



ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION



FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE!

© Issue No. 706 Sept. 7, 2026

the Montrose Mirror

BOCC WELCOMES NEW HEALTH DIRECTOR



*Holly Speaks addressed the BOCC.
Screenshot from regular BOCC meeting of Sept. 2.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 2, with BOCC Chair Kirstin Copeland and Vice Chair Sean Pond participating due to the recent resignation of Commissioner Sue Hansen.

Copeland called the session to order.

County Manager Joe Kerby led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church delivered the Invocation.

Leuthauser said that he and his wife have recently become grandparents, allowing them to enjoy "parenting without all the pressure." He therefore prayed about freedom. "...Lord I thank you so much for our leaders; I thank you for all the servants in this room...I pray that we would do it in freedom, that we would do it in trust, Lord, that we would be present, that we would be dutiful, that we would serve well...I pray that we

Continued pg 19

ANN MORGENTHALER NAMED INTERIM CITY MANAGER

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With chambers packed and extensive commentary from members of the public, the nearly three-hour City Council meeting of Tuesday, Sept. 1 continued into the late hours. During an Executive Session that finished after midnight, Council and 14-year City Manager Bill Bell agreed to go their separate ways.

The meeting began as usual, with the pledge of Allegiance and Call for Public Comment, which extended through the first half hour of the meeting, and included both criticism and supportive comments. Public Comment was also taken prior to each agenda item to be considered by Council.

All Councilors were present, with Councilor Dave Frank attending virtually.

There were no changes to the meeting agenda. Following the Time for Public Comment, Council voted to approve minutes of the August 17, 2026 special City Council meeting and the August 18, 2026, regular City Council meeting.

Continued pg 46



*Interim City Manager Ann Morgenthaler.
Courtesy photo.*

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By Dr. Katie Stephens!

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Cartoon By Tim Jones!



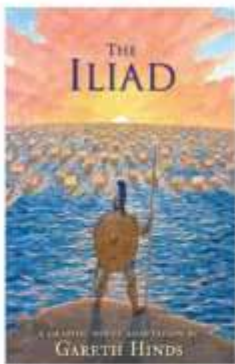
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September 9

4:00—5:00 p.m.

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CORRECTION

TO RE-1J ARTICLE OF AUG. 31

This correction is being issued upon request. The article in last week's Mirror identified Dr. Carrie Stephenson as the "former RE-1J Superintendent." At the time, that characterization did not accurately reflect the Superintendent's current status as she had not signed the Separation Agreement. As of this writing, the agreement has been finalized..

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
 Caitlin Switzer,
 Montrose Mirror Editor

the Montrose Mirror

Fresh news for busy people

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

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Publisher: Harry Switzer

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





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT ARE COUNCILORS REED AND FRANK AFRAID OF?

Editor:

Last Tuesday night, City Council considered and passed all proposed City Charter changes scheduled to be considered in the November election. Each issue pass on a 3 to 2 vote with councilman Reed and Frank consistently opposing each individual issue. Their obstinate opposition on all of the issues raised leads many to wonder why they are afraid to have Montrose voters voice an opinion on these questions.

Dee Laird, Montrose

WHO I WILL NOT BE VOTING FOR

Editor:

I am continuously frustrated by the wearisome weekly tirades from the same disgruntled members of the community. I can't read them any more. However, I do find them useful at election time. I quickly scan the contents for the names of the individuals they are supporting. Then I know exactly who I will NOT be voting for. What a time saver. I've lived in a variety of places during my lifetime. Montrose by far is the best town of them all. I commend all the people who have been involved in creating and running this fine community. I don't understand those who want to tear it all down.

Mary Lynne Boland, Montrose

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REGIONAL-All lands managed by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will rescind Stage 1 Fire Restrictions beginning September 3 at 12:01 a.m., restoring conditions to unrestricted fire use.

Recent precipitation and improved fuel moisture levels across the forest have reduced overall fire danger, allowing fire managers to lift restrictions. While conditions have improved, fire personnel emphasize that wildfire risk is never fully eliminated.

"This has been a busy fire season. Thank you to all our visitors and local communities for respecting the restrictions during these months of elevated fire danger," said Chad Stewart, GMUG National Forests' Forest Supervisor. "As we rescind Stage 1 Fire Restrictions, we encourage everyone to remain attentive when recreating. Responsible fire practices protect both people and the landscape we all value."

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DDB PROJECTION: WHO ELECTED THEM?

Editor:

Projection is the belief that others share your traits, good, bad, or terrible. An example is the apparent belief by the DDB's, the Colorado legislators, that everyone needs to be told exactly how to do things, whether or not they make sense. That's the progressive way. First days of September, daytime temperatures in the 80's and 90's, nighttime in the 60's, beautiful sunny days. If you were driving your work truck on September 1st and did not have winter tire snow chains with you, the Denver-DB's subject you to fines. After all, the D-Dumba**-B's just follow orders from their "leadership." That rig from out of state, crossing the state in beautiful weather on September 1st, is a target for truck harassment due to the DD-Baboons' projection that, like them, licensed drivers have no common sense. There is even a law about opening your car door. The real question has to be, who elected those DDB's? *With apologies to real baboons who are not this dumb.*

Richard Wojciechowski, Ouray County

GOOD DECISIONS TOO LONG IN COMING

Editor:

It's a great day in the neighborhood when all of the stars suddenly align to produce good news on several fronts. In just a three short week. The school superintendent position was terminated, a controlling member of the county BOCC resigned, and the overly long-term tenure of the City Manager came to an abrupt in with his resignation. All of these events were too long in coming, but with good decisions in the future by elected officials and voters, hopefully those entities can be put back on track for the benefit of all Montrose citizens.

Dee Laird, Montrose

THANK YOU TO SHERIFF AND TO ROAD AND BRIDGE

Editor:

Yesterday, at about 3 PM, a gust of wind brought a tree down blocking 2 residences from leaving their homes. The Sheriff's Dept. was notified as well as the City Road and Bridge both of which had representatives arrive shortly. A cleanup crew was soon on the scene with the tree removed from the roadway by 5:00 PM. A huge thank you goes to our Cty Sheriff and our City Road and Bridge from the residences that were trapped by an act of nature.

Ronald Henderson, Montrose



Courtesy photos Ron Henderson.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMISSIONER VACANCY COMMITTEE APPOINTS CARYN WEBB GIBSON TO FILL DISTRICT TWO COUNTY COMMISSIONER VACANCY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Sept. 3, 2026, the Montrose County Republican Commissioner Vacancy Committee appointed Caryn Webb Gibson to serve as Montrose County Commissioner for District Two, filling the vacancy created by the departure of Commissioner Sue Hansen.

Following her appointment, Caryn Webb Gibson was officially sworn in by Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes.

The appointment was made in accordance with applicable Colorado law and the procedures governing vacancies in elected partisan offices. The appropriate members of the Montrose County Republican Commissioner Vacancy convened to consider the vacancy and select a qualified Republican to fill the District Two vacancy.

Caryn Webb Gibson will serve as Montrose County Commissioner for District Two pursuant to the provisions of Colorado law governing the filling of vacancies.

The Committee congratulates Commissioner Caryn Webb Gibson and wishes her success as she assumes the responsibilities of serving the residents of Montrose County and District Two.

At right, Caryn Webb Gibson was sworn into office by Montrose County Clerk Tressa Guynes. Montrose County Courtesy photo.



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A photograph of a group of children playing with water balloons. They are outdoors, and there is a lot of water and balloons in the air.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A LOOK INSIDE THE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL MEETING *Regular City Council Meeting — September 1, 2026*

Editor:

After reading stories and watching videos about recent Montrose City Council meetings, I decided it was time to attend one myself and see firsthand what was actually taking place.

What I witnessed was considerably different from some of what I had seen portrayed on social media and elsewhere.

I went into the meeting wanting to look at two things: how the Council, city employees, and citizens conducted themselves, and the political issues being discussed. I also want to distinguish between what I personally observed and what is simply my opinion.

What I Witnessed

The meeting began promptly at 6:00 PM with the normal proceedings, followed by public comment on non-agenda items. This is where things became interesting.

I had heard these meetings described as hateful, disrespectful, and unprofessional. There was certainly some of that on display Tuesday night. However, from where I sat, much of it was not coming from the City Council or city employees. It was coming from some members of the public addressing the Council.

Not everyone behaved this way. Several people expressed their concerns respectfully, whether I agreed with them or not. But others crossed the line, in my opinion, from constructive criticism into anger, accusations, and personal attacks. Meanwhile, I thought Council members handled the criticism professionally and allowed speakers considerable opportunity to express themselves.

Let me be clear: I strongly support freedom of speech and the public's right to criticize government. Citizens absolutely have the right to disagree with elected officials and demand answers.

But having the right to say something doesn't automatically make it factual, respectful, productive, or beyond criticism.

The Ordinances

The Council eventually moved to the second reading of Ordinance 2727, followed by another period of public comment.

I actually began recording on my phone because I wanted to see for myself the disruptive and out-of-control City Council I had heard so much about.

Instead, many of the same citizens returned to the microphone, and much of the same anger and hostility returned with them.

An important point seemed to be getting lost: as I understood the action before Council, approving the ordinance did not itself enact the underlying proposal. It advanced the question toward the November ballot, allowing the voters to ultimately decide.

If you support it, vote yes. If you oppose it, vote no.

Ordinance 2727 eventually passed 3–2. A similar process followed with three additional ordinances, including additional public comment and Council votes.

After sitting through several hours of this, my impression was that some of the frustration in the room went beyond the individual ordinances and reflected dissatisfaction with the previous City Council election and its outcome.

And that's okay.

You don't have to like who won an election. You don't have to agree with the direction of the Council or support what they propose.

But at what point does legitimate disagreement stop being productive civic participation and become personal hostility, misinformation, and disruption?

Several speakers demanded transparency and bipartisanship. Yet I found myself wondering how preventing voters from having the opportunity to decide these questions accomplishes either goal.

Put the questions on the ballot. Make your argument. Present the facts. Campaign for your position. Then let the citizens of Montrose vote.

Isn't that what elections are for?

My Conclusion

I went to Tuesday night's meeting expecting to witness an unruly and disrespectful City Council. Instead, my concerns by the end of the evening were largely

directed elsewhere.

I witnessed a relatively small but vocal group of citizens who appeared deeply unhappy with the direction of their local government. They have every right to feel that way and every right to speak.

But disagreement doesn't require disrespect. Free speech doesn't automatically make a statement true. And losing an election or Council vote doesn't mean democracy has failed. Sometimes democracy simply means your side didn't win.

I also believe the newly elected Council members have raised allegations and concerns about possible wrongdoing within Montrose city government. Regardless of political affiliation, legitimate allegations should be investigated. If nothing improper occurred, an investigation can help establish that. If wrongdoing is discovered, it should be addressed.

Accountability shouldn't depend on which political side is involved.

Citizens should continue questioning elected officials, demanding transparency, and participating in government. But we can do that with respect and class. Name-calling, shouting, and personal attacks don't strengthen an argument; they often distract from it. Often, when someone has little of value or substance to contribute to a conversation, they resort to exactly what we witnessed: name-calling, false accusations, and emotionally charged statements with little factual substance. Unfortunately, those tactics do nothing to encourage productive dialogue or solve the issues at hand.

My biggest takeaway from the evening was actually pretty simple:

The ordinances I witnessed were being considered for placement before the voters. You may support them or oppose them. You may agree with the Council or disagree with them.

But when the question ultimately goes before the citizens, **the people get a voice.**

And that is exactly how representative government is supposed to work.

Jason Conant, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MAYOR'S STATEMENT ON MUTUAL SEPARATION AGREEMENT

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

From the Office of Mayor Michael J. Badagliacco

On behalf of the Montrose City Council

This evening, following the conclusion of an executive session requested by the City Manager during the City Council meeting of Tuesday, September 1, 2026, the City Council made the difficult decision to accept a mutual separation agreement with City Manager William E. Bell, effective immediately.

Mr. Bell has served the City of Montrose with dedication for the past fifteen years. Throughout his tenure, he provided professional administrative leadership and devoted substantial energy to the operations and advancement of our community. The City Council is grateful for the time and service Mr. Bell has given to Montrose and to the residents he served.

We wish Mr. Bell every success and fulfillment in this new chapter for him and his family.

To ensure continuity of city operations and uninterrupted service to the public, Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, who has long served as Mr. Bell's deputy, will assume the role of Interim City Manager, effective immediately. Ms. Morgenthaler will serve in that capacity until such time as the City Council identifies and appoints a suitable permanent successor.

The City Council remains committed to stable, professional, and effective leadership for the City of Montrose. City services will continue without interruption during this transition.

We thank the residents of Montrose for their continued trust and support.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Badagliacco

Mayor

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FORUM TO HEAR FROM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: CITY, COUNTY, AND SHERIFF'S POSSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Fire? Flood? Active shooter?
Airplane mishap?

Hiking fall?

We've had them all! But who deals with them...and the aftermath?

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 8-9 AM as the Montrose Forum welcomes: City of Montrose Emergency Manager Paul Eller; Montrose County Emergency Manager Kristy Mathews; and Montrose County Sheriff's

Posse Director and Public Information Officer Mark Rackay.

Our speakers will describe:

-their job, "team", purpose and specific duties;

-specific examples of the types of "emergencies" they encounter;

-the biggest challenges they face or have faced; and

-how we can sign up for emergency notifications.

We will conclude by learning

about JABOR Emergency Go Kit Project, Jeff Pryor, speaker.

JABOR is in the process of assembling 200 Emergency Go Kits for low-income and vulnerable families living in high-risk areas of Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties.

All four groups have seen lots of action in the past year.

Come hear what they have to say...and use this opportunity to offer up a thank you before you leave.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TO THE MCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear MCSD Board of Directors,

First of all, thanks for approving (WOW) \$151,404 for contracted Special Ed teacher through a 3rd party (Blazerworks LLC). I will say, every teacher should make that much money. (My highest salary for a MA + 100 and 33 years' experience was \$60K in 2010) But, please STOP! You tempt me to come out of retirement and teach again. I loved teaching; it sounds so fun, but I don't know when I would ever find 60 hours a week to teach again. Is this the new SPED teacher at MCA?

The real bright spot for me was finally hearing our MCSD STRATEGIC PLAN developed under Dr. Stephenson (Dr. S) and involving Dr. Kalb, Dr. Pavlich, principals, staff, teachers, parents, community all identifying 10 priorities for THE BETTERMENT OF OUR KIDS IN SCHOOLS. Many details including the leaders that will monitor those 30 and 90 day objectives are included! That's how you get things done! I'd love to study it in detail but when I go to mcsd.org/our-district/strategic-plan, I can't get it to display. I hope it's available soon as I'm sure many will be interested to see this impressive work. So exciting!

I was disappointed that with the start of the school year looming, you still did not make a decision or share any details about

the results and conclusion of the investigation. We are no nearer a resolution, more investigation, more legal advice at PROPERTY TAX PAYERS EXPENSE. If wrong doing was discovered then Dr. S should be removed, if not let her get on with the job she's being paid to do. Also, I'm not sure how you can just "dismiss allegations and grievances" made by Dr. S. against you. So you are defendants and judge at the same time? I do not personally know Dr. S. and did not work under her as I was retired before her time, but she appears to be a knowledgeable educator who is a hard-working, fighter. You can choose to have her continue to work and fight for our little MCSD or you can choose to spend our tax money and your valuable time and energy fighting her; all the while losing the trust of your community. Your choice.

That was quite a long executive session! I took that time to get to know Dr. Winkler better who was on the school board when I was hired in 1987 WHILE he was still doctoring. He and his retired teacher wife are very concerned about the direction of this Board of Directors. We kinda had our own little Executive Session. He is attending Board Meetings again regularly. The bright side of being exiled during the Executive Session is the networking happening. As I said in my brief statements this

meeting, I appreciate all of you volunteering for this job and lots of folks were there to tell you they voted for you, endorse all you do and want to do in the future, no questions asked. However, you DO realize that those of us that did not vote for you and have real questions and concerns are still part of your Public School Community. We are here because we VERY MUCH care about the quality and tone of our beloved district, as you do, so let's work together.

Director Scarbrough, you are the director in my district, in fact I live a few miles beyond your place. It seems I end up following you home after the meetings, which was very evident @ 11:30 pm. Ha-ha! Don't worry, I'm not stalking you. Although, I would like to ask you since you represent me, how many schools have you been in? How many concerts, athletic events, academic demonstrations, award banquets, alternative programs etc. have you attended since you've been in office? I hope you're out there learning about the district you are directing.

Finally, remember please to have your voices amplified so that the many community members who attend (and may be hard of hearing) can hear all of what you say.

Respectfully, Zoe Werden



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BOCC WELCOMES NEW HEALTH DIRECTOR *From pg 1*

can trust you, and that we can walk in the freedom that you purchased for us, and Lord that we can enjoy the service and opportunities that we have..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Holly Speaks spoke to the BOCC. "I am here to alert the County Commissioners to a possible problem we might have in Montrose County. I am a concerned citizen, I'm worried that we have another Tina Peters problem here in our community," Speaks said. "And I really want the commissioners' support that we will have a free and fair democratic election here in Montrose County in this November midterm. I'm very disappointed in the lack of transparency and the lack of integrity shown by the Montrose City Council, the Montrose City staff, the Montrose County Elections Office and the Montrose County Attorney's office, because I know there was interaction going back and forth about that, emailing. So for months now everyone that I mentioned has known about the discrepancies in the vote totals, about the April Municipal Elections and the contentions between those two offices, and they kept it from the voters in

Montrose County. And I think that's not good integrity. I don't think they showed good integrity by doing that.

"Those of us who kept attending the city meetings, we kept asking why was the rush to bring these city charter amendments that are coming up to move control of the City Clerk under the County Elections Office, and we never got an answer. And there's still some confusion as to why that was rushed.

"So on August 3rd we finally found out why. Mr. Woodden and Ms. DelPiccolo let the public in on what the rest of us already knew—Ms. DelPiccolo had concerns about the county elections office and people who work there and their impartiality.

"So I do believe you as County Commissioners...I know Tressa's elected, but any influence or authority that you can...I would appreciate you look into what's going on with the statement...I think you should be concerned about what's going on...we've lost Bill Bell last night, we've lost another governing partner, and I'm worried because the Big Lie has been pushed by our President, he's trying to

block and end mail-in voting...I just think that the way this has been handled has been disgraceful...they allowed someone in our community, Mr. David White...to tell us his version of what happened, and I don't think that was the right thing to do...my heart is personally broken, because I feel like a vote is sacred, and I've always wanted to trust in our elected officials that they would take care of my vote, I would ask the commissioners and anyone here to protect our voting this fall...

COUNTY MANAGER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted to approve Consent Agenda items.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Public Health, and approved Resolution BOH 2 -2026 appointing Jacqueline Davis as Director of Public Health.

The BOCC returned to regular session; with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



CITY OF
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*Mayor's
Minute*

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

Not only are they inevitable, but they also sometimes come unexpectedly. This past week Montrose saw a major change in its leadership. After 15 years of service to the City of Montrose City Manager Bill Bell and the City of Montrose agreed to a mutual separation.

"I want to thank the current City Council members for their willingness to entertain my request for an amicable and mutual separation through an agreed-upon strategy. I truly believe this is what is in the best interests of the City of Montrose, as both an organization and as a community, at the current time." ~ William E. Bell, City Manager

The Council would like to wish Mr. Bell and his family all the best in the next chapter of his life.

Former Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler has been appointed to the position as the Interim City Manager, providing the city with the ability to continue our mission of serving the residents of Montrose with professionalism and attention to detail. The Council has full confidence in Ms. Morgenthaler to lead the city staff in this transition.

Thank you,

Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor, Montrose, CO



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PATRIOTS' DAY

Editor:

-What it is: A state holiday commemorating the first battles of the American Revolutionary War (Lexington and Concord) on April 19, 1775.

-Date: Observed annually on the third Monday of April in states like Massachusetts and Maine.

-Traditions: Includes the Boston Marathon, historical battle reenactments, and parades. [\[1, 2, 3, 4\]](#)

Patriot Day (Singular)

-What it is: A national day of remembrance honoring the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

-Date: Observed nationwide every year on September 11.

-Traditions: Involves flying the American flag at half-staff and holding moments of silence.

September 11 Remembrance

This Friday, September 11, 2026, marks the 25th anniversary of the attack on American soil.

It is a day to remember that America was attacked by terrorists. It is a day that will forever be remembered in infamy. Nearly 3,000 innocent people lost their lives that day, and others are still suffering and dying from illnesses caused by the exposure they endured while working to help the survivors.

Please join us for a **September 11 Remembrance** at the corner of Townsend and Main at **6:30 a.m.**

We will observe a moment of silence beginning at **6:46 a.m.**, the time the first plane struck the North Tower, and continuing through **7:03 a.m.**, when the courageous passengers and crew of United Flight 93 fought back against the hijackers and prevented the aircraft from reaching its intended target, ultimately crashing in the Pennsylvania countryside.

Bring your American flags and wave them **proudly**.

This is a day to remember America, honor those who lost their lives, and recognize the courage and sacrifice of those who responded.

This remembrance is for America—not for political parties or party affiliations.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE ALREADY HAVE TERM LIMITS

Editor:

Mayor Badagliacco you need to cease and desist in your use of the City of Montrose Colorado logo on your Mayor's Minute page in the Montrose Mirror. It is at least unethical and likely illegal for you to use your public office to sanction these amendments, that you yourself have brought forth and are stampeding to get out to the electorate of Montrose.

Mr Mayor, in the August 24th Mirror you sanctioned this proposed amendment in the Mayor's Minute by stating: "Term limits for City Council will ensure regular turnover of ideas and prevent the advantages of long incumbency from limiting other voices."

How do term limits ensure the regular turnover of ideas? Ideas come from people, not term limits.

Why would you want to prevent the advantages of long incumbency? How does having experienced and knowledgeable citizens serving on the council limit other voices? Don't we have elections where voters choose who they want to represent them on council? Weren't you just elected in April to serve all the residents of Mont-

rose? You are an other voice and don't provide the advantages of long incumbency to your role as Mayor.

Did you know that we already have term limits?

The Colorado Constitution sets term limits for city council members in [Article XVIII Section 11](#).

In 2025, last year, the Montrose City Council put proposed Charter Amendments to the voters with [Ordinance 2690](#). That effort to modify term limits was rejected by the electorate.

Why are you again trying to modify and restrict the term limit language from the Colorado Constitution? The Colorado Constitution sets an 8 year term limit for district seats and a 6 year term limit for the at-large seat. It allows resetting the term limit clock after a 4 year hiatus. These term limit rules have served the City of Montrose well.

The proposed 2025 change to the Montrose City Charter would have extended the term limit for an at-large seat from 6 years to 8 years. Why? It would have retained the term limits from the Colorado Constitution but brought that language

into the Montrose City Charter. Why? Those changes were not approved by Montrose voters.

The proposed 2026 Ordinance 2728 [Amendment 2](#) would change the Montrose City Charter to also extend the term limit for an at-large seat from 6 years to 8 years and add a lifetime term limit of 8 years. Why?

What is the logic behind the proposed changes to the Montrose City Charter regarding term limits. Why is the Colorado Constitution rule regarding term limits not good enough for the residents of Montrose?

-A Vote FOR will restrict voter choice, it's trying to fix a non-existent problem as we already have term limits!

-A Vote AGAINST recognizes that we have working term limits now, there is no need to fix a non-existent problem

Vote NO and retain the term limits in place today from the Colorado Constitution: 8 year term limit for district seats, 6 year term limit for the at-large seat, and allow resetting the term limit clock after a 4 year hiatus.

Cliff Faurer, Montrose

INEXPERIENCED ELECTED LEADERS LEAD TO TRAGEDY FOR CITY

Editor:

Our two new, far right, elected city council members who had never held public office and one council member who should have known better have created an environment in which Bill Bell had no choice but to leave his position as city manager. But make no mistake, they will try to spin this as Bill Bell's choice. But when you are city manager without support from a majority of the members of council, you really have no option.

This year, Bill Bell won the title of the Best City Manager in the entire nation from *GOV Business Review*, a prominent magazine headquartered in Florida. For Montrose residents to lose a manager of that caliber because three far right-wing idiots were elected is a real tragedy.

What is even worse is that these same three will now have a majority vote on who the next city manager should be. It is likely to be a very poor choice for all of us in Montrose.

These same three have crafted very deficient amendments to the city charter using a rushed process so they could get them on the ballot in the November 3 general election. Please vote no on all four of these amendments.

It should be noted that these three council members were elected with pluralities of about 40% of the votes. What that means is that 60% of the voters in Montrose choose someone else. We can't get rid of these three soon enough. I would recommend a recall of all three.

Thanks,

Jody Mack, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE VOTERS DESERVE TO KNOW: WHY ARE WE CHANGING THE CITY CHARTER?

Editor:

Being a representative on City Council requires more than winning an election. It requires understanding government, respecting constituents, listening to differing viewpoints and, above all, asking the most important question in public service: Why?

So I am asking Montrose voters to do the same.

Why is City Council putting several significant Charter changes before voters on November 3, 2026? The proposals would move regular municipal elections from April to November, establish a lifetime eight-year limit for elected service on Council, and give City Council authority to approve the City Manager's appointment or discharge of the Police Chief and City Clerk. These are significant changes to how our city government operates. ([City of Montrose](#))

Moving municipal elections to November deserves particular scrutiny. Yes, November elections generally attract more voters. But more voters do not automatically mean more attention to local government. Local races and issues can easily become overshadowed by statewide and federal contests.

Have Montrose voters been asking for this change? What problem is it intended to solve? What evidence does Council have that this will improve local government? At community meetings, I have heard considerable opposition and concern. Before making fundamental changes to our Charter, citizens deserve clear answers supported by evidence—not simply assurances.

We teach students to defend their opinions with claim, evidence and reasoning. I believe our elected officials should be held to the same standard.

What is the claim? What is the evidence? What is the reasoning?

The proposed eight-year lifetime term limit deserves that same examination. Term limits can be reasonable, but the details matter. This is a part-time elected position, and not everyone who might make an excellent Council member has the flexibility to serve. At the same time, we should consider whether a lifetime limit could prevent voters from choosing

an experienced candidate they believe is doing an excellent job.

Experience matters.

That brings me to the proposals concerning the Police Chief and City Clerk.

Amendment 2729 would allow City Council to approve the City Manager's decision to appoint or discharge the Police Chief. Amendment 2730 would do the same regarding the City Clerk. ([City of Montrose](#))

I have serious questions about whether this is the right direction for a council-manager form of government.

The City Manager's responsibility is to understand the day-to-day operations of the city and make difficult personnel and administrative decisions. Council's responsibility is to establish policy and provide oversight. When elected officials become directly involved in hiring and firing department heads, that distinction can become blurred. And where does that line end?

Today it is the Police Chief. Tomorrow, what department head might be wondering whether a disagreement with Council could affect his or her job?

Consider the experience that could be placed at risk.

Police Chief Blaine Hall began his law-enforcement career with the Montrose Police Department in 1997. He worked his way through the ranks before becoming chief in 2018. The City reported at the time that he had more than 21 years with the department. ([City of Montrose](#))

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo was appointed City Clerk in January 2011 after serving as Deputy City Clerk since April 2008. She has earned both Certified Municipal Clerk and Master Municipal Clerk credentials and has held leadership positions within the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association. ([City of Montrose](#))

These are not people who are just getting their feet wet.

Replacing experienced employees is not as simple as posting a job opening. There are recruitment costs, interviews, background checks, onboarding, training and, perhaps most importantly, the loss of institutional knowledge. A new hire may ultimately be excellent, but there is never a guarantee of a good fit.

Experience and institutional knowledge have value.

Montrose is growing, and that makes good government even more important. As our city becomes larger and more complicated, transparency and citizen participation should increase—not decrease.

Citizens should have meaningful opportunities to question Council members before important decisions are made, not simply opportunities to comment after the direction has already been determined.

Accountability matters.

So does independent thinking.

I want to know what each Council member has actually accomplished. I want to understand the evidence behind their decisions. I want to know when Council members disagree with one another and why. A group of elected officials should not simply follow one another. Independent thinkers who are willing to listen, question and work together are essential to a healthy community.

And while disagreements are inevitable, tearing down people or ideas is not leadership. It is easy to criticize. It is much harder to work across differences for the greater good of the community.

Our city employees deserve respectful leadership, too. Council members should work collaboratively with the professionals who have devoted years of their lives to serving Montrose.

There is an old business saying: "Don't change anything in the first year except your underwear." The point is not that nothing should ever change. It is that leaders should first take the time to understand an organization before making major changes.

Seek first to understand.

That means talking to city employees. It means talking to residents. It means listening to people who agree and people who disagree. It means understanding the consequences before making decisions that could be difficult—or impossible—to undo.

Montrose County School District, with more than 1,000 employees, provides a useful reminder of what happens when public trust becomes fractured and experienced employees are lost. We should

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY ARE WE CHANGING THE CITY CHARTER? From previous pg

learn from difficult experiences in our community rather than repeat them. No government is perfect. No Council member will agree with everyone. But citizens should be able to expect transparency, accountability, respectful disagreement and independent judgment.

Before voting in November, I encourage every Montrose voter to take the time to understand these proposed Charter changes.

Ask:

What problem are we trying to solve?

What evidence demonstrates that these changes will solve it?

What will they cost?

What are the unintended consequences?

Who gains authority under each proposal?

And where does that authority end?

Most importantly, ask your elected representatives to explain their claim, evidence and reasoning.

Our voices matter.

Our votes matter.

And when the structure of our local government is being changed, nothing is more important than being informed before we vote.

Montrose deserves a government that listens, thinks independently, respects experience and earns the public's trust.

Be informed. Ask questions. Then vote wisely.

Ellen Angeles

Montrose, Colorado

VOTE NO ON ALL FOUR CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Editor:

"We are considering changes to the fundamental rules by which this community governs itself. Those decisions deserve not only legal analysis and policy discussion, but also meaningful public engagement."

As citizens residing in the City of Montrose consider the 4 proposed amendments to the City Charter, these words spoken by Montrose Councilor David Reed require our attention.

Changes to the City Charter deserve:

Legal analysis

Police discussion

Public engagement

Since the introduction of the proposed amendments to the City Charter by the City Council on June 01, 2026, we need to ask ourselves:

Has legal analysis been conducted ?

Have there been discussions on policy ?

Has the public been engaged through a Charter Review Commission ?

Until we can answer YES to these three questions, the community in the City of Montrose is not prepared to consider changes to the City Charter.

VOTE 'NO' on all four City Charter amendments placed on the November ballot!

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY ANNOUNCES LABOR DAY CLOSURES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

Officers will be on duty and responding to calls; however, Police Department offices will be closed. The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Rusty Putter restaurant, located at the golf course, will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., along with the snack bar.

The city's [trash and recycling collection schedule](#) for the holiday week has been modified:

For trash routes normally scheduled for Monday, September 7, residences south of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50 will receive trash collection services on Tuesday, September 8.

For residences north of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50, trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, September 9.

The recycling collection normally scheduled for Monday, September 7, will instead occur on Friday, September 11.

For more information, contact City Hall at 240.1400.

For information about the City of Montrose, visit CityofMontrose.org.



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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE TIDES ARE SHIFTING IN DELTA COUNTY...

Editor:

The tides are shifting in Delta County as the School Board has selected Mr. James Creasey to fill the vacant District 4 seat.

This appointment marks a new chapter for the district and brings another voice to the table committed to serving students, families, teachers, and the community.

About 20 miles north of Montrose sits the small town of Delta, Colorado. While the Western Slope remains fairly conservative, things are changing. Across Colorado, parents and community members are increasingly asking questions about what is being taught in our schools—and whether we have lost focus on the fundamentals our children deserve.

Reading. Writing. Math. History. Civics. Critical thinking.

Our children deserve an education that teaches them **how to think, not simply what to think.**

Parents should know what their children are being taught and have a voice in their education.

I witnessed some of these changes firsthand during my years driving a school bus. I heard conversations among kids about things they said they were learning or discussing in school, and quite frankly, some of it was downright appalling to me.

That brings me back to Delta.

When school board member Dan Burke resigned in June, several names were considered to fill the vacant seat. One of those names was **James Creasey.**

James was reluctant at first, but eventually decided to throw his hat into the mix. Many of us prayed that if this was where God wanted James—serving the children, families, teachers, and community of Delta—He would make the path clear.

Well, the path is clear: James Creasey was chosen for the job.

In speaking with James about his interview, one statement stood out to me. I'm paraphrasing, but the message was simple:

"Our children shouldn't be robbed of the opportunity to get an education."

Amen to that.

Our children deserve to learn history—the good, the bad, the victories, the failures, and the sacrifices that shaped our country. They deserve teachers who challenge them to ask questions, examine facts, and think for themselves.

As a Christian, I also believe parents have the primary responsibility for teaching their children about God, faith, morality, and truth.

Our children are being shaped every day. The question is: **Who is shaping them, and what are they being shaped by?**

Their minds matter. Their hearts matter. Their futures matter. And their education matters.

A **HUGE congratulations** to Mr. Creasey for being willing to step forward and serve.

James, this probably won't always be an easy job. There will be difficult decisions, disagreements, criticism, and probably a few sleepless nights.

But worthwhile things are rarely easy.

May God give you wisdom, courage, and direction as you serve the children and families of Delta County.

Have a blessed day, and don't forget to **love always, forgive quickly, and smile along the way.**

Jason's Thought Of The Day

Jason Conant

Montrose, CO



*Mr. James Creasey.
Courtesy photo.*

The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE 1619 PROJECT: A TALE OF TWO COLONIES--JAMESTOWN AND PLYMOUTH, PART I

Editor:

It is interesting that the history of our country is presented in a lopsided fashion in our public schools, and makes our founders appear to be racists and slave owners. However, the truth shows a different picture. In this three-part series, I hope to show the problems with the 1619 Project curriculum being taught currently.

The 1619 Project is a multimedia project that was conceived, developed, and published by *The New York Times*, and is taught throughout our public schools. Journalists wrote it utilizing history in a biased fashion with a particular goal. It teaches that our country was based on slavery, and reframed our history by emphasizing the consequences of slavery and Black Americans' contributions. (These contributions are important and should be known by Americans.) One disturbing fact is that this project does NOT claim to be historical research, yet we are teaching it as fact.

Jamestown and Plymouth were two very different American settlements. The 1619 Project only addresses Jamestown because it states that this settlement epitomizes America. They were a group of entitled people (Puritans) who expected everything given to them because they had been under a socialist government (monarchy) in Europe where all people served the king or queen. There was no private property, and everything belonged to the government. As a result, the Puritans arrived on the shores of America with a socialistic mindset. One could see this when they interacted with the Native American tribes; they expected the Native Americans to feed them and supply them with whatever they needed, and they did for the first few years.

Meanwhile, the Puritans didn't work at all during that time until their Governor, John Smith, realized that was not a winning formula for success; that they could not rely on everyone else for their needs. Work was required. He put forth a new law for the colony: "He that does not work, shall not eat" (2 Thessalonians

3:10). The colonists didn't like this, so they tried to kill him, but didn't succeed. However, because of injuries, he returned to England for treatment. They thought they got rid of their "problem" but as the third year rolled around, they asked the Native Americans again for food and they said "no" because they needed food as well. They entered the winter of 1609-1610 which began the "starving time." The colony started out with 490 people, and ended with sixty. During that time, they hunted, then ate their pets, then their livestock, then dug up the corpses of those who had recently died to eat the flesh left on the bones. One man killed and ate his wife! He was executed, and afterwards, the people ate him! Socialism, cannibalism, slavery...there is more.

After the "starving time" they started wars with the Native Americans to force them to supply for their needs. These social elitists, pro-slavery, group-conscious colonists who believed in big government even captured Pocahontas and threatened her people to feed them or else!

One can see that emphasizing Jamestown's history in the 1619 Project curriculum, one side of the story, would teach our children that Jamestown defines America.

When the Puritans first landed, they committed the land to Jesus Christ ("to the glory of God's Divine majesty in propagating of the Christian religion...") They were professing Christians, but not biblical Christians. Also, they had slavery, which is why the 1619 Project highlights Jamestown, even though the settlement was against slavery for a few decades.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Plymouth colony (it was really a congregation) was made up of the Pilgrims who left oppressive governments which told their people what religion you were to follow. If you lived in England, you were forced to be part of the Church of England. If you lived in Spain, you were forced to be a Catholic, etc. So, because of the persecution, they left. When they landed at Plymouth, they made a covenant (The Mayflower Compact)--the first civil gov-

ernment in North America. The congregation knew they wanted civil government and not a monarchy. They looked in the Bible and saw seven forms of government and decided to go with the Hebrew republic model which laid out 613 laws that basically addressed their relationship to God and to each other. They saw in Exodus 18:21 the advice Moses' father gave to him: to choose able leaders of tens, fifties, hundreds and thousands from the community. Moses was over the civil realm and his brother, Aaron, was over the system of worship. For the first time, there wasn't one leader (king) running both the religious and civil realms, as opposed to monarchies which ruled over both, thus, separated institutions. Our system mimics this today as we have local, county, state and federal leadership. So, our current leadership system stemmed from the Plymouth colony. Every year the Pilgrims would elect their leaders (including pastors). For example, William Bradford was elected for 30 terms as governor.

This form of separate government (civil and religious) ended the state church that ruled over everything. Now the Pilgrims had a choice of who their leaders would be. Because the State-established church had ended, what engendered was rights of conscience and religious toleration; religious liberty blossomed.

The Pilgrims lived very differently than the Puritans. They had everything in common and believed in hard work. They weren't used to finding or growing food, building homes, etc. Some got lazy and didn't put in much effort for the community. As a result, the system of free enterprise was created. It started with the same Bible verse that John Smith used with the Puritans: If you don't work, you don't eat. A second verse that was used said if you don't provide for your household, you are worse than an infidel.

As a result of these "laws," the first free market business in the world in 1,000 years was created in Massachusetts in 1627. It was a Trading Post. Governor Bradford reported that when they moved

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE 1619 PROJECT: A TALE OF TWO COLONIES--JAMESTOWN AND PLYMOUTH, PART I

From previous pg

moved off a socialistic system to a free enterprise system, within two years their prosperity had increased sevenfold. After that, there was never a time of want amongst the colony. This system has made our country very prosperous.

Another thing the Pilgrims were concerned about was private property. They came from a land where the monarchy owned all of the land, and they knew the biblical laws addressed private property. For example, the 10th commandment states we are not to covet or steal another person's property. The Puritans were concerned about who might own the land on which they had built shelters. Squanto came into the picture, and in addition to mentoring them, he had them meet Chief Massasoit. They purchased land from him. In the end, not one foot of land was owned by the English (the Crown), only that which was purchased by the Pilgrims. They had title deeds for every piece of land where they lived. They lived in peace with the Paumanok Indians; their treaty was the longest lasting treaty in American history. When it was broken, it wasn't by the Pilgrims, but by the tribe 54 years later. So, the concept of private property goes back to the Pilgrims, which we value today.

Part two will address the slavery issue.

Leah Vandersluis
Montrose, CO

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OPINION/EDITORIAL- LETTERS

DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM THEIR OWN FAILURES

Editor:

Since the 2024 election, Democrats seem to be determined to totally shred what little credibility they still had. They have joined with and supported all kinds of America haters, from the so-called Democratic Socialists to the barbaric Sharia law lunatics who want to turn the United States into another Muslim hellhole. They twist and lie about everything Trump does, regardless of how beneficial those actions are to this country. Last week Trump announced a “mother of all oil deals” with Venezuela, the country he liberated from narco-terrorist and Chinese puppet Maduro at the beginning of this year. The deal will more than double America's oil reserves, make us the controlling player of the world's energy, and substantially lower the price of oil at home. After Venezuela collapsed into a narcostate, Trump's strike against drug dealers was followed by the revival of Venezuela's oil industry. Both things are big pluses for both countries. So, why are Democrats howling about a great deal that benefits the people of both countries? Answer #1: Trump did it. Answer #2: Trump has been on a tear since his January 2025 inauguration in implementing positive changes for the American people – the economy, the border, energy, foreign policy, and more. As they do just prior to every election cycle, Democrats hope to divert attention from their own insidious failures and anti-American policies by inventing a Trump failure. This election cycle's invention is “affordability.” Having drug-free streets and cheaper prices at the pump make Democrats lie about affordability even more difficult to swallow.

Those not caught up in the media/Democrat web of deceit understand the real “affordability crisis” happened under Biden's watch and Trump is fixing it. Democrats didn't talk about affordability during Biden's years and endlessly try to blame Trump now. They supported Biden as he aggressively tried to destroy the oil, gas, and coal industry and supported radical green policies to pretend governments can control climate. Crude oil prices took off as soon as Biden won the election and were up 80% within one year of taking office. Opening our borders and inviting an invasion of millions of illegals put pressure on home and rent prices. New home prices soared 27%. Rental

prices increased 36%. Biden's policies caused inflation to soar from 1.4% to 8%. (Inflation hit a six-year low this month under Trump.) Under Biden, with inflation increasing, the Federal Reserve had to increase interest rates, resulting in mortgage rates more than doubling. The Biden mortgage rate increases meant an extra \$8,752 in interest payments per year for an average household. Democrats still cling to the lie that Obamacare made insurance more affordable. After promising that premiums would go down, costs soared by 93%. Obamacare destroyed competition and made big insurance companies a lot richer while making the public poorer. I could go on.: Car prices up 20%. Coffee up 100%. The Democrat “experts” predicted Trump's tariffs would crash the stock market. Instead, stock prices are way up. The truth is, Democrats' posturing on “affordability” is laughable. Only a miserable party would attempt to sabotage Trump's bid to lower gas prices. Ditto for Trump's success in lowering drug prices.

I watched a clip this week of a Democrat politician saying that nothing Trump does is in the best interest of the American people. Trump has had so much success in the last 18 months that Democrats have to totally lie and deflect. On the international stage, he has restored Peace Through Strength. Our military has restored its warrior ethos and reversed the recruiting crisis. Our military is strong once again. A Golden Dome missile defense will protect America like never before. Trump brokered eight peace deals spanning four continents in eight months. He drove China out of the Caribbean. And, he forced NATO to stop freeload and significantly increase defense spending. In spite of Democrat lies, most people are familiar with Trump's successes in restoring this country's safety and sovereignty. He made the border real again and reversed mass migration. He signed the Laken Riley Act. He achieved the lowest violent crime rate in 126 years. Trump launched an American industrial renewal. In addition to achieving energy dominance, he is achieving fair and reciprocal trade, reshoring American jobs, getting \$18 trillion of new investments, and creating a nuclear renaissance. He avoided the largest tax increase in history by making his prior tax cuts permanent, and significantly decreased onerous business

killing regulations. Trump made elections matter again by shutting down USAID as a left-wing slush fund, and exposing ActBlue's foreign funding corruption. He broke the Deep State's power to defy the elected branches, killed DEI in government, and achieved the lowest federal workforce in sixty years. He also ended nationwide injunction abuse. Trump defended faith and family. He delivered sweeping pro-life reform, protected women and girls' sports, and restored biological reality to federal policy. He enacted America's first nationwide school-choice program and launched savings accounts for America's children. He defended religious liberty and targeted anti-Christian bias and discrimination.

While Trump continues to do great things for the American people, Democrats work on their “messaging” – how to twist the truth to put themselves in a positive light and make Trump look bad. Here's one example from this past week: CNN just tried to claim that 40% of ICE arrests under Trump do not have a criminal record. Aside from the fact that all those arrested are here illegally, and coming here illegally is a crime, the statement clearly admits that 60% did have criminal records prior to being arrested for illegal entry. The so-called “journalists” at CNN just verified that the Biden administration didn't care that they created an invasion of criminals including rapists, murderers, and pedophiles. And it is Trump who does nothing in the best interests of this country's citizens? I have often used the term “pseudo-intellectual” to describe certain Democrats. I learned a similar word this week Sciolism. That refers to shallow or pretentious knowledge. It describes the behavior of someone who appears learned but possesses only superficial understanding. Democrats wouldn't be so dangerous if they were all just pseudo-intellectuals / sciolists. Writer Kevin Fin writes that modern leftists fall into one of four sometimes overlapping categories: crazy (a profound detachment from reality), evil (deliberate sabotage), blind (willful ignorance), or stupid (incompetence). Regardless of label, it is clear Democrat politicians have no interest in the American citizen. Their only goal is to make themselves richer and more powerful – the American people be damned.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MORE THAN 2,100 PARTICIPATE IN MRH'S 2026 ANNUAL BLOOD DRAWS & HEALTH FAIR *Events provide affordable laboratory testing and preventive health resources across the region*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – More than 2,100 community members participated in Montrose Regional Health's (MRH) 2026 Annual Blood Draws & Health Fair, continuing a tradition of affordable laboratory testing, preventive health resources, and community education that has served the region for more than 37 years.

A total of 2,160 people participated in this year's events, with 1,038 receiving laboratory testing at no cost to them through employer-sponsored vouchers. Participants selected from 14 different reduced-rate laboratory tests, with a total of 11,044 blood tests performed throughout the week. The events also accommodated 249 walk-in participants, although advance registration is encouraged to reduce wait times and help provide the most efficient experience for participants.

The most frequently ordered tests included the HealthScreen Panel, with 2,078 ordered; complete blood count (CBC) with differential, with 1,659 ordered; and hemoglobin A1c and estimated average glucose (EAG), with 1,138 ordered. Other available tests included testosterone, blood typing, vitamin B12 and folate, vitamin D, estradiol, and more. Participants are encouraged to follow up with their primary care providers to review their results and determine appropriate next steps.

"For more than 37 years, we've heard from participants who use these events not only to make affordable blood testing part of their annual routine, but also to identify changes in their health that they may not otherwise have known about," said Katie Klossner, director of marketing and public relations at Montrose Regional Health. "That's what makes these events so meaningful. They give people an affordable way to be proactive about their health, track changes from year to year, and have important conversations with their healthcare providers when something in their results needs a closer look."

MRH extends its thanks to 2026 Health Fair sponsors Alpine Bank, Elevate Internet, Mountain West Insurance, and TEI Rock Drills, along with the nearly 50 volunteers who helped make this year's events possible. MRH also recognizes community employers, including DMEA, the City of Montrose, Montrose Regional Health, Montrose School District, and Ridgway School District, for supporting preventive care and wellness by providing blood draw vouchers to their employees.

For more information about MRH's Annual Blood Draws & Health Fair, visit montrosehealth.com/healthfair.



More than 2,100 community members participated in Montrose Regional Health's (MRH) 2026 Annual Blood Draws & Health Fair. Courtesy photo.



MEDICAL COLUMN

IS THIS JOINT PAIN ‘ARTHRITIS’?

By Dr. Katie Stephens

MONTROSE- Have you ever wondered when to be concerned about pain in your joints? How do you know what is ‘normal wear and tear’ and what might need medical attention? Did you know that not all arthritis is created equal?

It might be helpful in defining what we mean by ‘arthritis’ – broadly, there are two main types: osteoarthritis and inflammatory arthritis.

Osteoarthritis (or ‘OA’)

This is often described as ‘wear and tear’ and while it isn’t inevitable, it often comes alongside enough birthdays. While it can cause significant pain and stiffness, the outlook is better overall for it than the other type.

Inflammatory arthritis

One of the most common examples of this group is Rheumatoid Arthritis (or ‘RA’). As well as pain and stiffness, the inflammation itself can cause significant joint damage, unless this is treated with disease-modifying medication (not just painkillers), typically prescribed by a Rheumatologist.

Fortunately, the two types tend to present quite differently. The textbook experience of OA is waking up with stiff and achy joints that start to feel better after getting



Dr. Katie Stephens.
Courtesy photo.

up and making that morning cup of coffee, typically lasting less than 30 minutes. With inflammatory arthritis however, the stiffness tends to last longer, and is often up to or beyond an hour of waking.

The joints affected tend to be different also: while inflammatory arthritis can affect any joint, it more often affects the smaller ones, e.g. fingers and knuckles, whereas OA usually affects the knees, hips, hand, spine or shoulder.

The joints themselves tend to look more angry during a flare of RA – you would often see a visible swelling and palpable heat, as well as tenderness and maybe even redness. While you can get swelling and tenderness with OA, it tends to be less dramatic.

While OA tends to only affect the joint, RA can affect the whole body’s health. Someone with a new diagnosis of RA might experience lethargy, unexpected weight loss, generalized weakness and a low-grade fever.

Of course, it is also worth mentioning that OA is far more common than RA, especially as age increases. In fact, one [study¹](#) that looked at over 3000 people WITHOUT back pain showed that 1 in 3 50-year-olds had OA in their spine (specifically, degenerative changes to the facet joints), and that increased with age to affect half of 60-year-olds, 69% of 70-year-olds and 83% of 80-year-olds. Interestingly, these people didn’t have any back pain, despite having visible arthritic changes in their spines on a CT or MRI scan.

Similarly, another [study²](#) demonstrated that xrays aren’t always helpful when assessing knee pain: only 15% of people

with knee pain in one cohort had OA on their xray; from another group of people who ALL had OA on their xrays, less than half had pain.

So, if you are concerned about your joint pain, while an xray MAY be useful, depending on the joint and your symptoms, it isn’t always necessary. What is typically more useful is booking an appointment with a provider who has time to listen and make a plan with you.

Worried about your joints?

If you have new or persistent joint pain, prolonged morning stiffness, swelling or warmth, it’s worth getting it checked – particularly if your symptoms are affecting your day-to-day life.

And remember, an X-ray is only one piece of the puzzle. Understanding where it hurts, when it hurts, how long you feel stiff and what the joint feels like on examination can often tell us much more about what is going on.

At Cimarron Family Practice in Montrose, appointments are unrushed, giving us time to properly assess your symptoms, decide together whether blood tests or imaging would actually be useful, and make a plan from there.

If you’re looking for a primary care doctor in Montrose with time to listen, you can [learn more about becoming a patient at Cimarron Family Practice.](#)

References

1. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4464797>
2. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18764949/>



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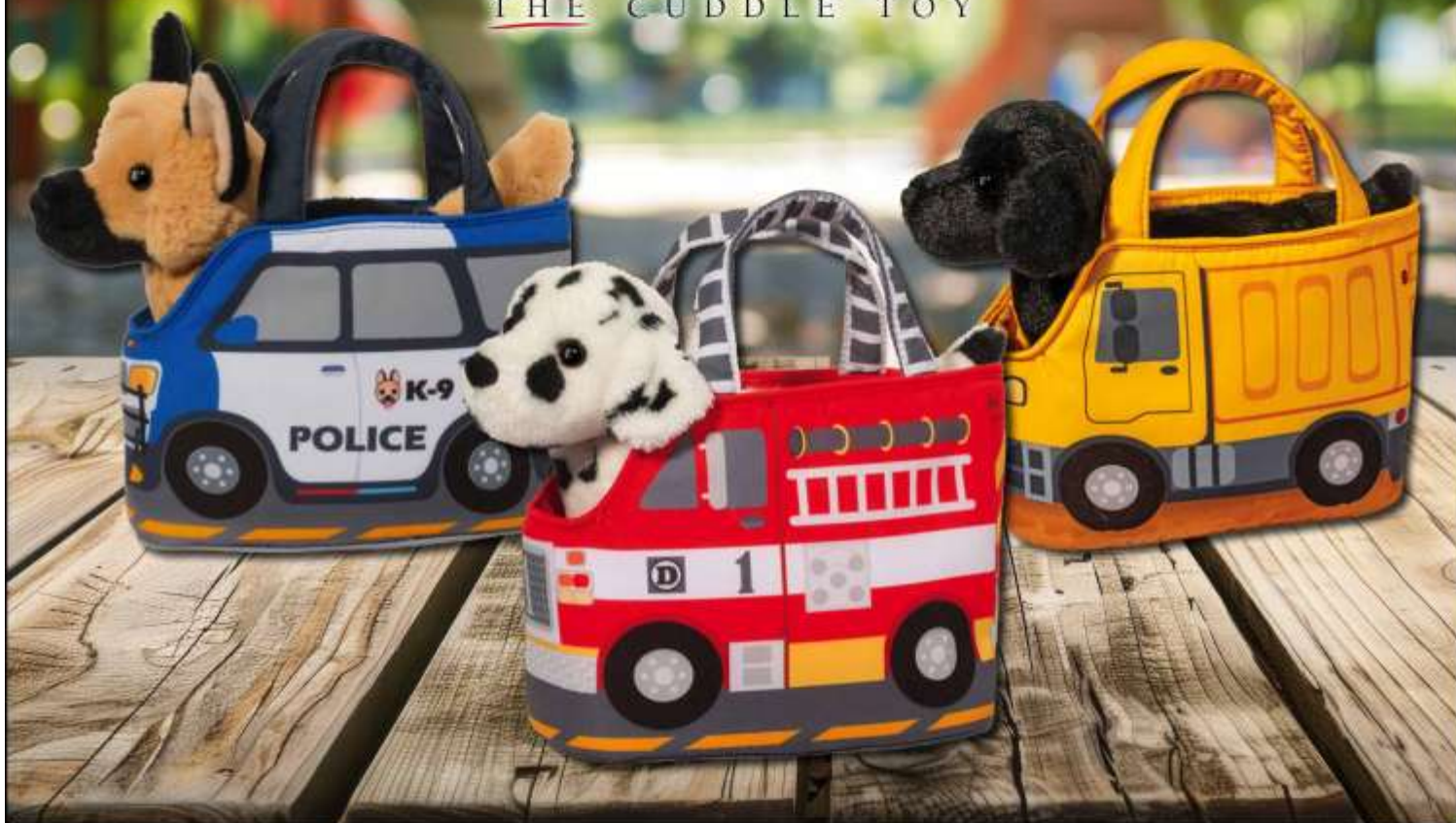
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Dr. Katie Stephens
MD, DABFM, MBChB,
MRCGP (2012), DRCOG



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

READ THE AMENDMENTS, NOT THE RUMORS

By Michael J. Badagliacco

There is a lot of loose talk in town about the proposed Charter amendments on the November 3 coordinated election ballot. Council passed them on September 1. That put them on the ballot. It did not decide them. You will.

The official redline version is [here](#):

Read the above linked document. Then decide.

Here is what each measure does, from my view.

1. Moving municipal elections from April to November in even years

Shall Article I and III of the Charter of the City of Montrose, Colorado be amended to move the

general municipal election from April of even-numbered years to November of even-numbered years?

April city elections draw a thin slice of the city. The City of Montrose elections page shows the participation rates:

- 2026: 35%
- 2024: 25%
- 2022: 26%
- 2020: 41%
- 2018: 28%

November even-year elections in Montrose County are a different picture. Colorado Secretary of State shows:

- 2020 general: 87%
- 2022 general: 71%
- 2024 general: 82%

Those November numbers are county-wide, not city-only. But, the pattern is hard to miss. **More people vote in November.**

Cost:

Stand-alone city elections have run about \$30,000. Coordinated elections run about \$5,000 to \$10,000, depending on the number of measures, candidates, and other jurisdictions on the same ballot. **Under C.R.S. 1-5-505.5(1)(a), the state reimburses counties 45% of the cost of a**

coordinated election when the state certifies ballot content. The city's share drops. **Savings can reach as much as \$25,000 per election.**

Critics say:

November will make city races partisan. People are partisan, the calendar is not. Local issues will get lost under national and state races. I trust you to consider local questions the same in November as you would in April.

This will extend each of the sitting councilor's term by 7 months: True, a necessity of the move, not a reason for it.

Only you know what drives your vote. I look at participation and cost.

2. Lifetime term limits

Shall Article I and III of the Charter of the City of Montrose, Colorado be amended to restrict councilmembers

to serve eight years of elected service in that person's lifetime with such eight years occurring through any combination of consecutive or nonconsecutive terms of office, and shall this requirement apply to any candidate after November 3, 2026?

The proposal sets an eight-year lifetime cap across all Council seats, consecutive or not. It applies to candidates after November 3, 2026. It does not cut short anyone now serving who might later pass eight years, however, those who exceed eight years will not be eligible to run again, if the measure passes.

Opponents say the city already has term limits.

What we have now is a consecutive-year limit, not a lifetime limit. After eight years, or six in the two-year at-large seat, a person can sit out four years and come back. That is a gap, not a ceiling. A lifetime cap closes it.

YOU will have the opportunity to decide along with every other voter on November 3rd if this makes sense to you. Regular turnover of ideas is the point.

3 and 4. Council approval to hire or discharge the Police Chief and the City Clerk *Shall Article VIII of the Charter of the City of Montrose, Colorado be amended to allow City Council the right to approve or disapprove the City Manager's decision to appoint and discharge the Police Chief of the Montrose Police Department?*

Shall Article VIII of the Charter of the City of Montrose, Colorado be amended to allow City Council the right to approve or disapprove of the City Manager's decision to appoint and discharge the City Clerk?

Today the city manager alone hires and fires both. Council has no vote. **These two amendments would require Council approval for appointment and for discharge. That is all.**

The city manager still oversees these departments day to day.

Council would not supervise officers, set shifts, or manage the Clerk's office.

Council would not bring the candidates; the City Manager does.

Council would only confirm who is hired and who is removed.

Opponents call that bureaucracy; I see it as proper elective oversight.

A return of Council's role that was taken off the books in 2014.

More eyes on two of the most sensitive positions in the city.

Less room for a single appointed official to punish someone in those roles.

A shorter line from those offices back to the people who elect the Council.

This is not red tape.

It is a simple check.

Do your fellow citizens a favor.

Open the redline. Read the four questions. Ignore the version of the story that never quotes the text. VOTE.

I trust the voters of Montrose with that work.

ANN MORGENTHALER NAMED INTERIM CITY MANAGER *From pg 1*

ORDINANCE 2727 ON SECOND READING

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

ORDINANCE 2728 - SECOND READING

Also approved on Second Reading was Ordinance 2728, do, submitting to a vote of the Registered Electors of the City of Montrose Proposed Amendments to the Charter of the City of Montrose, Article I Sections 7, 8 and 11 and Article III Section 1 to amend term limits of the at-large council member; setting a lifetime eight-year limit for elected service for all members of Council; and setting the ballot question for the November 3, 2026, Coordinated Election.

ORDINANCE 2729 - SECOND READING

Ordinance 2729 was approved on Second Reading, submitting to a vote of the Registered Electors of the City of Montrose Proposed Amendments to the Charter of the City of Montrose, Article VIII Section 8 to allow for the City Council to approve the City Manager's decision to appoint or discharge the Police Chief of the Montrose Police Department; and setting the ballot question for the November 3, 2026, Coordinated Election.

ORDINANCE 2730 - SECOND READING

Also approved was Ordinance 2730 on Second Reading, submitting to a vote of the Registered Electors of the City of Montrose Proposed Amendments to the Charter of the City of Montrose, Article VIII Section 6 to allow for the City Council

to approve the City Manager's decision to appoint or discharge the City Clerk; and setting the ballot question for the November 3, 2026, Coordinated Election.

VEHICLE PURCHASE APPROVAL

Council voted to approve the purchase of an F-150 from Sill-TerHar Motors out of Broomfield Colorado for a total price of \$63,500.

2026 MONTROSE PERMANENT FUND CONTRIBUTION TO CMU

Council voted to approve the City's 2026 annual budgeted contribution to Colorado Mesa University in the total amount of \$325,000 comprised of \$250,000 toward the Colorado Mesa University Foundation Permanent Endowment Fund and \$75,000 toward the CMU-City of Montrose Scholarship Fund.

ORDINANCE 2723 - SECOND READING

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

ORDINANCE 2724 - SECOND READING

Also approved was Ordinance 2724 on Second Reading, vacating portions of right of way within the City of Montrose.

NORTH PARK AVENUE DIVISION OF PROPERTY OFFICIAL ACT OF THE CITY

Council approved the North Park Avenue Official Act of the City Division of Property Plat to consolidate property lines and dedicate rights of way along North Park and San Juan avenues.

VALLEY RANCH SUBDIVISION FILING 1 FINAL PLAT

Council approved the Valley Ranch Subdivision Filing 1 Final Plat expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinance and Municipal Code provisions are met and that the Applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to execution of the Final Plat.

BROOKSIDE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION

FILING 1 FINAL PLAT

The Brookside Meadows Subdivision Filing 1 Final Plat was approved, expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinance and Municipal Code provisions are met and that the Applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to execution of the Final Plat.

STAFF REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri asked about the status of Miami Road; City Engineer Scott Murphy discussed the current status. In response to a question from Councilor Adam Woodden, Murphy reported on the status of the new roundabout at West Oak Grove Road. The project came in at around \$1M under budget, and is 99 percent complete except for landscaping and statues. Council took a five-minute break prior to entering Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered Executive Session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes Section 24-6-402(4)(f)(I) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, specifically regarding the City Manager's Employment Status and Agreement.

This meeting was held at the request of the City Manager, who had not asked for the discussion to be held in an open meeting.

RECONVENEMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to Open Session immediately following this Executive Session and adjourned the meeting.

Shortly thereafter, it was announced that after 15 years, City Manager Bill Bell and the Montrose City Council had agreed to separate, effective immediately.

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler was appointed as the interim city manager by the City Council, effective Sept. 1.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

THE FEDERAL RESERVE

By Don Stott

MONTROSE-First of all, the 'Fed' as it is called, is not federal, and has no reserves. It was formed under rather obtuse and shady circumstances in 1914, and the first 'fed' or national bank, was dissolved by President Andrew Jackson. The United States did without a national bank for a hundred years. JFK was going to bring the troops home from Vietnam, abolish the CIA, as well as the Federal Reserve, with the Treasury issuing its own money. He was assassinated, not by a shot fired from a book depository, with a cheap Italian rifle, but from the 'grassy knoll,' across the street, where JFK was riding in an open car. Who killed him? Not Lee Harvey Oswald, but that's another column.

I've spent hours trying to find out the workings of the Fed, which is not in our Constitution, but it's very complex and full of bureaucracy, with 12 regional banks, a board of governors, about 50,000 employees and a budget of over \$500 million. The Fed did one thing which needed to be done, and that was to make the dollar a sole U.S. currency, disposing of many banks of different names, designs and even colors, printing dollars, which was extremely confusing, and needed to be fixed.

The Fed's interest rates have nothing to do with inflation, other than minutely discouraging home sales because of high interest rates, but the Fed's published interest rates, are from interbank borrowing, and have nothing to do with interest rates on mortgages or the rest of our economy. As the dictionary says, inflation is caused by, "An increase in the money supply," and it's just that simple.

Article One, Section 9 of our Constitution says that "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law, and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time." It says nothing about a Federal Reserve or national bank of any name.

I am going to try to make the whole affair simple, and avoiding all the complexity of 'increasing the money supply.' It's the House of Representatives and Senate, plus the President, who signs laws regarding money distribution. Distribution laws, which influence voters to vote for who promised handouts. In other words, the House and Senate members are selling their votes, and we have inflation. Those legislative bodies and then presidents, have voted for giveaways, partaken of by virtually everyone. Over the years, politicians have voted in, over 2,000 federal offices, and currently, there are over 190,000 pages of regulations governing virtually everything. All government spending, in excess of taxes and dollars coming in, are paid with inflation, to make it simple.

The federal government is America's largest employer, even beating Walmart. Imagine their salaries, benefits, retirements, and health care, obviously paid with dollars supplied by the Fed, and which dollar disbursements, are added to the national debt, which has just topped \$40 trillion. The 190,000 pages of regulations are paid by you the taxpayer, trying to obey them, and on top of that, your cost of living is going up because of them.

The bills pile up and need to be paid, just like your and my bills pile up and need to be paid. You and I have enough dollars to pay our bills, and we do, giving us a good credit rating. The Treasury calls the Fed, tells them how much their bills are, and the Fed prints, sells bonds or otherwise provides (borrows) the dollars needed to pay, and this increases the national debt. The Fed technically asks for bids on the bonds, but that's a mere formality, because they're always sold and for some reason, the U.S. credit rating is sound. The \$40 trillion debt will continue to increase, because it is impossible to un-ring a bell, and once a handout is in place it is never repealed.

Had JFK lived, the Treasury would have issued its own dollars and added them to the debt, but there would not be any expensive, complicated nonsense, known as the Federal Reserve, in existence.

As a general rule, if you wish to see how much inflation we really have, go to Fox Business News and look for the ten-year interest paid for a Fed bond. Anyone buying a Federal ten-year bond will pay a fee for such purchase, and the interest will have to be paid with your taxes. The rate will stand immovable for ten years, whereas your gold and silver will go up automatically as the dollar declines. If we have runaway inflation, as always happens when an economy is in trouble, gold and silver prices will increase, following the currency's decline and inflation, whereas your 'investment' in a Fed bond, will not change a bit.

The current inflation is caused by the usual reckless thoughtless spending, by federal agencies, welfare in a hundred names, all initiated by Congress, and Trump's war in Iran. Protect yourself, because I have no idea when a sudden economic disaster can occur, like the crash of 1929. None of the 'experts' or wealth managers thought it was coming, till it did, and people were jumping out of windows.

Protect yourself now, because happenings tomorrow, no one knows, and neither do the wealth managers.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CARYN GIBSON APPOINTED TO FILL MONTROSE COUNTY DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER VACANCY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Caryn Gibson was appointed to serve as Montrose County Commissioner for District 2 during the September 3rd meeting of the Montrose County Republican Vacancy Committee.

The District 2 seat became vacant following the departure of Commissioner Sue Hansen, whose final day in office was Aug. 31 after eight years of service to Montrose County. The vacancy committee appointed Gibson to fill the District 2 seat through the end of 2026. Gibson is also running unopposed for the District 2 seat on the November ballot.

Following her appointment at the September 3 meeting, Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes administered the oath of office to Gibson, officially beginning her service as District 2 Commissioner.



Caryn Gibson.
Courtesy photo.

A formal ceremonial swearing-in will also take place during the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, September 16 at 9am. Gibson's family, friends and members of the community are invited to attend and help welcome her to the Board of County Commissioners.

Gibson is a lifelong Montrose County resident, fifth-generation member of a local farming family and longtime public servant. Her family homesteaded in the Pea Green area west of Olathe, and she grew up working on her family's dairy farm. Today, Gibson and her husband, John, own and operate Rocking W Cheese and Webb Dairy outside of Olathe.

A 1982 graduate of Olathe High School, Gibson brings more than 40 years of experience in public education and organizational leadership. She holds degrees in Business Administration and Education from Western State College, now Western Colorado University, as well as a master's degree in Vocational Education from Colorado State University. Gibson most recently served for 15 years as Superintendent of Delta County School District, overseeing an approximately \$95 million annual budget, 4,500 students, nearly 750 employees and 14 school campuses. She retired June 30, 2026. Her extensive experience in budgeting, strategic planning, personnel management and policy development, combined with her agricultural background, provides a strong foundation for service on the Board of County Commissioners.

"I am deeply honored to serve the community that has been my home for my entire life," said Gibson. "Montrose County has given so much to me and my family. I look forward to working together to protect what makes our county special and plan responsibly for its future."

Gibson plans to focus on responsible and transparent budgeting, local control, and thoughtful growth and land-use planning. She will also advocate for agriculture and water while working to preserve Montrose County's rural character and resources. Gibson and her husband of nearly 29 years, John, have three daughters and five grandchildren. She said preserving Montrose County's culture, heritage and opportunities for future generations will remain central to her approach to public service.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST PHYSICIANS GRADUATE FROM MRH MEDICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) recently celebrated the first graduating cohort of its Medical Leadership Program, a 10-month initiative designed to develop physician leaders and strengthen leadership across the health system.

MRH launched the program in 2025 to provide physicians with leadership development in areas that are not traditionally emphasized in medical training. The inaugural cohort completed more than 100 contact hours focused on individual engagement and well-being, communication and conflict resolution, systems thinking and strategy development, self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and other leadership skills.

The inaugural graduating cohort includes Rasheed Abiola, M.D.; Heather Howe, M.D.; Alexis Garza, M.D.; Jennifer Johannes, D.O.; Christopher Jordan, D.O.; and William Summers, M.D.

“The MRH Medical Leadership Program is an investment not only in our physicians, but in the future of our organization and community,” said Jenna Kaupilla, leadership and organizational development specialist at MRH and a designer of the program. “Physicians already receive extensive medical training, so this program couples that expertise with the skills needed to lead themselves, their teams, and within the complex and ever-changing healthcare environment. By taking on the hard work of self-reflection, adopting new mindsets, and learning to communicate and collaborate more effectively, these physician leaders strengthen our teams, our organization, and rural healthcare in our community. Building better leaders lifts everyone higher. I’m incredibly proud of each of these physicians and the growth they’ve demonstrated throughout this program.”

MRH anticipates offering the Medical Leadership Program to another cohort of physician leaders in 2027, as scheduling and resources allow. For more information about the program, contact Jenna Kaupilla at jkaupilla@montrosehealth.com.



The members of the first MRH Medical Leadership Program cohort from left to right: Rasheed Abiola, MD, Heather Howe, MD, Alexis Garza, MD, Jennifer Johannes, DO, and Christopher Jordan, DO. Missing: William Summers, MD. Courtesy photo.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTERS: LEARN HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKS

Editor:

On September 01, 2026, the Montrose City Council, on a 3-2 vote - approved the placement of 4 proposed amendments on the ballot in November.

To view the 4 proposed amendments on the City of Montrose website, enter the following into your browser:

[City of Montrose 2026 Proposed Charter Amendments](#)

VOTERS, before you decide whether to vote 'Yes' or 'No' on each of the 4 proposed amendments to the Montrose City Charter, it is strongly recommended to:

VIEW a short two-minute video on You-Tube from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

icma.org This You-Tube video, entitled: **"Local Government That Works: The Council-Manager Form of Government"** provides an excellent introduction to the Council-Manager form of government and how it works in communities like Montrose.

An additional link to "How is a City Governed" can also be found on [MontroseLifestyle.com](#)

The article "How is a City Governed" is designed to help explain how local government works and how decisions are made in the City of Montrose.

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO'S BATS: THEIR VALUES AND CHALLENGES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Thursday Sept. 10, 7 PM, Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street, Montrose. The Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Dan Neubaum, a Species Conservation Program Manager with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, who has worked with bats for nearly 30 years! Dan will be presenting "Colorado's Bats: Their Values and Challenges." Bats have a bad rap, but the more you know, the more fascinating these little critters get. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at black-canyonaudubon.org

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH ADULT PRIMARY CARE ANNOUNCES MENOPAUSE SOCIETY CERTIFIED PRACTITIONER

DELTA— Delta Health Adult Primary Care is proud to announce that Kelsey Stark, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, MSCP, has earned certification as a Menopause Society Certified Practitioner, bringing specialized women's hormone health care to patients on the Western Slope.

As a Family Nurse Practitioner with this certification, Stark provides expert guidance in bioidentical hormone therapy for perimenopause, post menopause, urinary symp-

toms, and libido and sexual health. She offers FDA-approved bio-identical options and biometric testing that are affordable and often covered by commercial insurance.

Stark is accepting new patients and providing consultations for adults in all stages of life at Delta Health Adult Primary Care.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Delta Health Adult Primary Care at 970-874-7668.

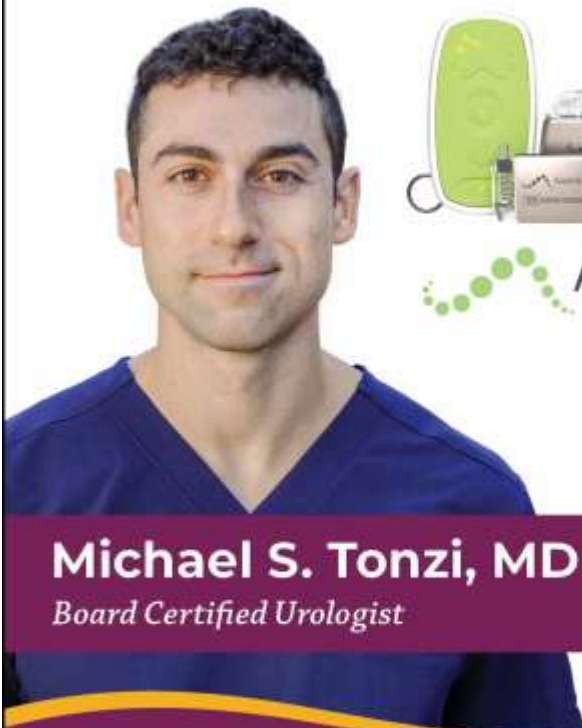


Kelsey Stark, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, MSCP.
Courtesy photo.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

IT'S REAL! ENGRAVED PANELS GO INTO PLACE AT MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL



MVMC Chairman J. Bob Brueske and BOD member Lance Bach admire the etchings on the WWII panel last week. Major conflicts from WWI to Global War on Terror are depicted in images on the front of the panels, with educational information on the back. Photo by Sergina Bach.



Montrose's Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc. crew was a big help installing the black panels, service seal stone and benches this week. PG Memorials did a fantastic job on creation and installation. Photo by Les Williams



Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc. employees Tyler Johnson, Kaden Landini and Lyle Wright were a huge help installing the panels, benches and stones. Photo by Les Williams

September Update

Momentous changes this week at the Montrose Veterans Memorial site at 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, with the addition of engraved black granite panels, service seal entrance stone and benches.

Installers from PG Memorials, along with crane and assistance from Montrose's Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc. and MVMC BOD members, got it done! THANK YOU!

All is in preparation for the brick-laying ceremony:

-Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026

Check-in for brick layers at 8 a.m.

Ceremony starts at 9 a.m.

PLS RSVP if you are a bricklayer at

www.montrosevmc.org. There is an option to place bricks at the next brick-laying ceremony to be announced later. Bricks whose owners have not RSVP'd will be placed at the end of the ceremony by the board.

Here is what Troy Meyer, MVMC BOD member who helped firm up the panel idea to the board several years ago said: "In late 2023, the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition was in the process of

planning the memorial features and elements and we had some good ideas but not much on paper yet.

"I was travelling to visit family in eastern Nebraska and noticed on Google maps that there is a veterans memorial in a nearby small town. I always try to visit war memorials when I travel, even in smaller communities.

"This particular town, Shickley, has a population of about 350 people so I wasn't expecting anything too elaborate or extensive.

"I was blown away when I saw it and decided to ask around town to get more information. It turns out the memorial has the longest free standing, laser engraved, black granite wall ever constructed. It is etched with portraits of family heroes surrounded by iconic military and war pictures.

"The detail in these black granite etchings is amazing. I was able to get contact information for the company, PG Memorials, and presented the idea to the Coalition Team that we should look into them for our project.

"J. Bob Brueske (MVMC BOD chairman) contacted them and after talking to Jen-

nifer, we became convinced that this was the way to go. From there, we started developing the content and decided on depictions and narratives for WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and GWOT.

"The process took over a year and was a collaboration between the PG team and the Coalition members with help from a professor of history at Notre Dame, Ian Johnson, to get the war narratives historically accurate.

"We all understood that the details are as important as the presentation."

The rest really is history.

See you at the bricklaying! Public is invited to this once-in-a-lifetime event!

Sincerely,

Les Williams, President MVMC

J. Bob Brueske, Chairman MVMC



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT LED YOU TO BELIEVE YOU EVER HAD OUR TRUST?

Editor:

In the September 2nd news release announcing the mutual separation of Bill Bell, the Mayor, Michael Badagliacco, closes with the following statement, "We thank the residents of Montrose for their continued trust and support." I must ask, what led you to believe you ever had our trust to begin with.

Six or eight years ago, a sitting councilor sat down with me to get my opinion regarding an issue related to River Valley Health. My opinion was not in line with what she was hoping for. "Why do you think that" she asked. My answer was, because what I offered would benefit the community at large vs. a select hand full of people.

Our conversation veered off to govern-

ance in general. When I told her I have a healthy distrust of government at all levels. She went wide-eyed! "Why is that", she asked. My response was along the lines of; elected officials tend to support their Party vs, the people they are supposed to represent. They can't be trusted to do what is right for their constituency.

So, Mr. Mayor, when you thank me for my continued trust and support, I have to say you don't have either. I believe you, Mr. Woodden and Mr. Ulibarri have created a hostile work environment within the City of Montrose. You have said in the past that you were not going to go after Mr. Bell, yet he is gone. You tarnished the reputation of Lisa DelPiccolo due to innuendo presented by a known adversary of the Montrose City government. Melissa

Hall gave a heartfelt testimonial regarding the stress her husband, Chief Hall, was feeling due to the newly elected City Council. Is Ann Morganthaler next on the chopping block if she opposes you? Are other department heads destined to leave because of your obedience to the Republican Party vs. to your obligation to your constituency?

Time is the ultimate truth-teller; it means that the passage of time eventually reveals people's real intentions, hidden facts, and the true outcome of events. Perhaps over time you will gain my trust, perhaps not. The clock is ticking. Do the right thing, that is cast aside your allegiance to your Party and start supporting all of the residents of Montrose.

Dave Stockton - Montrose

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Montrose Veterans Memorial

1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colo.

Inaugural brick-laying ceremony

Saturday, Sept. 26 - 9 a.m.

Check-in for brick layers - 8 a.m. (RSVP 970-765-2210)

*Tribute bricks for veterans and active-duty military
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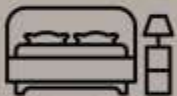
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PROPERTY FEATURES



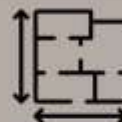
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MONTROSE COMMUNITY BAND PRESENTS:



SEPT
27

3:00PM-
4:30PM

MONTROSE
PAVILION

AMERICA'S CINEMA AND STAGE

MANCINI arr. Stephen Bulla **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE** Lalo Schifrin/arr. Paul Lavender

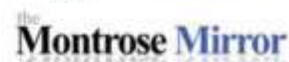
MUSIC FROM GLEE Ted Ricketts **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Webber/arr. Vinson

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER arr. Johnnie Vinson **TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS** Matt Conaway

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Rodgers and Hammerstein arr. Robert Russell Bennett **UNDER THE**

DOUBLE EAGLE J. F. Wagner/Lavalle **YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO JOHN WILLIAMS** arr. Bocook

SEPTEMBER 27



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

WESTERN COLORADO FRIENDS OF THE HIMALAYAS COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR NEPAL



Above, flood damage in Nepal. Courtesy photo Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-For those hoping to provide assistance to flood ravaged Nepal, Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas (website: Himalayanfriends.com) is a local non-profit organization that has already sent \$5,000 to trusted partners and organizations on the ground and is gearing up to send a further \$10,000 within the next two weeks. Although some of these funds will come from WCFH's own funds, an ongoing appeal is under way.

All details are on the website and donations are being received by mail at: Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas, PO Box 2022, Montrose, CO 81402. Contact 970 209 1395

The latest stats show more than 1,300 known to have been killed, 5,000 still unaccounted for, 7,000 left homeless, over 150 villages gone, 12 bridges destroyed, several hydro-electric power plants obliterated (with another 900 workers trapped in flooded tunnels), 600 schoolchildren and their teachers missing and presumed dead, and whole areas covered by 50 feet of mud.

Time is of the essence because heavy monsoon rains are forecast and most of the aid has to be flown in by helicopter. The rivers downstream are also severely swollen and bodies are being recovered as far south as Northern India.



Congratulates DR. RICHARD HANLEY



ON HIS RETIREMENT

Montrose Regional Health acknowledges and thanks Dr. Hanley for 38 years of dedicated service to patients in the Montrose region.

We are thankful for your years of compassionate care and appreciate your service to Alpine Women's Centre over the years.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE'S CORNERSTONE CLUB ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENTS OF JASON STROEHLEIN AS SALES DIRECTOR AND BEN POWERS AS DIRECTOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— [Cornerstone Club](#), a 4,800-acre, four-season private club community owned by [Reef Capital Partners](#) where championship golf, unspoiled natural beauty, and an active outdoor lifestyle converge, officially announces the promotion of Jason Stroehlein to Sales Director and appointment of Ben Powers as Director of Membership Sales.

Together, the two leaders bring decades of private club, hospitality, and community expertise as Cornerstone enters its next phase of growth.

Stroehlein has been an integral part of Cornerstone Club for nearly two decades. After earning a degree in Turfgrass Management from Southern Illinois University, he built his career at premier private clubs across Colorado before joining Cornerstone in 2006 as Director of Agronomy.

In that role, he played an instrumental part in shaping, maintaining, and elevating

the club's Matt Dusenberry-designed 18-hole championship golf course. As Sales Director, Stroehlein will draw on his deep knowledge of the property, longstanding relationships with members, and understanding of the Cornerstone lifestyle to lead membership and real estate sales while supporting the continued growth and evolution of the community. Powers joins Cornerstone Club with more than two decades of hospitality experience spanning luxury resorts and boutique properties across Arizona and Colorado, recently serving as the Director of Sales for Aparium Hotel Group in Denver and Senior Group Sales Manager for Sage Hospitality's Halcyon hotel.

In his new role as Director of Membership Sales, he will focus on building relationships with prospective members and delivering the personalized service and exceptional experiences that define the Cornerstone Club community.

"Jason's deep understanding of Cornerstone and years of dedication make him an exceptional fit for this expanded role, while Ben brings a strong hospitality background and a relationship-driven approach that will be invaluable as we grow our membership," said Andy Deiro, General Manager of Cornerstone Club. "Their combined expertise, passion for hospitality, and commitment to our members will be instrumental as we continue to grow Cornerstone Club while preserving the character, connection, and sense of place that define this community."

The appointments come at an exciting time for Cornerstone, as One Cornerstone memberships are now available, providing an opportunity to secure a premium membership category designed to appreciate in value alongside the club's growth. The highly anticipated public launch of Cornerstone's real estate offerings is expected in 2027.



MONTROSEREPUBLICANS.ORG

JOIN US

TO PRAY FOR OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Riverbottom Park Gazebo



Sunday, September 13th



7pm

Paid for by Montrose County Republican Central Committee



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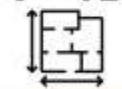


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT IS A CITY MANAGER AND WHAT ARE THEY NOT?

Editor:

Colorado statutes.

First and foremost, a Montrose City Manager is one of two positions that are hired directly by the city. The city manager is an employee of the city .

Council according to the City Charter and City Ordinances. The other is the City Attorney. The city attorney is an employee of the city.

The following applies to the City Manager position and in most cases, to the City Attorney too:

- The City Manager is not an elected official.
- The City Manager and his office are not the city government nor are they a separate organization unto themselves.
- The City Manager position is subordinate to the advice, consent and approval of all matters pertaining to the City by the City Council
- The City Manager is expected to treat all City Council members with respect at all times. In public and private.
- The City Manager should not be afforded excess pay, bonus, or termination packages not allowed by City Charter or State law. Compensation packages should be uniform in nature without "special deals" for the Manager over other top City officials.
- It should be understood that the City Manager will not be issued or allowed the use of City owned (i.e. taxpayer owned) vehicles for private use and benefit. Any vehicle used by the Manager and his staff should have the City logo placed on it.
- The City Council should remind the next and any future City Manager that the position does not place the individual in the position of "RUNNING THE CITY".
- The City Manager will not set policy or work to undermine the policies and procedures as set by the City Council.
- City Council members should always and without hesitation have access to all City employees and information as they deem necessary without the interference of and consent of the City manager for general business needs notwithstanding personnel or other matters outside the purview of the City Council.
- A clarifying resolution by the City Council is necessary to codify the authorized use of City funds by the City Manager to include budgeted and non-budgeted items.

It has been known for many years that questionable actions and in-actions by the previous City Council have raised concerns in the community. Their oversight responsibilities as required coupled their "ignorance" has passed. Only elected city council members are responsible to the people of Montrose. City Council must MANAGE the City Manager from this point forward without hesitation. The delegation of their duties and excuse making is not acceptable.

Jim Anderson

Montrose



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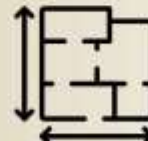
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OPINION/EDITORIAL/LETTERS

WHAT DOES PARTISAN REALLY MEAN?

Editor:

What Does "Partisan" Really Mean?

Webster defines partisan as feeling, showing, or deriving from strong — and sometimes blind — adherence to a particular party, faction, cause, or person. It does not mean someone identified only by a political party.

A partisan is someone who supports a particular side. Historically, that support sometimes took the form of military action, as when guerrilla fighters took on government forces. But today the word is most often used as an adjective, usually describing support for a political party. If you're accused of being "too partisan" or of "practicing partisan politics," it means you're mainly interested in boosting your own side and attacking the other.

But partisanship isn't limited to party politics — it's devotion to any ideal or core value. If you're a patriot, you're partisan. If you belong to a religious group, you're partisan. If you're committed to a particular ideology, you're partisan. People are guided by different core values, and having a different value than your neighbor isn't dissent — it's just a different belief.

Lately, "partisan" gets thrown around like a dirty word. The assumption seems to be: if you're a registered voter with an R or D next to your name, you're partisan, and if you're registered Unaffiliated, you're not. Far from it. Even something as simple as

what color to paint our public buildings can become partisan — a preference for haze grey (Navy), olive drab (Army or Marines), or blue (Air Force) is still a partisan preference. Whatever your beliefs, and however they differ from someone else's, that's partisanship. Being Unaffiliated doesn't exempt you from it. If people want to know what you actually stand for, they watch your actions — not your registration.

Being Blue or Red, Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative, MAGA or "No Kings," doesn't by itself make you partisan. Partisanship isn't something you hang on a coat rack when you walk into a community meeting — it's the mettle people see when they look at who you are.

I've watched people stand before the council and accuse others of partisanship while vehemently denying their own. We tend to sort everyone's partisanship into one of two boxes — left or right. But your core values may span a much wider range than that, and someone who holds different values isn't telling you that your values are wrong. They're just disagreeing with you.

Bottom line: differences of opinion are healthy. Attacking someone verbally because their opinion differs from yours is disrespectful and rude. Now let's get on with the people's business — and enjoy a good argument.

John Brown

I'm passionate about life.

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MONTROSE AREA NEWS OF LATE

Recent Happenings of Note – City of Montrose to Project 7

By David White

The summer has flown by and we're now in the early stages of fall making its colorful entrance. Along with this seasonal change comes changes in areas that affect our lives in ways that we're not always aware of as well as happenings not necessarily on everyone's radar or calendar. So, following is a recap of a few things that you might be interested in knowing about. **City Manager Bell's "resignation":** City Councilor David Reed correctly identified the departure of City Manager Bill Bell on September 1st as a resignation in spite of City Attorney Chris Dowsey correcting him by stating that the correct term was a "mutual separation." Given that Bell drafted the "mutual separation" agreement with conditions attached to include a 9-month salary payout, it was still a resignation in most people's minds which should have negated the generous payout that Council will undoubtedly approve at their meeting on September 15th under this "agreement." I would anticipate that he will also be indemnified from any possible action related to his employment that would fall into a category most of us would consider as legally questionable. Such is the price you pay to move on to a better day for the City I guess. Details will be made public by the end of this week. Pay attention to those.

Municipal Election Integrity:

The City Council has chosen, **AT THIS TIME**, to **NOT** investigate the many **DOCUMENTED** missteps and violations of Colorado election laws by City Staff in order to "not tear the community apart." Contract violations with Montrose County to conduct the election. Senior City leadership involvement in the election. Not following State mandated election protocols. Hand counting ballots (supposedly 83

in total – none of them have been seen or produced) vs. the 5,350 ballots that were tabulated on electronic equipment by the County Clerk's Office in violation of State statutes thereby disenfranchising voters because the City Clerk believed, after the polls closed, that suddenly the County Clerk's Office had become "biased" over a City Council election. The City Clerk picking election judges without authorization of the City Council as well as outside of the allowed time to do so. And, oh, there's nothing to see here so they say. But is there? The answer is obvious and has been clearly stated.

Time will tell, but the fact of the matter is that the actions by the City Administration to include the City Attorney and the City Clerk give more support and credence for the argument to support a City Charter change in this November's election to move the City's municipal election from April to the coordinated County, State and Federal election to be held in November of the year. The City, by its own admission, has disenfranchised enough voters over the years to warrant this change. Vote to get them out of the election business. They have obviously lost the community's trust to conduct them.

Deflection by the Progressive Left:

The newest tactic taken by "prominent" (of late) progressives such as Holly Speaks, Beth McKorkle, Cliff Faurer, Bob Nicholson, and others continues unabated with claims by some of them that the three new members of the City Council and I lack "transparency." Here's how they're giving this one the old college try. The thinking is that we'll just "flip the script" by claiming that the mere presence of candidates and citizens at the offices of the County Clerk on election night was a nefarious thing and rife

with the smell of "election interference." Really? Far from it folks. The candidates, the public, campaign committee people and the media have always been present on election night at the County Clerk's office awaiting the results of that day's election. Heretofore, it's never been an issue. Just ask veterans of any local political campaign. It's the norm and the chances of anyone "interfering" in an election **AFTER** the polls have closed are nil-to-none.

Yet the "unaffiliated" and Democratic Party operatives, with their recent assaults on the City Council and this writer by these progressive "citizens" would have you believe, if they say it often enough, that all of the documented information that has been presented in this publication and to the public via social media and other venues are lies, misinformation, fiction, conjecture and any other operative word you can think of in the hope that all of the noise they're trying to generate will deflect attention away from the heart of the matter which is that election integrity in the April 7, 2026 municipal election was violated by our own City government. Facts are facts...the violations were not done by the candidates, their supporters or any other citizen outside the halls of City Hall. End of story.

Charter Change – April to November for City Elections – A New Precedent for the Change:

I find it ironic that outside of the aforementioned Holly Speaks, these same progressive elements railing on City Council members to **NOT ALLOW** a vote on changing the municipal election date from April to November in the City Charter to coincide with the General Election held then, are ignoring their own political allies on the Front Range who, through the Colorado Legislature in 2025, were able to

MONTROSE AREA NEWS OF LATE From previous pg

get Senate Bill 25-001 (the Colorado Voters Rights Act) passed and signed by the governor with the stated intent to bring more voters to the polls as it has been statistically proven that Black, Hispanic and even White voters are more likely to engage in voting when there is a coordinated election encompassing County, State and Federal election candidates and ballot questions. (<https://completemontrose.com/2026/07/13/colorado-springs-sued-municipal-elections-april/>)

Now we find that SB25-001 (the Colorado Voting Rights Act) is now actually being used as the legal basis for a lawsuit against the City of Colorado Springs. Filed around June 25, 2026, by the League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region, Citizens Project, Common Cause Colorado, and a concerned individual, the suit alleges that the city, by having "offset elections" from national elections causes a disparity of turnouts between Black, Hispanic and White voters.

fox21newsfox21news

In researching SB25-001, it is found that a "prima facie" or on "first impression" case of voter suppression is established if a political subdivision's electoral practice **"results in... a material disparity between members of a protected class and other eligible electors in regard to voter participation."** This is the mechanism that lets private parties sue municipalities directly over turnout disparities, and this Colorado Springs case is apparently one of the first tests of that provision.

Colorado Springs holds its local elections in April or May (for runoffs) of odd-numbered years, while statewide elections are held in November of even-numbered years, and the suit argues these "uncoordinated" local elections cause a material disparity in turnout between Black and Hispanic voters on one hand and White voters on the other.

So, the suit's core argument is essentially: April/May off-cycle elections depress turnout generally, but they depress Black and Hispanic turnout more than White turnout — and SB25-001 gives standing to sue over that disparity, with the remedy presumably being to force Colorado Springs to move its elections to November alongside the coordinated election.

Looking at it objectively, the case is well made to support moving our City's elections from April to November. With the Colorado Springs lawsuit in play, the day may come when the City will have no choice but to move their elections to November. Citizens

should make this decision now while the opportunity is at hand. Giving greater voice to citizens while saving taxpayers roughly \$30,000 in today's dollars is a win-win for everyone.

Democrat Party Rally in support of National Parks – Held on August 25th:

A call went out to members of the Montrose Democrat Party last month as follows:

"Good afternoon Team Blue –

There is a rally planned on Tuesday morning, August 25th between 9 and 11 in the morning at Demoret Park in support of our National Parks which have been attacked by the Trump administration."

"Our National Parks are more precious than ANY White House Ballroom!! Please keep your signs focused on saving our national parks & the damage this administration has done to our national parks. This past week, their focus was on making a bulldozer swath across Big Bend National Park to "protect the border." (<https://montrosedemocrats.org/rally-in-support-of-national-parkst-aug-25>)

There was more, but you get the picture. While I agree that our National Parks are vital assets to our country and its heritage and should receive the care that they deserve, those individuals standing out on the corner of Main and Townsend that morning holding signs that said "Parks not Ballrooms" need to remember that Trump's ballroom **is not funded with nor is it being built with public money.** The ballroom itself is a privately funded project and in no way is taking money from the National Park Service even though the NPS oversees the White House complex and its 18 acres of buildings and grounds.

The White House's new, roughly \$300 million ballroom (replacing the East Wing) is being funded by private donors and Trump himself, according to Trump. The White House released a donor list of 37 donors with more to be named later and at a fundraising dinner Trump hosted in October 2025, he thanked the corporate and private donors contributing to the ballroom.

nbcnewyork

Trump has Meredith O'Rourke, a top Trump political fundraiser, leading the fundraising effort which has been paired with the Trust for the National Mall, a nonprofit that has raised money to restore the National Mall.

[CBS News](https://CBSNews)

Project 7 – Water Rates Going Up Again!

At their August 27th Board of Directors

meeting, the Project 7 Board gave the green light to raise their wholesale treated water rates by a combined total of 4.4% to its member agencies (City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Chipeta Water District, Menoken Water District and Tri-County Water Conservancy District). Those entities will no doubt tack on their mark up per 1,000 gallons that are sold to the consumer. The message is clear, budget more dollars for water in your 2027 household budget or cut back on consumption.

Project 7 is in a Catch-22 position with this decision in that to cover their expenses without drawing on reserve funds, raising prices risks lowering sales which then defeats the purpose of the rate increase.

The Board also approved the purchase of 73 acres of land adjacent to the Project 7 treatment plant east of Montrose on US Highway 50 for \$1.5 million dollars to expand the existing treatment plant and other facilities. This comes after the planned "resiliency" plant just south of Colona was nixed as being too expensive and difficult to finance.

On a positive note, consumption by residents in the City of Montrose decreased by 2 million gallons in the month of July due to the current drought. Blue Mesa Reservoir is at roughly 20% of capacity...the lowest level ever recorded since the reservoir was filled in 1966.

Water released downstream to the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon of The Gunnison National Park from Blue Mesa Reservoir has been reduced from 1,050 cfm (cubic feet per minute) to 270 cfm to preserve water in the reservoir. It might upset the fish habitats, however, numerous commitments for the water and the humans it sustains beating out the fish in a very pragmatic way. That said, we really need a wet winter!

That's all for this week. Thanks for reading.

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.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Hosted By:



Altrusa is a Social Service Organization that donates funds to local non-profits

Saturday Oct 24th



**PRIZES
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ALL!**



**Please join us for our 6th Annual
Trivia Night at the
Montrose Elks Lodge!**



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

ADAM DANIEL DEVENY ***April 11, 1983 – August 27, 2026***

In Loving Memory of Adam Daniel DeVeney April 11, 1983 – August 27, 2026

Adam Daniel DeVeney was a son, a father, a brother, a grandson, an uncle, and a friend. He was a hardworking man who loved his family, loved the outdoors, and was happiest when he was doing what he knew best working with his hands, being outside, and enjoying the places he called home.

Adam grew up in Ridgway and spent his younger years on the family ranch, where he learned the meaning of hard work from his Gram and Grandad. He was right there beside them, doing whatever needed to be done. He cleaned ditches, fixed fence, helped with haying, and rode horses to move cattle. Those days on the ranch helped shape the man Adam would become. He knew how to work hard, he knew how to get his hands dirty, and he never shied away from a job that needed doing.

Adam had a natural talent for working on things and figuring out how they worked. After graduating in 2001, he attended WyoTech and learned diesel mechanics. He helped build a power line from Ridgway to Ouray and then went on to attend Hotline school at Mesa State. His career eventually took him from Colorado to Texas and Oklahoma, where he worked building transmission lines and later continued working as a diesel mechanic and equipment operator. No matter where work took him, Colorado always remained home.

Adam was also a dad. His children, Ryker and Tayton, were an important part of his life. When Tayton was diagnosed with leukemia, Adam moved to Oklahoma so he could be there while she went through treatment. Thankfully, she recovered, and Adam was able to be there to see her come through that difficult time. Being there for his children was something that mattered deeply to him.

Adam found his happiness outdoors. He loved snowmobiling, four-wheeling and jeeping, camping, hog hunting, fishing, and anything that involved being outside. He loved adventure and the freedom of being out in the mountains and open country. If there was a fish to catch, a campfire to sit around, or a machine that needed to be worked on, Adam was probably right at home, usually with a dog by his side. His dog Tic traveled with him wherever the adventure was. After losing Tic, he got Luna, his new adventure buddy. Adam loved his dogs and most of the time you'd find them in the passenger seat of his Jeep right next to him.

Those who knew Adam will remember his hardworking nature, his love of the outdoors, and the many memories made along the way. They will remember the years spent on the ranch, the miles traveled for work, the time spent outdoors, and, most importantly, the moments shared with family.

Adam leaves behind his children, Ryker and Tayton; his parents, Duane and Karla DeVeney; his brother, Clay DeVeney (Shelby); his nephews, Cash and Trent; his Gram, Kay Ary; his aunts and uncles, Anita (Bob) Posey, Cathy (Randy) Blakeman, Diana Raine, Rhonda (Guy) Gard, Jnl (Ron) Linsacum, and Paula (Ken) Norell; along with numerous cousins, extended family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Bob and Betty DeVeney and Cliff Ary.

Adam's life may have been far too short, but he left his mark on the people who loved him. He will be missed in all the little places where he used to be—the ranch, the shop, the mountains, the trails, and around the people who knew him best.

There will always be an empty place where Adam should be, but there will also always be memories of him that cannot be taken away.

He will be remembered.

He will be missed.

And he will always be loved.



CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



#montrosemirror

ISSUE 590 Sept. 7, 2026

ART & SOL

WEST END STORIES AND POEMS

Special to the Mirror

NATURITA- Leslie Ament of Naturita and Art Goodtimes of Wrights Mesa will be hosting "A Love Affair with Local Food: Can We Recreate a Resilient Food System" featuring Melanie Eggers and Bodie Johansson at the West End Stories & Poems series at the Naturita Community Library on Thursday Sept. 19th at 6 pm MST.

"Melanie and Bodie have been working in local regenerative agriculture for many years now," explained Goodtimes, director of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourd Poetry Program. "We are excited to talk with them about how we can bring resilience to our food systems in the West End. Come and join the discussion."

West End Stories & Poems, happens on the second Thursday of each month, is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the Naturita Community Library, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer and Cantor poetry contests. The library provides free refreshments.

For more information on poetry contests and Talking Gourds programs, visit the website

www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds. For questions about the event, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at art@tellurideinstitute.org

WEST END
Stories and Poems

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MELANIE EGGERS
BODIE JOHANSSON

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BEWARE OF THE SILENT KILLERS OF THE NIGHT...

By Anne Janik

REGIONAL-That is, if you happen to be an insect! These night stalkers have been known to eat upwards of 1,200 insects per hour, and that includes mosquitoes. These warm blooded, nocturnal creatures are often associated with the spookiest of holidays. Any guesses as to the animal in question? Why, bats, of course!

Bats drink blood, right? Well, not exactly. There are only three species of bat that feed primarily on blood (the “vampire” bats), while the remaining ~1,400 species feed on things like insects, rodents, and nectar. Vampire bats are where the group as a whole got their connection to Halloween. When these bats were first observed lapping up the blood of cattle in Central and South America they were quickly given the label of “vampires.” This idea was made concrete when Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* (1897) depicted vampires’ shapeshifting into bats. Additionally, rumors have it that witches used bat blood in their “flying” concoctions. It’s no wonder bats have gotten a bad rap!

Here are a few more myths regarding bats:

-“**Bats are blind and often fly into and get tangled in people’s hair.**” Not true at all. They actually have quite good eyesight and use echolocation to help them navigate at night, so they can easily detect and avoid you!

-“**Bats are flying mice.**” Bats are not mice. While they are both mammals, bats are classified in order Chiroptera and mice in Rodentia. Bats are actually more closely related to humans than to mice or rats.

-“**All bats have rabies.**” Bats, as well as other common wild animals (raccoons, skunks, and fox), can be infected with the rabies virus. However, this does not mean that *all* bats have rabies, just that they have the potential to carry the virus, as do many wild animals. It’s always better to be safe than sorry, so never touch or handle dead or live wild animals.

So, now that we busted some of the prevalent myths, how about some high-fives for all the good things bats do!

With more than 1,400 species, bats are the second largest order of mammals. In Colorado, we have 18 bat species that can be found in every habitat—from the eastern plains to the high mountain forests and western deserts, from rural Colorado to downtown Denver. Some are here year-round, and some only migrate through the state.

The Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Dan Neubaum, a species Conservation Program Manager with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, who has worked with bats for nearly 30 years! Dan will give a brief background of bats that occur in Colorado, explain their unique traits, their benefits to the ecosystem, and the challenges that arise when their world and ours overlap. He will describe some of the equipment used to study bats, including echolocation detectors, telemetry equipment, and mist nets.

Attendees will learn about threats to bat conservation and Dan will explain the impacts of white-nose syndrome, a fungal outbreak discovered in North American bats that recently reached Colorado. In addition, Dan serves as the Chair of the Colorado Bat Working Group and is on the board of the Western Bat Working Group. In his current position, he facilitates work with bats through a number of aspects including studies of roosting ecology, disease transmission, species inventory and monitoring, education, and conservation.

Bats have a bad rap, but the more you know, the more fascinating these little critters get. Dan will be presenting “Colorado’s Bats: Their Values and Challenges” on Thursday, September 10, 2026, 7-8:30 pm at Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street, Montrose. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubon.org.



Silver Haired Bats are one of 18 species of bats found in Colorado. (photo/ D Neubaum)



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By William Goldman

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MHS HOMECOMING PARADE 2026



Photos of the 2026 Montrose High School Homecoming Parade on Friday are by B. Slate.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SADDLE UP FOR A NIGHT OF THEATRE, DANCING AND FUN AT MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS' FIRST-EVER COUNTRY WESTERN HOEDOWN

By Jennifer Easton

MONTROSE-Magic Circle Players Theatre is inviting the community to dust off their boots, grab their friends and join us for an unforgettable evening on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 6:00 p.m. at beautiful South River Farm in Montrose.

This isn't your ordinary night at the theatre. It's a barn dance with purpose and we're bringing plenty of music, food, laughter and theatrical flair along for the ride. The evening will feature Magic Circle's very own Becky's Boys, a band you may recognize from numerous Magic Circle stage productions, including the My Funny Valentine fundraiser. The "boys" have been hard at work putting together a rootin'-tootin' playlist packed with country-western favorites guaranteed to get toes tapping and boots moving.

And if you've always wanted to try line dancing but weren't quite sure where to start, you're in luck! A guest line dance caller will join Becky's Boys for part of the evening to teach guests some moves. No experience—and no fancy footwork—required. Just bring your willingness to have a good time!

The evening will also feature a very special guest all the way from Nashville: Rodeo and Juliet, who will share a beautiful performance that is sure to add a little musical magic to our country-western celebration.

Beyond the music and dancing, guests will have the opportunity to enjoy the

stunning mountain views at South River Farm, explore the barn, and capture the evening at some udderly adorable photo booths. And yes, there will even be opportunities to snap a few pictures with some of the farm's cutest barn animals! But watch your step—the sheriff will be on patrol! Guests can pay to have their friends "arrested" and thrown in the Hoe-Down jail for the evening. It's all in good fun—and perhaps the perfect way to settle a few friendly scores!

While the evening is surely designed with fun in mind, there is a serious purpose behind the celebration. The proceeds from the HoeDown will help Magic Circle Players purchase the land on which our theatre sits.

Magic Circle Players is more than a theatre, it is a place where our community gathers to experience stories, discover talent, make memories and share the magic of live performance. We are now more than halfway through our 99-year land rental and have been given the incredible opportunity to purchase the property and secure a permanent home for Magic Circle Players. That means this isn't simply a fundraiser. It's an investment in the future of local theatre. For decades, Magic Circle Players have been a vital part of our community's story. With your help, future generations will have the opportunity to walk through our doors, take the stage, experience live theater and create memories of their own. So



come invest while you dance!

For \$65, your ticket includes a meal, one drink ticket, live music, entertainment, dancing, photo opportunities, beautiful farm scenery and an evening of good old-fashioned fun while supporting the future of Magic Circle Players.

Grab your boots. Bring your friends. Come ready to dance. Most importantly, come help us make sure that Magic Circle Players have a home for generations to come. Tickets are available at magiccircle-players.com. We'll see you at the Hoe-Down!



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE SISTERS BRING HOME TOP HONORS FROM COLORADO STATE FAIR 4-H HORSE SHOW



Montrose County 4-H sisters Morgan and Makayla Alexander at the State Fair.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County 4-H sisters Morgan and Makayla Alexander had an outstanding showing at the Colorado State Fair 4-H Horse Show, bringing home multiple High Point honors and demonstrating the hard work, dedication and horsemanship they have put in throughout the year.

Competing in the Limited 14–18 Division, Morgan Alexander earned Reserve High Point English and High Point Western. She also placed 10th overall in Gymkhana and

finished 4th overall in the All-Around for the entire Limited Division.

One of the highlights of the week was watching Morgan step outside her comfort zone and compete with her sister's horse, Stella, in barrels and poles. While speed events have been a new challenge for the pair, Morgan embraced the opportunity and showed tremendous determination and sportsmanship. Her family says they could not be more proud of the courage and willingness she demonstrated throughout the competition.

"It's hard to put into words how unbelievably proud I am of Morgan," her coach and Aunt Jodi said. "Watching her get out there and ride Stella in barrels and poles, even when it was something new for them, was one of my favorite parts of the entire week. She worked hard, trusted her horse and gave it everything she had."

Makayla Alexander had an equally impressive week in the Advanced 8–13 Division, earning High Point English, High Point Western and High Point Gymkhana. She finished 6th overall in the All-Around Advanced Division, making for an exceptional showing across all three areas of competition.

The Colorado State Fair 4-H Horse Show brings together 4-H youth from across Colorado to compete at the state level while demonstrating horsemanship, sportsmanship, responsibility and dedication to their animals. For the Alexander sisters, the state show represented the culmination of countless hours of riding, practice, preparation and caring for their horses throughout the year.

Both girls were proud to represent Montrose County 4-H at the Colorado State Fair and are grateful for the support of their family, 4-H leaders, coaches, friends and community.

Morgan and Makayla's success is a testament to the time and dedication they have invested in becoming well-rounded horsewomen—and to the special partnership they share with their horses.

Congratulations to Morgan and Makayla on an incredible Colorado State Fair!

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

affiliation: Evangelical Free

Address: 222 South Townsend Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

Contact: 970-252-1163

ccc@cccmontrose.org

Pastor: Curt Mudgett

Sunday worship:

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

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

Wednesday Prayer: 5:30-6:15pm

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

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

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

Please make plans to come check us out soon!

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

celebrationmontrose.org/

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the Valley

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

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Montrose, CO 81401

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Lawrence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

COMMUNITY SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

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

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

future where everyone can live freely and authentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

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

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

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

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

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

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

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

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

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

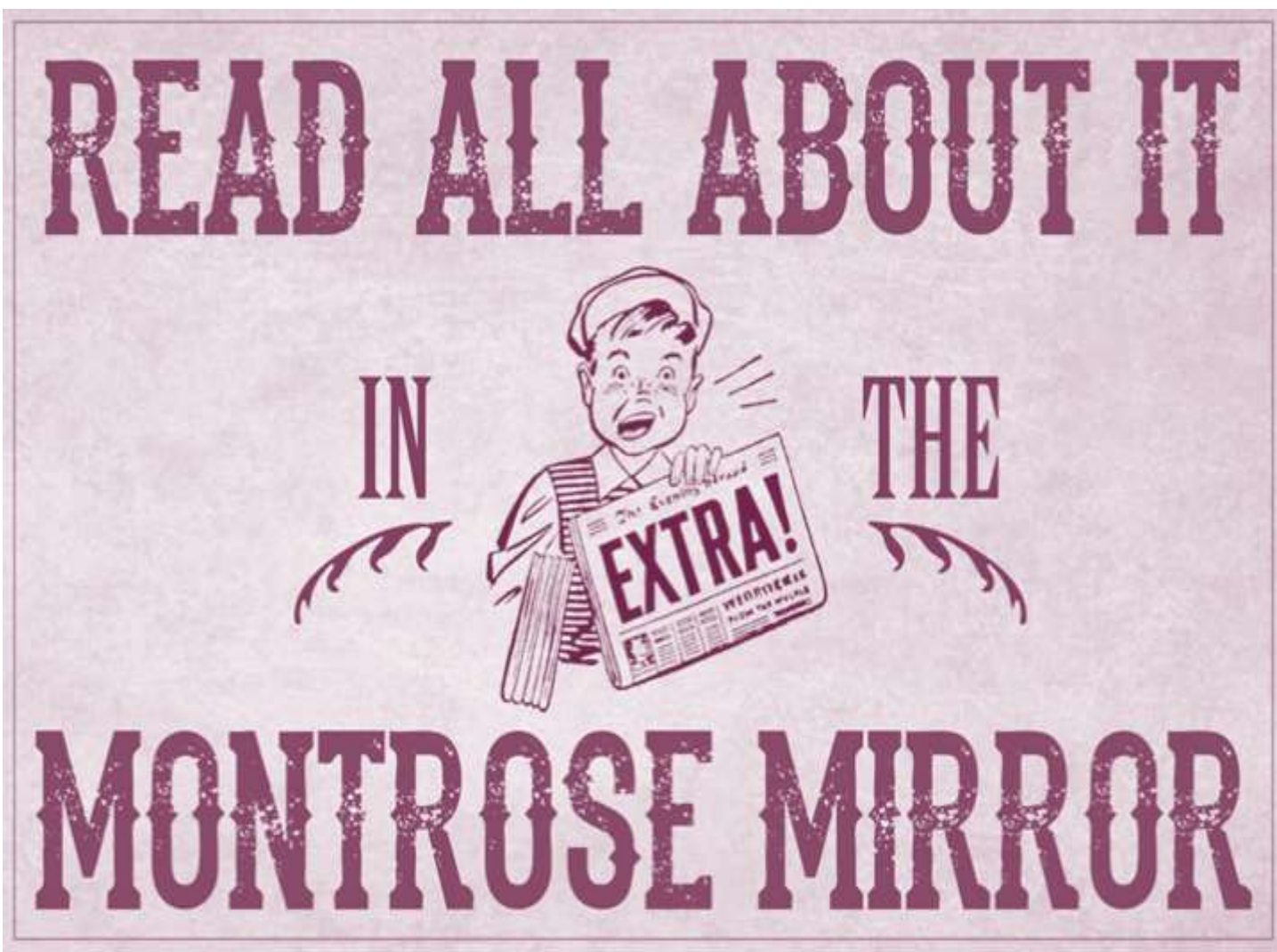
Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



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- MAIN FLOOR HAS BEEN A STYLING SALON
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DINING to DONATE

Join us for a fun night at Applebee's all
while raising money for

Dine to Donate

Thursday - September 17, 2026

All Day

**1501 Oxbow Dr
Montrose, CO - 81401**

Available **TO GO** with code **DoinGood**

*participants must
bring a flyer, or
take a picture of it,
in order for Sharing
Ministries to receive
a percentage.*

*Doin' Good in
the Neighborhood*
Applebee's

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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. 10-Thursday Sept. 10, 7 PM, Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street, Montrose. The Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Dan Neubaum, a Species Conservation Program Manager with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, who has worked with bats for nearly 30 years! Dan will be presenting "Colorado's Bats: Their Values and Challenges." Bats have a bad rap, but the more you know, the more fascinating these little critters get. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubon.org

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.

Sept. 27-Sept 27, Sunday 3pm. [FREE POPS CONCERT, Montrose Community Band](#) @ Montrose Pavilion. Come laugh, cry and reminisce while listening to American screen and stage soundtracks from great American composers John Williams, Henry Mancini and Rogers & Hammerstein (the Sound of Music). We have also thrown in some Bee Gees, John Denver and more.

MIRROR IMAGES...OUT & ABOUT!



At left, a bright pumpkin growing at the Pumpkin Patch on Dave Wood Road-Photo by B. Slate. Above, the welcoming and friendly bar at the Shelter Distillery. Mirror Staff Photo.



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

LADIES WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE BOWLING LEAGUE 9am - 12n

STARTS: Wed Sept 2, 2026

**SIGN UP AT THE ROSE BOWL
90 Rose Lane, Montrose**

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

