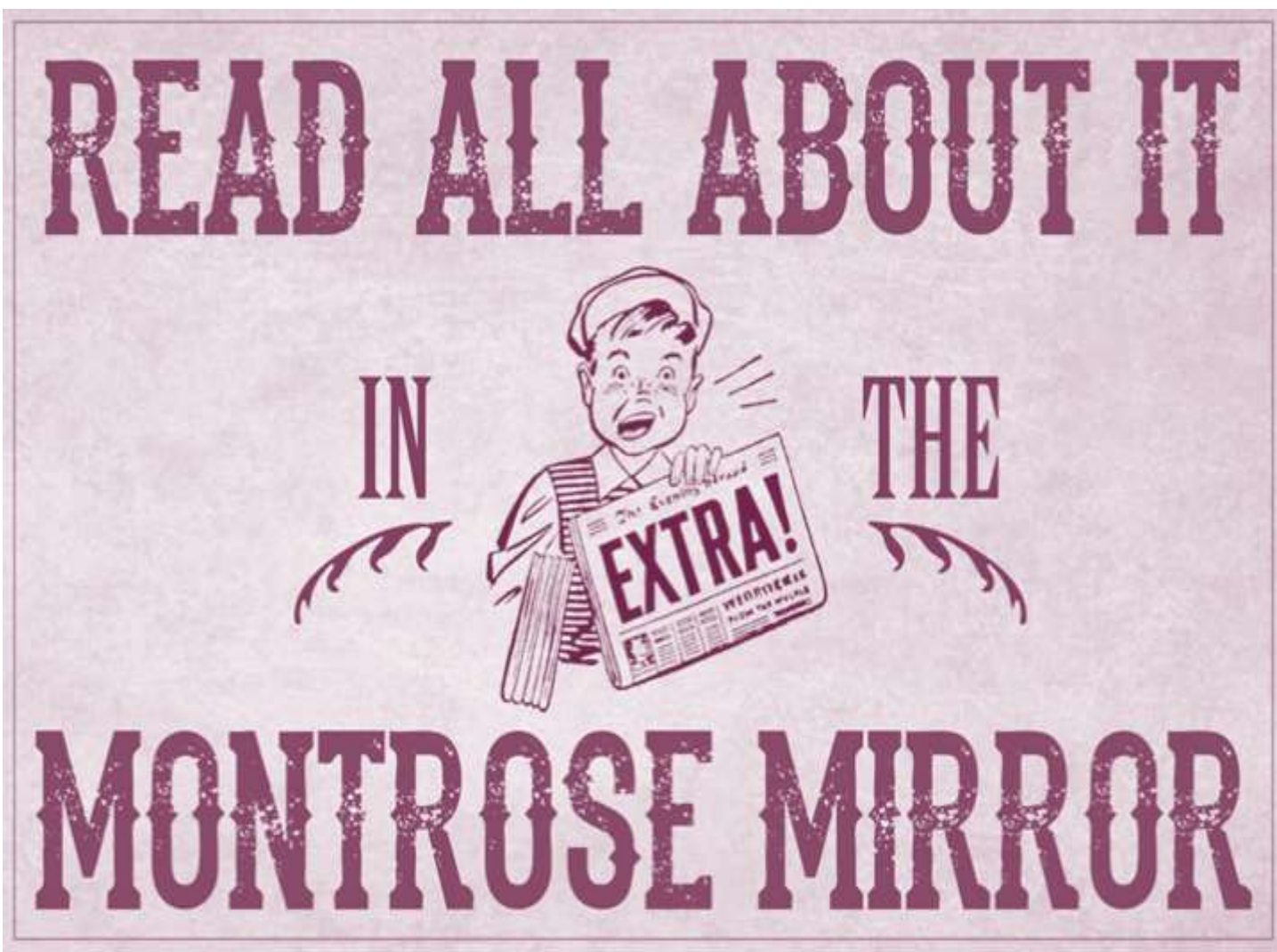
Name of current Senior Pastor

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

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. 5 5-On Sept. 5, 9am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource **4 Hillcrest Plaza**

Way, Montrose. Social time is at 9am, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments and a program. For more information: Paula millsappscoqui@gmail.com or Cheryl [970-462-3849](tel:970-462-3849) Visitors are always welcome.

Sept. 19-Let Them Eat Cake! Saturday, Sept. 19 at Hillcrest Congregational UCC, 611 S. Hillcrest Drive. Benefits Shepherd's Hand and our church's Women's Union. Registration at 1:30 pm, cake party begins at 2 pm. Bring a cake, a cake server and \$5 donation. Go home with a pizza box full of sweet treats!

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.

MIRROR IMAGES...OUT & ABOUT!



*Found the end of the rainbow! It was spotted in a cornfield right off of 5875 Road in Coal Creek Friday morning.
Photo by CB Williams.*



Drummers at the Common Ground Festival at Cerise Park on Saturday. Photo by B. Slate.

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